



September 11
remembered
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Terry Fox, a community hero

Carolyn Dyck, in a cancer survivor red shirt, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Hilda McCann, Donna Seymour, run organizer Joan King, Leah Goring, who became a cancer survivor at the age of 26, and town CAO Marnie Cluckie raise a flag for Terry Fox. The community runs in NOTL have now topped \$1 million, thanks to all who have participated in the last 30 years, including many loyal run supporters. For more about this Sunday's run, see page 3. (Penny Coles)

Pedal Pub, Pedal Pushers cycling for palliative care

Penny Coles
The Local

Talking about fundraising gets Bonnie Bagnulo excited.

Elated, even, animated about raising money to offer those suffering from life-limiting diseases more support than she is currently able to provide.

The executive director of Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care becomes emotional when she thinks about people dying alone, when they don't need to. Or in pain, when there are ways to make it go away.

Death is a journey nobody should have to travel alone, not those in the final stage of their lives, or those caring for them, she says.

Palliative care is gaining more awareness in the community, but there are so many more visits she and her volunteers would like to make, hands to hold, feet to rub, and programs to offer.

Although more people are becoming aware of the service through word of mouth, she says, and now more and more from health care providers, it still breaks her heart to talk to someone who has lost a family member who will say to her, "I wish I had known about you." There are so many more people we could have helped, caregivers we could have supported," she says.

Being able to provide hospice and palliative care is a mission for her, and she will never be able to do all she would like to, but each fundraiser allows the service to offer more for those who need it.

When COVID hit, the ability to deliver service was severely reduced, and the last year has been "extraordinary difficult." A small group of volunteers were kept busy, but it's been difficult keeping the team together."

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Four federal candidates spar in Cogeco debate

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Is Monday's federal election necessary?

That was the first question posed to four of the Niagara Falls riding candidates at last Thursday's television debate at the Cogeco YourTV studio.

Liberal candidate and Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Andrea Kaiser responded that it was absolutely necessary.

"We have a fundamental difference of opinion with the Conservatives, who want to end this pandemic in a long-form

time frame," she said. "Liberals want to end this pandemic through vaccinations. It is an integral and important question that we need to ask voters at this time as to how we end this pandemic, and how we keep our children and our community and our businesses safe."

"It's still incredibly disappointing," Conservative candidate and incumbent MP Tony Baldinelli countered, "to see that the Prime Minister decided to put his own self-interest and that of the Liberal party before the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls by

calling this election."

"Parliament was functioning for everyone but this Prime Minister," he continued. "In the last five-week session of Parliament that ended in June, we passed five private member's bills, five pieces of Conservative legislation which became law."

Brian Barker, NDP candidate and president of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Niagara Local, agreed.

"The \$600 million (estimated election cost) is money that could have been spent on helping Canadians recover from COVID and the costs of

the pandemic," Barker said. "I believe it was done as a power grab. I would argue that the government was working."

Green Party representative Melanie Holm said calling an election during the fourth wave of the pandemic was poor timing.

"If the Liberals really needed an election to know how to end this pandemic," Holm said, "then perhaps we shouldn't consider voting for them again."

The fifth candidate on the Sept. 20 ballot, Peter Taras of the People's Party of Canada, was not invited to the live television debate. Cogeco's deci-

sion was following the Federal Leaders Debate Commission criteria, which sets standards based on party standing in the House of Commons, and vote counts from the most recent federal election. The PPC did not meet those standards. Taras provided a two-minute pre-taped segment aired at the end of the live proceedings.

It was a reunion of sorts for three of the four on the panel. In the 2019 federal election, Baldinelli edged Kaiser by just 2,187 votes to take the seat vacated by long-time Conservative MP Rob Nicholson. Barker

placed third in the seven-candidate field.

The top two vote-getters from 2019 sparred throughout the evening, with the sitting MP attacking Trudeau's record on policies and promises at every opportunity. Kaiser defended the Liberal's record over the past six years.

On the subject of mandatory vaccinations for federal employees, Kaiser and Baldinelli did not see eye-to-eye.

"Canadians have a right to decide and choose to make

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Chamber debate focuses on business

Continued from page 1

their own choices,” Baldinelli said. “Vaccines are a safe and effective tool. We encourage everyone who is able to take one. But this government has done an incredibly poor job of making sure that rapid testing capabilities are available in this country. For those not vaccinated we need to have a national rapid testing strategy.”

“Our party’s position, and my own, personally, is that COVID tests simply are not good enough,” Kaiser responded. “If you test positive for COVID-19 it really is too late. We need to take responsibility for those workers and other people in the health care system that need surgeries that are backlogged.”

Barker told of the tragedy of losing one of his own family members to the virus. “I believe that all Canadians who can be vaccinated should be,” he said. “I firmly believe in science.”

Each candidate outlined their party’s strategies for making housing more affordable for people in the region. Despite the pandemic, home prices have continued to rise in the electoral district. NOTL’s average home price is approaching \$1 million, while homes in Niagara Falls sell for an average of just under \$700,000.

Holm promised more non-profit, co-operative and

supportive housing under a Green Party government. Barker said Jagmeet Singh’s government would build 500,000 units of affordable housing across Canada in the next 10 years. Barker also wondered what happened to Trudeau’s 2015 promise to make housing more affordable.

Baldinelli claimed Niagara’s problem is a supply issue. A Conservative government, he said, would build a million homes in three years and release federally owned buildings and land to increase the supply. They would also introduce a deferred capital gains tax for developers who sell buildings but reinvest proceeds back into rental accommodations.

Kaiser outlined Liberal plans to ban blind bidding on real estate, make home inspections a legal right, introduce anti-flipping taxes, and place a ban on new foreign ownership. She also outlined programs to help first-time home buyers.

Baldinelli and Kaiser both quoted recent reports, each in favour, of course, of their own party’s platforms on the affordable housing portfolio.

The four hopefuls compared notes on health care, mental health, and residential schools as well. During the discussion on pharmacare, Holm acted as the voice of reason, pointing out that the other candidates had been straying off

topic during their responses.

After 18 months of a pandemic, of particular interest to many NOTL voters might be issues relating to wineries, agriculture and tourism. The economy in both this town and Niagara Falls has been particularly hard-hit by the slowdown of business.

Baldinelli accused the Liberal government of infighting, resulting in a hold being put on implementing supports for the Canadian wine industry. Holm said the Greens believe in fair trade, not free trade, to protect the local wineries.

Kaiser said she would support a program for 100 per cent domestically-produced Canadian wine to grow the VQA Ontario designation. She added that those in the wine industry were happy to have the money budgeted for an excise exemption while the government works with them on the details of the program. Baldinelli countered that the growers he has met said the Liberal program was inadequate.

On tourism, the Liberal and Conservative candidates sparred once again.

“I’ve been advocating for a tourism recovery plan almost from the beginning of this pandemic,” said Baldinelli. “This government committed \$1 billion to tourism. That’s a billion dollars to a sector that generates \$105 billion. It’s totally inadequate.”



Green Party representative Melanie Holm, Liberal Andrea Kaiser, Brian Barker of the NDP and Conservative Tony Baldinelli talk about economic recovery, climate change and vaccination policies during the Cogeco debate last Thursday. (Photos supplied)

“There was the wage subsidy,” Kaiser said, “there was the CEBA (Canada Emergency Business Account) loan, there was the rent subsidy. The government had to step up because the province couldn’t get their act together. And now the hiring program. The wage subsidy will also be extended in tourism areas until March, 2022.”

“I hear mostly from people who work in the tourism industry on how they suffered for so long without working,” Holm said. “We haven’t done enough for tourism.”

Barker said the NDP would continue the wage and rent subsidies to bolster businesses and put into place a long-term hiring bonus.

On climate action and net-zero targets, Kaiser pointed out that Baldinelli voted against the Liberal’s net-zero accountability act. Holm went on the offensive, challenging Kaiser about her party’s commitment to climate action.

“I’d like to ask how we can trust a Liberal climate plan when they literally bought a pipeline,” the B.C.-born candidate said. “The pipeline goes through my Mom’s yard. I’ve seen it. How can we reduce emissions when we’re invested in fossil fuels.”

Kaiser countered with a statement that the NDP and Green Party plans were too radical and would leave many



Mike Balsom hosted debates for each of the Niagara ridings.

people behind, effectively destroying the economy.

Barker then stated that famed environmentalist David Suzuki was supporting his party in this election because of their climate plan.

“I don’t know who disagrees with David Suzuki,” he quipped.

During the two minute segment recorded by PPC candidate Peter Taras, he outlined the party’s four pillars of freedom, fairness, respect and responsibility, but went on to focus specifically on the first one.

“Even if we disagree on everything, if we respect one another we can reach compromises,” Taras said. He went on to slam COVID measures implemented

during the past 18 months by all levels of government.

“There have been no lives that have been proven that were saved,” he said. “In fact, the disastrous effects are seen in our society now with the number of suicides. The number of drug addiction has gone up, the number of homeless has gone up. And yet we are continuing to push these Draconian measures.”

Taras’ speech made no mention of any policies other than those that would put an end to COVID measures.

YourTV will rebroadcast the debate Saturday, Sept. 18 at 9 pm. It is also available to watch via their website at yourtv.tv/niagara.

50th Anniversary

Newark neighbours

Food Bank & Thrift Shop
Niagara-on-the-Lake

COMMUNITY DONATION PROJECT

Porch Pick-up Food Drive

Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club

Newark Neighbours, together with our partners from the NOTL Rotary Club, are once again holding a porch pick-up food drive.

We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held last May - it was overwhelming. Thank you all very much.

We're asking for your support once again, this time to assist us in filling our Thanksgiving hampers for our clients.

On Saturday September 25, 2021, teams are available to pick up your food donations anytime between 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Note that our volunteers will all wear masks and gloves and will respect all physical distancing restrictions, including contactless pick-up.

If you wish to donate in support of our Food Bank, please call 905-468-7498 or email us at newarkneighbours1@gmail.com to register your address for pick-up. We appreciate your support!!!

Items required for Thanksgiving hampers:

• Stuffing Mix

• Cranberry Sauce

• Canned Ham

• Canned Gravy (turkey or chicken)

• Canned Pineapple

• Applesauce or Canned Fruit

• Canned Corn

• Canned green beans

• Canned peas

General Items required on regular basis:

• Canned Tomatoes

• Tomato Sauce

• Canned Red Kidney Beans

• Canned Tuna

• Canned Ham, Corned Beef or Spam

• Canned salmon

• Canned mixed vegetables

• Flakes of Ham, Chicken or Turkey

• Canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli

• Habitant Soups

• Canned beef stew

• Canned Baked Beans

• Chunky Soups

• Campbell's Soups

• Kraft Dinner

• Mac and Cheese

• Canned pineapple

• Rice Sidekicks & Mr. Noodle packets

• Soda (Soup) Crackers

• Bottled Juices - Cranberry or Apple

• Cookies

• Snack Crackers

• Cereal • Oatmeal

• Peanut Butter • Jams

• Granola Bars

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Joan King will be at Simcoe Park, but not for official run

Penny Coles
The Local

This year is the 41st Marathon of Hope, and the 30th anniversary of the first Terry Fox Run to be held in Niagara-on-the-Lake. There were a couple of years after the first that there was no run. In 2006, Joan King arrived at Simcoe Park the Sunday

morning of the run, prepared to do her five kilometres. But the park was deserted, and she decided that would not happen again. Every year since 2007, she has organized the local run. Last year, NOTL topped more than \$1 million raised from this small community's annual runs and events. As last September, this year

will look a little different, as the event across Canada is again One Day, Your Way. Instead of an organized run, participants are being asked to keep the Marathon of Hope alive by running, walking or biking on their own, with family and friends, around their neighbourhood, or anywhere they choose. King will be at Simcoe

Park again this Sunday, Sept. 19, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., although there will be no crowds of people, and no official run. Some locals will show up to run or walk the traditional route, as occurred last year, and she will be in the bandshell, with the photos she has collected over the years. She says there may be newcomers to town who haven't participated in an official

run, and will come to the park to investigate the route they have taken in the past. The big banner of Terry Fox will be there for anyone who wants a photo, and King will be selling this year's T-shirts. She will also display a quilt that usually hangs on a wall in her Queenston home, made of Terry Fox Run T-shirts she has collected over the years. It was

made by her talented friend Leigh Bishop, who has produced a beautiful keepsake that will always remind King of why Fox, and the run, is so important to her, she says. This year, King is again asking participants to go to the NOTL Terry Fox Facebook page to share a little video clip

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Pillitteri helps town hit \$1 million mark

Penny Coles
The Local

Joe Pillitteri has been organizing Team Pillsy for the Terry Fox Run, and raising large sums of money, for years, but each year, he tries to do more. The faithful fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation, best-known for his one-liners and comedy routines, ups his ante every year with something new. For three years pre-pandemic, that was a major event for the stand-up comic at the Jackson-Triggs amphitheatre. Last year, when the community run total over the years surpassed the \$1 million mark, organizer Joan King said that could not have been ac-

complished without Pillitteri's passion for the cause, his huge heart and increasing efforts to raise money for the foundation. His skills as an entertainer have benefitted many community causes, but none more so than the annual Terry Fox Run. Last year and this, Pillitteri had to find another way to raise money. Paul Harber, of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, stepped in and offered his large tented outdoor patio, which could hold 100 people and still allow for physical distancing. Pillitteri was able to do two sold-out shows, and raised more than \$22,000. He did the same Tuesday night, again with two sold-out

shows, and expected to raise even more funds. Pillitteri, the owner of Lakeview Equipment, recently lent his good customers Heidi and Curtis Fielding of Fielding Winery a tractor, "for a short spell, as we would for any customer in need." The Fieldings, he says, "are awesome people. They look outward to see what is needed in the community, and then they look inward to see what they can do to fill that need." In response to the loan of the tractor, the Fieldings asked Pillitteri what they could do, and when he told them about

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Organizer of 1991 run only missing pandemic events

Penny Coles
The Local

When Mandy Faulkner and Alex Schulz organized the first Niagara-on-the-Lake Terry Fox Run, they were just university students. Faulkner, now a New York State resident, recalls seeing an advertisement placed by the Terry Fox Foundation, looking for volunteers to organize a run in town. They answered the ad, and on Sept. 15, 1991, the first town run was held. Both Niagara District Secondary graduates, then attending Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, they felt NOTL should have its

own community run, says Faulkner. She and Schulz mapped out a route that would be suitable for walkers, bikers and runners, she says, and met with the town council and works department for approval of the route, the use of Simcoe Park as the run headquarters, and Queen Street for the official run start. The route has remained very similar, she says, although it uses more of the Niagara Parkway Recreational Trail for safety. "Of course, the NOTL community was very supportive. We required route marshals, water station marshals, food sponsors, and registration teams. We re-

cruited for volunteers in all the local papers, and of course recruited all of our family members. Pledge sheets were placed in all local businesses around town," she says, "since electronic forms were not yet a thing. "Alex and I both attended a run organizers conference in Toronto, organized by the Terry Fox Foundation, and had the honour of meeting Terry Fox's mom, Betty Fox." That was very powerful for both of them, says Faulkner. "We took away many organizing tips, and brought them to future NOTL runs."

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Making lemonade for a good cause

Sarah and Mike Pillitteri helped their kids hold their annual lemonade sale at Riverview Cellars on the Niagara River Parkway. Lucas Pillitteri, Sarah Pillitteri, Leo Pillitteri and friend Stella Coles (in front), with Mike Pillitteri holding Sophia, raised \$500 for the Terry Fox Foundation. (Photo submitted)



Mandy Faulkner still has photos of the 1991 run she helped organize. It started on Queen Street, with former Lord Mayor, the late Stan Ignatczyk, officiating. (Photo submitted)

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More vaccinations needed to protect hospital system

Penny Coles
The Local

The “tiniest bit of good news” on the COVID front in Niagara is that the number of cases has flattened out, rather than following the upward trajectory that was projected.

The bad news, says Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Niagara’s acting medical officer of health, is that it may not last.

But it could at least buy us some time to get more people vaccinated, with a goal of 83 to 85 per cent of

all those eligible vaccinated to ensure hospitals are not strained, requiring other procedures to be delayed, as they are now in Hamilton hospitals, a region that has been a hotspot with the number of infections. Doctors are warning the hospital system could collapse.

At the current rate, it could take two more months to get to that level of the population vaccinated, but Hirji says with a vaccination passport motivating people to get their first and second doses, that could in-

crease the uptake and move the timetable up.

“The situation is pretty fragile right now,” he said. “Cases could go up.”

Of those now hospitalized with COVID in Niagara now, he said Monday, almost 100 per cent are infected with the Delta variant, and 100 per cent are unvaccinated.

Although a small number of people who are double vaxxed are testing positive, they are not becoming sick enough to be hospitalized, and they are not dying, he said.

“No vaccination is perfect,” he says. “The big difference is the risk,” he said. “There is very low risk of being hospitalized or in ICU for those who are fully vaccinated. There is a high risk for those who are unvaccinated.”

The benefits of being vaccinated, he says, is that the infection becomes “basically a cold virus,” limiting the number of people who will be severely ill.

For those who want to be double vaccinated before certificates become necessary to enter certain busi-

nesses or events, said Hirji, time is running out.

He also said although Niagara hospitals have not experienced the anti-vaccine and passport protests, and the intimidation of health-care workers that has occurred in other parts of the province, the anti-vaxxers are hindering the all-important contact tracing in Niagara.

Some are refusing to return phone calls, or are giving false information when asked, Hirji said. “They aren’t giving us hon-

est information.”

They won’t say who they’ve been around, which hinders public health’s ability to reduce the spread of infection.

He listed restaurants at the top of the list where outbreaks are occurring, although they can happen wherever people congregate.

In restaurants, he says, it’s the staff, not the patrons, who are causing the outbreaks, and if restaurants encouraged their staff to be vaccinated, that could put an end to those outbreaks.

Proud of Terry Fox run and of Niagara-on-the-Lake

Continued from page 3

Faulkner and Schulz organized the run until 1995, when out-of-town work commitments made it too hard to continue, and in 1996, were honoured with the Community Involvement Award by the town for their volunteer work.

“Alex and I are both very proud that the run has continued for 30 years, that over \$1 million has been raised.”

They are also “so proud of NOTL, and the people who helped raise this incredible amount of money. We are so thankful for the help from

our families and friends who supported us each year.”

Faulkner says she is “personally very grateful to Joan for continuing with the run. She does a fabulous job every year, and always includes us, year over year. She is a great person.”

Faulkner, now a conference and events planner, returns to NOTL every year to participate in the run, and hadn’t missed one until last year and this, when she and her husband and son were not able to travel to town due to COVID, border closures, and necessary quarantines. Although crossings are now allowed, it is still not a simple

process, with the necessary documentation and testing required, she says.

They live in Clarence Centre, N.Y., just 45 minutes from the Canadian border, and have many Canadians in their area who know the Terry Fox story. Her son has done many school projects about the Canadian hero, also helping to share the story Canadians know so well.

Although the Faulkners will not be here for the 30th anniversary of the first NOTL run, they do have this year’s Terry Fox T-shirts, and will wear them as they walk around their community with pride.



Mandy Faulkner, her son Evan, and her dad, Geoff Ollerhead at the 2018 run in NOTL. (Photo submitted)

Town working on vaccination policy for staff, council

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara regional council is still working out the details for a policy that will make vaccinations mandatory for Niagara Region employees, as well as for regional councillors who want to attend in-person meetings, conduct business on regional property, or participate in official events.

With the arrival of the more contagious Delta variant of COVID-19, the regional policy report says, “ensuring as many individuals as possible receive a vaccination is crucial. Current studies show that unvaccinated individuals are at the greatest risk of both becoming infected and spreading the virus, while also being 29 times more likely to be hospitalized with complications.”

Details still to be finalized include what happens to those who don’t comply.

The regional policy as approved by councillors states medical and human rights exemptions will be recognized and accommodated, but those who are not vaccinated will be required to regularly undergo testing.

The policy does not define “regularly,” nor does it say whether it is the region or the employee who will pay for the testing.

While regional staff are working on finalizing the details, it is expected that the policy will come into effect by next week, requiring staff compliance by prescribed timelines.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero says the town is working on adapting a similar policy for NOTL municipal staff and councillors.

At Monday night’s com-

mittee meeting, she asked that councillors provide CAO Marlene Cluckie with the certificates they received when they got vaccinated.

“We’re not asking staff to do anything we aren’t doing ourselves,” she said.

As leaders of the community, she added, it’s important for councillors to comply.

The municipal policy will come from staff, and will include councillors who wish to attend in-person committee or council meetings, conduct business on municipal property, or participate in official events, similar to the regional policy. All councillors approved the policy.

There was some discussion at the regional meeting regarding approving the policy without the complete details, said Disero, but the majority were in favour of getting a policy in place and then allowing staff to work out the details.

The regional policy as approved by council also called on the provincial and federal governments to create a proof-of-vaccination certificate program. The provincial government has agreed to vaccination certificates, and was expected to announce details of where and how they could be used this week, to take effect next week.

Brian Barker

Niagara Falls–Fort Erie–Niagara-on-the-Lake

Ready for Better

✓

A father, local teacher, and community volunteer, Brian has been a champion for our community.

✓

Brian knows we can make life more affordable by reducing costs on prescription drugs, investing in healthcare, and making housing affordable for our kids and grandkids.

✓

Brian is standing up to ensure Canada’s pandemic recovery works for you. He’s committed to creating a sustainable recovery that tackles the climate crisis by investing in green jobs, setting bold emissions targets and acting urgently.

Ready for better? So are we - on September 20th vote Brian Barker and the NDP

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“I grew up in Canada and was able to take advantage of the opportunity that provided me. I went to school, got a post-secondary education, worked and had a family. I thought I did all of the right things. When my wife and I welcomed our second child, I was a sales representative and moving up the corporate ladder, everything was good. Then I came home one day and my wife said, ‘married life is not for me. So long.’ This was a life-changing event, but I had a good job and I thought in time we would be okay. Then I was laid off. I thought with my experience I’d be able to find a job anywhere, but that didn’t happen. I ended up getting a job pumping gas. I was making minimum wage, which worked out to just \$1,000 per month at the time. After rent and childcare was paid, there wasn’t anything left. I would think, ‘I’ve paid the babysitter. I’ve paid the rent. Now how do I feed and clothe these kids?’



Ken was a single dad experiencing tough times, but United Way agencies helped him get back on his feet—and now he pays it forward.

I didn’t have any money for groceries. At the time, my youngest was just over three months old, and my oldest was a toddler. I felt like I was failing them. One of my neigh-

bours took me to a United Way-supported food program. I had the kids with me, and I’ll always remember that little red logo. I was able to feed my children. I could get

clothing for them. I honestly don’t know where my children and I would have gone if it hadn’t been for United Way. For the longest time, I never understood what

the phrase “the working poor” meant. I had always felt that it was people who didn’t want to work. After being put in that situation, I realized that’s not always the case. The work-

ing poor are people, real people, who have to work two or three jobs because of circumstances that are beyond their control.

“ Once things turned around for me, I remembered that little red logo. I felt the need to give back, so donations come off my pay cheque on a weekly basis. The money helps people like me. ”

Ken

WHY SETTLE FOR
NORMAL?

WE CAN DO
BETTER

After a difficult year, we would all like to get back to normal...
BUT NORMAL IS NOT GOOD FOR EVERYONE.

- 50%** of people in Niagara experience mental illness by age 40;
- 60,000** people in Niagara don’t have access to healthy food;
- 1 in 7** people in Niagara live in poverty, thousands are children;
- 665** people in Niagara sleep on the street every night.

United Way invests in SOLUTIONS to poverty, food security, homelessness, mental health and well-being, domestic violence, social isolation and disadvantaged youth in the Niagara region.
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EDITORIAL

So many reasons to support Terry Fox Foundation

There are many causes to support, and choices to make. Not everyone wants to be a part of funding cancer research, feeling the cure should have been found by now, that there is something nefarious at work to keep dollars coming in, and researchers at work. I choose to support the Terry Fox Foundation. Every year I've worked for a newspaper, I've tried to go all out, do what I can, to continue this very successful Marathon of Hope, started by a young man who has become, most deservedly, a national hero.

When money is being raised for cancer research, we often hear the words, "everyone's been touched by it." Much, much too often we've heard that, because it's so true. How many of us can say we have not lost someone we love to cancer, or love someone who is a survivor, meaning they've successfully battled this horrific disease — I've just become one of them — and earned the right to wear a red shirt.

As a young mom, I watched Terry Fox run with his skip and hop along Yonge Street. It's an image that's been captured on news we've seen over and over, and I can never remember that day without thinking about

how much in pain he seemed as he ran a daily marathon on his prosthetic leg, which was not designed for running. Watching him, you had to know what he was doing was not easy. It was excruciatingly difficult. But at least he'd left Toronto with people finally knowing who he was, understanding what he was doing, and why, as he headed north through Ontario.

We thought he'd make it home, to B.C., to his family. If courage, determination, and strength had had anything to do with the outcome, he would have succeeded.

Instead, he ran 5,373 kilometres before he had to stop, about half way home. His cancer had returned. He died the following June, at the age of 22.

By then, I'd watched my father, who had stood beside me that day marvelling at the sight of Terry Fox running, die of cancer. I'd sat by his bedside, held his hand, witnessed my mother destroyed as she lost the love of her life.

It didn't seem much longer after that when I was back in the hospital, at my mother's bedside, holding her hand and struggling to say goodbye. Family members said she died

of a broken heart. Her heart may have been broken, but she died of cancer.

Neither of them got to know the love of holding the grandchildren who would arrive after they were gone.

Since then, I've met parents and grandparents who didn't get to see their children and grandchildren grow up, who

had to say goodbye to babies, children, young adults, far too young to leave this world.

Many of you will have had similar, heart-breaking experiences. Or known others who have. We've all been touched by cancer.

I've listened to families try to make sense out of a death by fundraising to prolong life for

others. Some of us, or our loved ones, have been the recipients of advances in cancer treatments over the decades, thanks to those efforts, have seen the improvements that save people we care about, or at least make their fight a little easier.

Terry Fox gave us an easy way to contribute. We can walk, run or cycle five or 10 ki-

lometres this Sunday. We can do nothing at all, other than click on a website to make a donation. Or we can reach out to Joan King, organizer of the annual run. She is pretty easy to find. She'll be in Simcoe Park Sunday morning. And happy to take our money.

Penny Coles

Whichever party is running our country next week, must move quickly to stop protests

It's out of hand. It's unCanadian. It's what this pandemic is doing to us, dividing us, tearing us apart.

Protesters lining up outside hospitals, intimidating and bullying healthcare workers and patients entering a hospital for health care services, is just wrong.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has pledged his government, if elected, will make such intimidation tactics outside health care buildings a criminal offence.

Let's hope, whether it's Trudeau's Liberals or another party that forms the next government, it will follow

through. Quickly.

There is so much about this pandemic we could never have imagined, never thought we would be talking about, but this particular outcome of COVID-19 is unthinkable, that those who are already burned out, exhausted from saving lives, and now, caring for those people who have refused to be vaccinated, should be treated like this, spit at, sworn at, facing hatred and intimidation from people who don't believe in vaccinations or wearing masks or physical distancing, or any of the practices or restrictions that are intended to bring an end to a pandemic that some choose

not to believe exists. As if any of this is the fault of healthcare providers.

They've sacrificed so much already. We started off, early in this pandemic, thanking all those front-line workers who were going to the ends of the earth to protect us, putting pictures and messages in our windows, organizing and attending events to let them know how grateful we are for their help. We can still see the occasional sign on a light post or a lawn, a reminder the pandemic is far from over for those in health care. They don't deserve this. That it's up to a government to pass legislation to stop it is atrocious.

We can have differing opinions, and if some people have to be angry, there isn't much that can be done to convince them otherwise. But how did we get to this extreme, that it's okay to harass and intimidate others, especially those trying to save us? It isn't okay, not at any level, for any reason.

This election can't come soon enough, so whatever party is successful can get on with the business of running our country. And the first order of business better be legislating the end of these ugly, senseless protests.

Penny Coles

Local LETTERS

Local historian sheds light on 630 King St.

Your article on the Miss Young's School (Future of historic home uncertain, The Local, Aug. 4) was timely in that it highlighted the predicament of an important Niagara heritage house. Located at 630 King St., it is currently in great peril because

of neglect and abandonment.

The article summarized the present situation concerning the owner and various attempts to buy the property with the intent to restore it. An alternate idea is to move the house elsewhere. The house is designated

heritage, which prevents it from being arbitrarily torn down.

So what makes this house so special? It is Niagara's oldest.

The story of the property goes back to 1781, when British army surveyors mapped out the land from the mouth of the

Niagara River up to Queenston and from St. Davids to Lake Ontario. East and West Line was the first surveyed road (notice that it is arrow straight). The land was laid out in large rectangular farm lots south of the road and in smaller lots to the north.

The Commandant of Fort Niagara issued "Location Tickets" to Loyalist refugees and army veterans, allowing them to occupy a land parcel, clear trees, plant crops and build a cabin. There were some obligations, like contributing to road work. But it wasn't their property — they didn't own it.

The colonists could hope for eventual ownership. But until there was a government for Upper Canada, which came about in the early 1790s, there was no legal procedure and authority to issue deeds and title.

Based on the 1781 Niagara survey, a 1783 map shows that a lot was assigned to Henry Mattice of Butler's Rangers,

which included the King Street property. During the 1780s there is record of him growing and selling crops. He probably lived in the area in a ramshackle hut. Lord Dorchester, Governor General of Canada, requested that since the size of the Military Reserve hadn't been decided upon, the assignments of lands north of East and West line stay in the hands of the crown, which meant that Mattice became a tenant.

The arrival of John Graves Simcoe signalled the legal ownership process could begin. He gave a huge block of land, including Mattice's, as a crown grant to D.W. Smith (1793), a prominent local businessman. Crown grants came with valid ownership. In order to qualify for ownership, he or somebody he hired, had to live on property. You can surmise, as the wealthiest local citizen, he didn't live in a cabin on the edge of town.

The property next was

owned by William Dickson (1798), who in 1817 donated two acres to the crown to build a new courthouse (Rye Park) replacing the one burned in 1813. It was a smart move. He began to parcel up the acreage around it and sold lots of lots, possibly when 630 King Street acquired its current dimensions. George Young, master artificer in the British Army, bought it around that time. He was a prisoner during the War of 1812 in Greenbush, N.Y. and returned a broken and ruined man. He retired from the army on the grounds of his disability, and was granted pension and provisions.

There is the idea that he himself built the house, but that would break the conditions of his retirement. There are other reasons this was not the case. First is that the current house turns up on an 1810 map that was done by A. Gray, Asst. Qr. Mr. Gen., British Army. He made a map of the town of Niagara and environs, which is well-known to this day. Another is of the entire Niagara River, its banks and hinterland. It is on that one that we can see the full length of King Street, and at the end, three houses. Of the three, only 630 King Street is left.

The Burning of Niagara in 1813 destroyed most of Niagara's records and documents, both public and private. Information on the house and property prior to then is scant. One



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Rita, (Netflix, 2012-2020), a Danish series, focuses on the life of an unconventional mother and teacher. Her

honesty, passion and bravery make her an inspiring model, but cause her much torment. I remain mesmerized by this woman's integrity, even after more than 20 episodes.

Donald Combe is a retired

English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

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

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COMMENT

Join our cleanup along parkway Saturday morning



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Given the evolving and quickly changing state of the world, I almost forgot it was a long weekend. Now that I live in beautiful downtown NOTL, I was quickly reminded by the traffic of both vehicles, bikers, and pedestrians alike. It was sincerely pleasant, some sort of unidentifiable relief over seeing things looking back to normal, whatever normal is.

Attached to this thought of social rejuvenation comes the thought of how our local

environment is being impacted by the countless gatherings, picnics, and hangouts here in town. This is an old story coming to the surface again, but it doesn't mean it's a theme that should be ignored.

Increased human volume in town generally correlates with increased litter and garbage accumulation. It's an observable and statistical fact. In this week's article, I will explain where this garbage ends up, and how you can help clean it up. It's not cliché — follow through to the end of this article and see how you can help on Sept. 18.

Some of the litter is truly an accident. Things slip out of our pockets, or blow out of the dumpster during a gust of wind.

Other litter is spread about by animals. My last article was

about raccoons as masters of our urban environment. Even if garbage is properly disposed of, it remains as a sitting and stinking duck, if you will. Birds, squirrels, and foxes are also opportunistic toward our trash, and there are examples in local parks where you can see what gets dragged or flicked around.

Lastly but sadly, there is another category of litter that can only be attached to lazy or intentional human behaviour. This one is always perplexing to me.

Someone clearly enjoyed this space for its beauty, scenery, and accommodating nature. That's why they stopped for a family picnic or a snack break. If they have the will to trash the very area they just enjoyed, perhaps they need some

basic environmental education, or, perhaps Mom still cleans up after them at home.

No matter how the litter gets distributed in ways that it shouldn't, here is where I've found it most in my unending outdoor travels.

Forest edges act like giant combs for blowing or littered garbage. They provide a break-wall where a lot of the dirty debris ends its journey, so it tends to really accumulate at the edge of farm fields and parks adjacent to these woodlots.

The old saying "everything flows downstream" is true with litter. I often find litter in creeks, particularly where natural blockages occur. The collection of water bottles, plastic bags, and tennis balls can be found in Two or Four Mile Creek, and

anywhere in southern Ontario.

Although not as naturalized as a typical creek, a ditch is a depression in the land that collects a depressing amount of garbage. It happens to catch litter at its end travels, but it is also a target for lazy roadside littering sessions. On that note, parking lots adjacent to recreational parks also seem to be an area of high density garbage.

Despite the efforts of local citizens and environmental groups, there is still lots to be tackled in terms of cleanup.

Since Grade 7, I have been cleaning up NOTL's garbage with my buddies. From high school onward, I started making these cleanups public events. Now, I've had the opportunity to co-organize a cleanup with the town's Environmental Adviso-

ry Committee. Here is a NOTL garbage cleanup that you, your, family and friends can assist with this month.

Date and time: Saturday, Sept 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. Stay as long or as little as you'd like — every bit helps.

Locations: Browns Point Park, on the Niagara River Parkway, and Smuggler's Cove parking lot, also on the Niagara River Parkway, at the end of East and West Line.

You are not obligated to pick up anything you don't want to, or venture into a spot you're not comfortable with. All the town is looking for is eager hands and hearts for this cleanup. We will supply the gloves and bags — you bring the willingness to help. Hopefully I'll see you there!

Local LETTERS King Street house the oldest in NOTL

Continued from page 6

way to try to date the construction is through examination by experienced architectural historians. A few years ago an opportunity arose, the house was opened to just such a group, and the knowledge gained was eye opening.

It is a three-bay, storey and a half, central chimney, back-to-back upper and lower fireplaces, and just four rooms. It is a hewed wood plank construction with full corner dovetails, similar to a standard squared log house, only thinner. The entrance opens into an interior vestibule with doors left and right to the rooms on either side. There isn't much evidence of what the rooms originally looked like, but they do have brick fireplaces. The east mantel is positively archaic. The west mantel is unusual as well.

The now-missing rear extension was a kitchen/storage wing. A photograph survives to show the kitchen with an enormous cooking hearth, bake oven and cabinets which had "blown" panel doors synonymous to the 18th century. The upper floor is accessed by what can only be described as a suicidal box staircase. The two upper rooms also have brick fireplaces, although one mantel is missing. There is a lot of thin, bead edged, vertical panelling and a rough attic.

Windows are a mix of original and altered.

The architecture of NOTL is largely of the neo-classic style in its oldest homes. The Young house is earlier. A study of early north-east American houses show that their early-to-mid 1700s examples are virtually identical. The vestibule entrance turns up in one or two very old Niagara homes. The minimal use of brick only for fireplaces, shows that it was hard to get in the early days and saved for essentials. The central chimney is the simplest and most efficient system. The bricks are irregular in their material, varied in size and colour, the latter due to inconsistent firing temperatures. Possibly made in a "clamp" rather than a kiln, or an assemblage from a variety of sources.

The ground floor east mantel is a peculiar style similar to mid-1700s New York examples. Bead edge panelling is another very old feature. The staircase is more of a type that belonged on a ship. It got you upstairs and that was it. It would kill you on the way down. Some attic rafters are whole trunks perfect for Dendro-chronology samples, which by counting the tree rings would tell us exactly when the wood was acquired. Unfortunately there is no established library of specimens in this area, to which the samples could be compared and matched.

The house construction speaks of the early settlement. Not a shanty (first period), but a proper home (second period). It isn't a formally laid out Georgian house (third period). It still belongs in the frontier era, but where one could get glass panes, hardware, nails, paint pigments, etc. The earliest period had none of those things. The first drawings of the town show this.

Lord Simcoe lived in a tent on the grounds of Navy Hall and he was the most important person in the Province. We know from Lady Simcoe's diary how delighted she was to get an invitation for tea in a proper house. It was hard living in the tent, which originally belonged to Captain Cook, who brought it to Quebec in 1759 and left it here.

Pre-Simcoe, the well-to-do ensured their comfort, regardless, but few people built a serious house. Post-Simcoe, you now owned your property and could make what you would of it. It is highly unlikely this house was built prior to the mid 1790s. That was the era of the shack, and everything was up in the air. Any illusions that a peace treaty would allow Loyalists to go back to where they came from disappeared. People realized that Niagara was it. Like it or not, it is where they would have to start over again. The age of the permanent home had arrived.



630 King Street, heritage designated, is in a state of disrepair. (Donald Combe)

Someone between c.1795 and 1810 built the house. Not having any documents to help sort out the records of the land or construction, or Henry Matice, it can only be conjectured that some acceptable arrangement took place. By colonial Niagara standards, 630 King is a small lot. Neither the house or property was high status.

Some Loyalists arrived in Niagara with their own satchel of tools, although a very few of them. (A person living in a modern apartment would have more). It is with these bags of paltry hand tools that most people made their own homes. Whoever built 630 King was a capable man, who was familiar with North American conditions. Perhaps he got help from time to time from someone who had a few different tools.

The British Army helped supply what they could to the settlers.

How did the house survive the burning of the town of Niagara on Dec. 10, 1813?

Elements of the American army and Canadian renegades in their service did the deed, then immediately retreated across the Niagara River. The renegades, known as the "Canadian Volunteers," even had members of the provincial Parliament. These bad boys were little more than a biker gang on horseback. The townspeople were turned out with little notice and salvaged what they could, before watching everything burn.

Some homes and structures on the periphery were spared by their distance, and this is the luck of 630 King. The residents might have stepped

outside and watched the town in flames, not far off. No doubt they were quickly inundated with refugees. It was December, after all.

After all these years of survival, the house is now in serious jeopardy. A recent inspection presented an aura of serious decrepitude. Exterior walls are bulging out from the failure of the structure behind it. Large holes in the roof let in the rain and the animals. The list goes on. It has become a wreck. Left in this condition for much longer, it will be an arson target. Time is limited.

This is the oldest house. A unique claim in NOTL.

King Street resident Glen Smith is a graduate of Brock University in history and classics who has been active in restoration work.

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Music Niagara offers *Let's Tango!*, music and dance

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Music and dance, specifically, the tango, come together next Wednesday, Sept. 22, for the latest instalment of Music Niagara Festival's At Home Concert Series.

Let's Tango!, recorded in front of a live audience of about 70 under the marquee at Chateau des Charmes Winery earlier this month, sees the return of the much-loved Quartetto Gelato as they take on the music of Astor Piazzolla.

On the phone from his Hamilton-area home, oboist and band leader Colin Maier talks of the enduring appeal of the dance that originated in the 1880s along the Río de la Plata, between Argentina and Uruguay, and that of the master of the music that accompanies it.

"Piazzolla took this form of music, and developed it in a way that no one else had really done," Maier says. "It was this dance form that came from the bordellos in the late 1800s and early 1900s. He comes

along and starts to give it this fresh look that almost sounds classical at times."

"His tangos don't have the clichés the music is often associated with," he continues. "There's so much intensity and honesty in his music. As much as tango is about the dance steps, it's about the feeling you get from tango — the passion, the emotion, the moodiness and the darkness. You get that from listening to his music, without even seeing the dance."

In addition to Quartetto Gelato, violinists Rebekah Volksteen and Drew Jurecka, of Toronto's Payadora Tango Ensemble, perform with Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas and harpist Erica Goodman.

"There is a piece Atis does during the show, with Erica, *The History of Tango*, the first three movements," explains Maier. "It's amazing. Without any dance, you know it's a tango. You know there's a storyline of passion, or lust. When words don't work, that's when music is important."

Of course a program fo-

cusing on tango can only be improved with the addition of a dancer. Toronto-born Andrea Ciacchi, a dancer, choreographer, actor and motion capture specialist, takes on that role in this show.

Maier himself may cut a rug during *Let's Tango!* as well.

Before he became a full-time musician, the 45-year-old Maier worked professionally for 15 years in musical theatre. Maier played the devil fiddler in the flying blue canoe for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics opening ceremonies. His theatre credits include work in the stage version of *The Lord of the Rings*, and roles in *Amadeus*, *Cats* and *A Chorus Line*.

Fans of Quartetto Gelato are familiar with his four-tool arsenal of singing, playing, dancing and acting skills.

"Dance is a regular part of a Quartetto show," he says. "I usually do some Ukrainian dancing, or do the splits. I try to throw those in because it's a use-it-or-lose-it kind of thing. I try to regularly keep up

those skills."

He recalls one on-stage dance incident that almost resulted in one of those embarrassing moments to which all can relate.

"Over the years I've gotten ten more tailored pants," Maier laughs, "and those ones are not stretchy. I made the mistake once of putting those on and trying to do the splits. When I heard the rip I decided I'd stop there, halfway down."

Maier is impressed with

Continued on page 9



Toronto-born Andrea Ciacchi will dance the tango in the Music Niagara At Home Series. (Sarah Cedeño)

LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

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NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an **all-way stop** at the intersection of Anderson Lane, nearby the Niagara-on-the-Lake Library and Community.

Currently, only southbound traffic on Anderson Lane is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers exiting the parking lot and travelling westbound on Anderson Lane from Simcoe Street are required to stop as well.

Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on September 20, 2021, and enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing mike.komljenovic@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3266.

Local music series takes ‘artistic and musical risks’

Continued from page 8

the risks Bankas and the Music Niagara board have taken with this year’s programming. The 2021 At Home Concert Series has featured the music of avant garde composer John Cage, and an upcoming show called *Shaw and Music* focuses on the rarely heard German composer Hermann Goetz. The tango is certainly another example of the festival stepping out of its comfort zone.

“Every year he and his team come up with new material and multiple concerts,” he says. “They take artistic and musical risks. You have to try something new. People want to hear that. The easy way would be to do the greatest hits of Beethoven, but they go beyond that.”

Another risk that is coming later this winter once again includes Maier and his quartet. They will be reuniting with local co-

median Joe Pillitteri, with whom they collaborated last year on Music Niagara’s show *Music and Laughter*.

“It’s a talk show,” Maier explains. “We received a grant (through the recent provincial Reconnect Festivals and Events Program) to put this together. Gelato will be the house band, and Joe is the host. It will be like a late-night talk show.”

He continues, “the possibilities are endless. We get to work with local businesses and interview them. We’ll talk to local musicians and artists. The focus will be on local businesses and hospitality as well as on music. I’m convinced it will go over really well.”

Maier expects to record the talk show segments in November or December of this year.

The multi-instrumentalist welcomed the opportunity to perform for the larger audience at Chateau des Charmes this month, and knows that viewers of next week’s At Home Series

instalment will feel the energy it brought to the performances.

“The entire tent was full,” he remembers. “You didn’t see any empty seats. The energy is very symbiotic.”

The entire world lost the

ability to have an audience and performers together, he says. “We took it for granted. I think it’s pretty obvious. What both sides of the equation get is pretty special. The live performance industry will never, ever go away.”

In three weeks Quartetto Gelato will be performing in the U.S. for the first time since the pandemic started. He’s a little nervous about the trip to Zanesville, Ohio, but also excited. And the quartet is putting finish-

ing touches on a new CD, *Tasty Tunes*, to be released in November.

Let’s Tango! premieres on musicniagara.org and the Music Niagara Festival YouTube channel Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 4 p.m.



Quartetto Gelato, recorded live at Chateau des Charmes last month, will be presented in a virtual concert Sept. 22. (Sarah Cedeño)



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Remembering 9/11 brings call for unity, resilience, hope

Penny Coles
The Local

On Saturday, as people gathered in New York City and across the U.S. at solemn ceremonies marking 20 years since the September 11 terrorist

attacks, Niagara-on-the-Lake held its own memorial at the Queen Street cenotaph. There were messages of solidarity with those from across the border who are the mainstay of local tourism, and a welcoming note for their return.

One NOTL man attending the ceremony Saturday commented on the beautiful morning, the sun shining on the first responders gathered on Queen Street, and said he was in New York on business with his wife that day. He remarked that it

was also a beautiful morning in New York 20 years ago. It was a day that began like any other, but that is still remembered in annual services in NOTL, where many Americans first learned of what was taking place at home.

While it's been 20 years since those horrific attacks, "many of us still remember where we were, and what we were doing in that moment," Lord Mayor Betty Disero told a small crowd gathered to remember 9/11.

That was the day, she reminded those who attended the memorial service organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, that four American passenger jets

were hijacked by terrorists, and redirected towards the Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon, and White House in Washington D.C. The fourth jet, Flight 93, was diverted and tragically crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. "Through the heroic efforts of the passengers and crew, the plane never made it to the White House, but the action cost them their lives."

Nearly 3,000 people lost their lives that day, including people from 90 countries around the world, and 24 Canadians, said Disero.

"Our world changed forever following the attacks of 9/11," she continued, "but what hasn't changed is

our resolve against the oppression of terror, and our ability to comfort, and aid those affected by these crimes against humanity. Today, we continue to stand with our American neighbours, and open our community to them just as we did 20 years ago."

Canada continues to play an integral role in many of these humanitarian campaigns throughout the world, said Disero, "and we salute the men and women in the Canadian Forces – not only for their outstanding bravery and courage – but for standing up for us."

"We commit to honouring all the brave men, and women

Friends an inspiration to Pillitteri

Continued from page 3

the Ravine fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation they offered to cover the cost of the Ravine dinners, so that 100 per cent of every dollar from the show will go to the foundation.

He considers himself very fortunate, he says, to be surrounded by outstanding, generous people who are willing to contribute to the community and a cause

that is so important to him.

Pillitteri has talked openly in the past about the reason behind his dedication to the Terry Fox Foundation.

In 2008, he had what he describes as a full nervous breakdown. The economy was tanking, he had just bought his business, and he thought he would lose it. He felt lower than he ever had at any time in his life.

He tells the story of his daughter doing a project on Terry Fox at the time, and although he knew about the Marathon of Hope, Pillitteri started reading one of the books his daughter was using for her research. What he read really spoke to him, he said, and continues to help give him some perspective on life.

The Fieldings weren't the only couple to support Pillitteri with this year's Ravine event.

A little nervous about performing after so long away from the stage, he recently mentioned his case of nerves to his golfing buddy David Mines, who invited him to use their backyard as a venue to try out some new material. They fed "an awesome little crowd, and passed a plate around for donations to the foundation," says Pillitteri, and at the end of the night, had collected \$2,200 from the event.

People like the Mines and the Fieldings, he says, "inspire others to help. I'm blown away by all of them."



Joe Pillitteri did two sold-out shows in September, 2020, and had new material ready for the crowd Tuesday night. (Photo submitted)



First responders, including members of the fire department and EMS, attend the annual 9/11 memorial service on Queen Street. (Penny Coles)

Continued on page 12

**PEOPLE'S PARTY
of CANADA**

FREEDOM, FAIRNESS, RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT

ELECT

Dear Residents of Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie,

Every individual deserves respect and human dignity. The values of freedom, fairness, responsibility, and respect are the foundations for building a functional society that will give opportunity for success and happiness to every Canadian that wants to work hard. Government should create the conditions for human flourishing rather than to perpetuate dependency on government handouts. Smaller government is a way to increase our quality of life. Government should get out of the way of Canadian citizens as much as possible. Family and community are better at solving local problems than big government.

Returning to traditional values of family, community, and protection of the vulnerable will bring about more joy, peace, and unity in our country. I believe in the protection of human life from conception to natural death. As a father, the best thing I can do for my children is to love their mother. As a family man, the best thing I can do for my country is to raise children that are humble, just, courageous and grateful for the opportunities they have been granted, and to have a sense of service to their family, community and country.

As a political candidate, I will give straightforward responses to my constituents' concerns. I will always try to solve problems by going back to the first principles of charity towards neighbour, faith, hard work, and respect towards every individual. I believe the sole purpose of politics is to make life better for citizens. Government should try to empower the people rather than themselves.

At your service,
Peter

Authorized by the Financial Agent
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I Gave Her a ROCK in the Rockies!

Usually when I propose a listing price or commission rate to a client, it's a high emotion situation. But in my experience, NO real estate situation has been as nerve wracking as THIS specific proposal!

I wanted to surprise the most incredible woman in my life (Dawn Vanier) with a ring and a PROPOSAL to spend the rest of her life with me.... and I didn't want her to

see it coming.

Last year I took her to Banff for her birthday as she'd never been there before and it's my favourite place on earth. My father took me and my siblings there when I was a boy and I fell in love - so this year I told her I wanted to take her back to celebrate her birthday the same way we celebrated it last year! She took the bait. What she DIDN'T know is that

I brought her closest friends and their significant others, a videographer and an undercover photographer 3,000 km across the country to surprise her!

The plan went off without a hitch but not without a HIKE. We hiked to our favourite spot in Moraine Lake, AB, and when we found a "random" great photo spot. I asked a gentleman who was standing nearby

with a good camera (the planted photographer) if he could take our photo. He obliged and snapped a couple photos and then I slipped to my knee and asked if she'd spend the rest of her life with me. THANKFULLY she said "YES", and as the photographer yelled CONGRATULATIONS, 11 of our closest friends jumped out from behind a big rock to show their support. The look on her

face (featured here) says it all! She is gorgeous on the inside and out and these photos speak for themselves.

Dawn Vanier is a well respected Science teacher (en Francais) at A.N Myer in Niagara Falls and now I am so proud to call her my fiancé.

I know this article has nothing to do with REAL estate but it has everything to do with REAL life and REAL love.

If you live in Niagara-on-the-Lake like Dawn and I do, and are married, engaged, single, widowed or anywhere in between, and you are thinking of buying or selling, please call me before you decide what to do. I'd love to give you free advice!

Thanks so much for reading and we'll see you around town!

Greg Sykes & Dawn Vanier



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Submitted by
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Anchor Niagara brings community businesses together with local Niagara Charities to create unforgettable events, while raising money for a good cause.

It was built on a promise made by founder, Maria Mavridis, to her late mother in 2001. The promise: to continue advocating, raising funds and awareness in the community for charities that make a difference in our lives.

In the early stages, Maria would use the family restaurant as a venue space to create small events that would include live local musicians and silent auctions.

As interest grew for attendance, the reach out to other local Niagara businesses and larger venues began and helped create some of Anchor Niagara's Signature Events: Designer Purse Bingo, Eat, Drink, Pink!, and many more that attendees from as far as Windsor, have grown to love.



Maria Mavridis, founder of Anchor Niagara.

This year, Anchor Niagara has partnered with RSI Events to maximize attendee experience, making these events an unforgettable experience that partners, sponsors and attendees will never forget.

Since COVID, the online submissions for event support to Anchor Niagara from charities and

not-for-profits have doubled. With the need for funding, Anchor Niagara has a great Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 line-up of events scheduled.

Visit Anchor Niagara online for all events and updates.

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MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Eduardo Lafforgue, Tony Baldinelli and first responders watch as the flags are raised after two minutes of silence and national anthems played during the 9/11 memorial service at the cenotaph. (Penny Coles)

Day to remember those who died in Afghanistan

Continued from page 10

who lost their lives that day," she said. "We offer our support to the family members, the survivors, and the rescue and recovery workers."

"We stand here today," she added, "to demonstrate unity, resilience, and hope for future generations."

Tony Baldinelli, the federal Conservative incumbent for Niagara Falls, NOTL and Fort Erie, also spoke, saying that thousands of lives were "senselessly lost . . . by an act of hatred, by an act of terrorism."

Throughout the day of the terrorist attacks, he said, "we kept updated on the tragic events unfolding, not knowing what was to happen and how all of this would impact us, not only individually, but as a bi-national community with such strong bonds which have united us, for over two centuries."

"Let us never forget those who were lost, and let us remember those heroic first responders," he asked, "who ran to

danger, and sacrificed their own lives in the protection of and in service of their neighbours and communities, in need."

And he reminded us that the "heinous" actions of that day also resulted in the deployment of Canadian soldiers to Afghanistan, "to protect our interest and to help root out hate." Since then, 158 Canadian Armed Forces personnel paid "the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace and freedom in Afghanistan."

We must remember them all, he said. "On this national day of service, let us pledge to keep these individuals and their families in our hearts, as we remember."

The attendance of the first responders on Queen Street, the lowering of Canadian and American flags, the two minutes of silence before the flags are raised again and the playing of both national anthems, gave pause to reflect on the ways the world changed that day.

MPP Wayne Gates couldn't hide his emotion when he spoke

of the friendly rivalry between the U.S. and Canada. But there was no laughter that day, he said, only tears shed "for our sisters and brothers in America. This town represents everything that is great about our two countries, and the bond we share."

To the first responders, he said, "we're thinking about you, about the 412 who died on that day, and those who have died since of cancer. You remain in our thoughts and our hearts."

Along with saying prayers for the 9/11 first responders and their families, "I also ask that you say a prayer for those Canadian allies still in Afghanistan."

"Today," said Lafforgue, as he ended the ceremony, "as we emerge from the pandemic and come together to commemorate 20 years since the World Trade Center tragedy in New York, we must remember that if we could recover from September 11, 2001, we can all recover from COVID-19 together, but we must consider the magnitude of the response and where it will take us."

Cancer survivor honours a promise

Continued from page 3

or some photos of their runs, since she won't have photos of an official event.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Donna Seymour was at the town hall Monday, raising a flag, and awareness, for this Sunday's Terry Fox Run.

Seymour is a cancer survivor, but when she participates in the Terry Fox Run, it's in memory of her friend, June Huyck, who was not so fortunate.

Before her friend died of ovarian cancer in 1996 at the age of 49, Seymour made a promise to continue the legacy of Terry Fox runs Huyck had begun in 1992.

Seymour has continued to do so, although last year, and again this year, it will be done a little differently.

This Sunday, she and a group of about 12 people will walk around her Virgil neighbourhood, safely, following COVID protocols. "Everyone really enjoys it," she says. "It's almost more fun doing it this way. It's easier to talk while we walk, and we'll go back to my place for some pizza and ice cream."

Seymour says she and her group raised more than \$13,000 last year, and "we're on track to do the same this year."

New at Simcoe Park this year will be Tiina Kupper of FasciaPhysio Niagara. A fascia stretch therapy (FST) practitioner with a clinic at the fitness club at White Oaks Resort, she will be offering, free, her table-based services, which she describes as a gentle, manual therapy and assisted stretching technique that focuses on the

releasing of fascia (the connective tissue found all through the body).

People who think they are feeling tightness and muscle pain, she says, are more likely suffering from fascia tightness. The pain can be in the shoulder, hip, neck, carpal tunnel — "anywhere, you name it, FST can relieve pain anywhere," she says. For those who are in pain because they've walked or run for Terry Fox, or are suffering from tightness and pain for any reason, she will be in the park to help them.

King will also be in the park to accept pledge sheets and donations.

To register to fundraise for the Terry Fox Run, visit terryfox.org.

To post photos and comments on Facebook, go to NOTL Terry Fox Run.

Tony Baldinelli and Erin O'Toole's Canada Recovery Plan will get the country back on track

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Infrastructure improvements to provide our farmers more reliable irrigation

I will NEVER support the Liberal plan to tax the capital gains from your principal residence



Tail Gate Treasures at Pumphouse Saturday

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is known for getting creative, but this Saturday, Sept. 18, they are getting creative with a new fundraising event. The event will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and is being touted as one of the two major fundraising events that the Pumphouse organizes on a yearly basis taking the place of the Grand Bazaar that they held in previous years.

According to marketing coordinator Aimee Medina, the event will be an outdoor, physically-distanced event to raise funds for their children and youth programming. "The idea is that sellers park their cars, open up their trunks and that's where they sell their stuff," she says. Simple, easy and everyone will be in their own areas. The Pumphouse has around 18 spots in the parking lot area and has allocated more spots for vendors on the lawn area beside the main building. In total, they plan for around 30 to 32 vendors to participate. The goods will range from antiques, to sports equipment, small appliances and crafts. The Pumphouse will also have a table at the event that will offer art supplies, small art pieces and crafts for sale. "Some of the vendors are just wanting to get rid of or purge their stuff so if they choose to donate the proceeds of their day's sales to the Pumphouse, they are more than welcome to do so,"

adds Medina.

The Pumphouse is booking the spots at \$25 each whether you are in the parking lot or on the lawn. There were a few spots still available at press time, for anyone that might be interested. "We're still accepting spots but we tried to limit it up to 30 or 32 spots, only because although it's an outdoor event, we will ensure physical distancing and we want to keep vendors at a safe distance from one another," she promises.

Medina is enthusiastic about this fundraiser, especially since they did not have the opportunity to run the other major events they usually host during August. This the first they have had at the Pumphouse, besides the reopening of the exhibitions.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go to their Friendly Online Studio, a monthly program that runs throughout the year. "Some people don't realize it, but it takes a lot to produce even a 10-minute video" for the program, explains Medina. The proceeds will enable the Pumphouse to keep offering other free programming to kids. For instance, they offer online paint classes for children and youth on Saturdays that will run from Sept. 18 to 25. This is a one-hour tutorial, with the Pumphouse supplying the materials. They plan to continue to run these online programs in addition to in-studio programming in light of the present COVID

situation. If we have to go into another lockdown, she says, they will already have the online programs in place. And even though they are open Tuesdays to Sundays for studio classes, they can only accommodate between six to eight students at a time, but with "online programming you can engage a lot of people, and encourage them to participate more freely."

Medina added that they are already looking toward their next major fundraising event in December. They are accepting donations for the art sale that takes place as part of the NOTL Rotary House Tour. She says they have already received over 150 donated art pieces. "Artists are encouraged to donate their artwork. If the artwork sells then we'll give them a charitable receipt," she explains. "It is not just artists, maybe people who have a collection of paintings or pieces that they want to donate to the Pumphouse, are welcome to. It's like an exhibit and an art sale as well." Medina reminds art lovers to mark Dec. 3 and 4 on their calendars for the art sale, and she encourages deal hunters to come out to their Tail Gate Treasures Fundraiser this weekend.

For more information on this Saturday's fundraiser or to reserve a spot visit: niagarapumphouse.ca/events/tail-gate-treasures.

For more information on the programs and exhibitions visit niagarapumphouse.ca or call 905-468-5455.



A tail gate fundraiser will take the place of the bazaar held at the Pumphouse in past years. (Photo supplied)

'Palliative care won't be a little secret anymore'

Continued from page 1

They are now able to go into long-term care homes, but their movements are restricted, and in-home visits have to be one on one — only one volunteer can go into one home. Volunteers have also been communicating by phone, and visiting outdoors.

But Bagnulo wants to do more than that. She has plans to expand. At the top of her wish list is a registered massage therapist, someone who can visit those in long-term care, or at home, and even provide some relief for the stressed and exhausted caregivers looking after their loved one at home.

And she's counting on the annual Healing Cycle, which the local service is joining for its ninth year, to provide the funding for the RMT service — any

money raised by the Sept. 25 ride will support the new program, with anything left over going to replace outdated equipment palliative care loans out, such as wheelchairs or lift chairs.

The cycling event traditionally takes place on a specific day in September in Mississauga, and funds hospice palliative care communities across Ontario. This year, as last, teams are being asked to ride in their own communities.

The NOTL group's team, the Pedal Pushers, will ride a 10-kilometre route Sept. 25, and a new and exciting addition this year will be the Pedal Pub, with riders onboard also raising awareness and funds for palliative care. On the Pedal Pub, says Bagnulo, will be Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Dr. Karen Berti, MPP Wayne Gates, Sean Simpson from Simpson's Phar-

masave, and others.

The ride will begin at the Pedal Pub's Mary Street location at 9 a.m., and after a stop at Upper Canada Lodge for entertainment by The Ukesters, about half-way through the 10 kilometres, along a route approved by the town, it will end up back on Mary Street by about 11 a.m.

Staff at Upper Canada Lodge are excited to have The Ukesters and the Pedal Pushers stop by, says Bagnulo, and are enthusiastic about the RMT service palliative care plans to provide for all three long-term care homes in NOTL.

Having the very visible Pedal Pub joining the Healing Cycle, and those who are taking part in the event, will help raise much-needed awareness, she says. "With them onboard, palliative care won't be a little secret anymore."

Bagnulo is feeling very fortunate to once again have Pedal Pusher Tim Taylor (aka Santa) along for the ride. He has already cycled more than 400 kilometres for this year's Healing Cycle, the minimum a team can ride for the event, and raised more than \$5,000, all for the cause of palliative care. "He is such a gift for us. We're so grateful for all he does."

The Pedal Pushers are welcoming anyone who would like to join their Healing Cycle ride. Those who aren't interested in cycling are welcome to drop off donations at the Pedal Pub location on the morning of Sept. 25, between 9 a.m. and about 11 a.m., says Bagnulo.

Visit www.notlpc.com or email notlpc@bellnet.ca. Cheques can be mailed to NOTL Community Palliative Care Service, P.O. BOX 130, NOTL L0S 1J0.

The Healing Cycle Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting hospices and palliative care units across Ontario, raising funds through the annual Healing Cycle Ride, now in its 16th year. Over the past 15 years, The Healing Cycle Foundation has raised more than \$3 million for Ontario hospices and palliative care units.

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U.S. Open focuses attention on Canadian players

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake's tennis community watched in awe and excitement as Canadians Leylah Fernandez and Felix Auger Aliassime made their historic runs into the U.S. Open Tennis finals and semifinals respectively last weekend.

Auger Aliassime lost to Daniil Medvedev in three sets in the semi-final at the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA)

National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow, N.Y. Friday. In the women's final Saturday, more than 23,000 fans packed Arthur Ashe Stadium as Fernandez lost to England's Emma Raducanu in two straight sets.

NOTL Tennis Club director of instruction Shawna Macfarlane watched the women's final at home and loved what she saw from both 19-year-old Fernandez and her 18-year-old opponent.

"It was very good tennis," she said Sunday from Lewiston, N.Y., where she is the tennis pro at Niagara Falls Country Club. "They really clearly looked like they loved it, and they didn't feel any pressure from anyone."

The success of Fernandez, as well as that of Bianca Andreescu (winner of the 2019 U.S. Open) and Auger Aliassime, both 21, and 22-year-old Denis Shapovalov, could signal the changing of the guard in the tennis world,

according to Macfarlane.

"Tennis is now seeing the younger group that has been overlooked for so long by the Serena Williams' of the world, and the top four guys," she said. "They were just so good for so long, but this is their time."

The strong showings by Leylah and Felix in New York marked the first time that Canadians advanced that far in the same grand slam tournament. Their success certainly signals the strength of Canada's national tennis program in this new era as well.

"One of the commentators said that Canada has one of the best junior development models outside of the four countries (Australia, England, France, and the U.S.) that run grand slams," Macfarlane remembered. "That puts Canada at number five."

One former NOTL resident who knows a lot about Tennis Canada's junior program is Charlotte Petrick, now living in Toronto and working as a tennis instructor at the Ontario Racquet Club.

The former professional player spent her formative years in Montreal, training in the national junior program.

"Canada has always had a great talent pool," Petrick said Saturday. "I think how Tennis Canada has gone about working more closely with the players, to tailor their training to what works for them, that has made all the difference. I think they're figuring out the recipe that is working well."

The 24-year-old Petrick remembers seeing Fernandez at a few tournaments around the time she was wrapping up her own competitive career about three years ago. And she played doubles with Auger Aliassime's sister Malika at a pro tournament in Quebec City.

"He was always around the National Centre," she recalled. "I was one of the older girls so we weren't super close friends, but I knew him."

Petrick admires Fernandez' game.

"She's tough as nails," she told The Local. "She puts so much pressure on her opponents. Leylah makes you work so hard for every single point. She's a great mover, a great competitor and I love how she uses the fans to her advantage. She keeps it calm, cool and collected."

Petrick says the dynamic of "Uncle" Toni (Toni Nadal, whose nephew Rafael Nadal has won 20 grand slam events) coaching Auger Aliassime is an interesting development.

"I can see parts of Nadal in Felix in terms of his professionalism on the court, and how business-like he is," she said. "He seems wiser than his age, in my opinion, and I think he has a great game and a great career ahead of him."

Petrick, who is expecting her first child with her partner Adam in December, says the entire Ontario Racquet Club in Toronto has been glued to their televisions watching the young stars in the U.S. Open.

"It's the parents, the kids," said Petrick. "It's like the Bianca and Genie (Eugenie Bouchard) effect. You see a Canadian, who you can relate to, on such a big stage, it gets the whole club excited. We went out for dinner last night and I caught so many people talking about the U.S. Open."

She has seen the effect of the success of the young Canadians on the youngsters she trains, many of whom aspire to a spot on the national team.

"Our membership is boom-

ing with young players," she explained. "A lot of young girls, which is great to see. At most of our academies now it's an equal boy-to-girl ratio, which is usually not the case. I think there is a direct correlation to how well Canada's women are doing."

NOTL Tennis Club president Hugh Dow was watching Saturday's game while celebrating his daughter's birthday. He admitted he was leaving the television on and sneaking in from another room to catch the action whenever he could.

A former junior player when he lived in England, Dow is impressed with the country's support of young players he has seen recently.

"There's certainly been lots of chatter about the tournament," he told The Local. "Canadian tennis is on the radar screens now. The provincial and the federal tennis groups play a big role in supporting, encouraging and financing juniors."

Like Petrick, Dow expects this year's U.S. Open will inspire people to pick up a racquet, having a positive effect on the town's Memorial Park courts.

"A high profile presence on the international scene," Dow continues, "does tend to encourage the home market as far as their tennis activity. I think we'll see a great increase in interest because of this particular tournament."

And as that interest increases, many of those players, young and old alike, will be looking for lessons. Shawna Macfarlane will be happy to help.

"It creates a lot of excitement for the sport," Macfarlane adds. "Tennis is a huge community builder. This will bring tennis to the front page and will remind people that they can play."

Local men's team comes up short for Ryder Cup

Harry Huizer
Special to The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club's Senior Ryder Cup team ended their successful year at the Brantford Golf and Country Club recently.

The team played against the top 12 teams of the 30 teams in the Niagara region, and only three could qualify for the finals in Cambridge in September. Unfortunately the team came up short, despite a valiant effort by all eight players.

During the year our team placed second in our four-team division, just behind Rolling Meadows. The team played four matches, using different formats, and at each match four of our pairs played against the other three clubs, which included Peninsula Lakes and Beechwood golf teams.

The Senior Ryder Cup has about 160 clubs participating

in competitive matches, with the emphasis on sportsmanship and golf skills.

The members of our team this year were: Mark Derbyshire, Stephen Warboys, Jim McMacken, Jim Panetta, Don Allen, Ted Carmichael, Brodie Townley and Harry Huizer (captain). The alternates were Paul Dickson, Warren Tutton and Drew Porter. All these players contributed to a successful year.

Next year we look forward to the challenge of again succeeding in our Niagara region.



The members of this year's Ryder Cup team were Mark Derbyshire, Stephen Warboys, Jim McMacken, Jim Panetta, Don Allen, Ted Carmichael, Brodie Townley and Harry Huizer. The alternates were Paul Dickson, Warren Tutton and Drew Porter. (Photo supplied)

Time to celebrate

Jesse and Evan MacDonald, with Andrew Perri, celebrate the grand opening of their REVEL-on-the-Lake Realty office on Four Mile Creek Road in Virgil.

Broker Dean Serravalle, Ryan and Nicki Serravalle, founders of Revel Realty, Jesse MacDonald, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Evan MacDonald and Andrew Perri cut the ribbon on the new Revel Realty office on Four Mile Creek Road. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Leyla Fernandez made it to the women's U.S. Open final Saturday, but lost to England's Emma Raducanu in two straight sets. (Screen shot)



Felix Auger Aliassime lost to Daniil Medvedev in three sets in the semi-final Friday. (Screen shot)

Demonstrations, mini-lessons at skateboard park

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The Niagara Predators hit the Meridian Credit Union Arena ice last weekend for the first time since relocating from Toronto.

The team held its prospect camp Friday through Sunday evenings. Head coach Andrew Whalen skated and ran drills with about 12 hopeful Greater Metro Hockey League players in the team's new home.

General manager Johan Eriksson was expecting a bigger turnout, but was happy with the quality of players who showed up.

"It was one of those weekends," he told The Local. "A lot of guys are still playing exhibition games in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League (GOJHL), and attending camps. Then, school just started again as well. We were hoping for around 20, but the guys who did show up are good players."

Of the players that did lace up their skates, goaltender Nathan Trepanier was familiar with his surroundings. Trepanier played two games in 2018-2019 for the short-lived Niagara-on-the-Lake Nationals before moving on to the nearby Whalers, who played out of Port Colborne in the same league. The Whalers have folded for the upcoming season.

Eriksson was impressed with the performance of Brett Lee, one of the younger players who attended last week. Lee played for the Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs U16 AAA squad in 2018-2019.

"He's 17 years old, a de-

fenceman," Eriksson explained. "A very good skater. He has a great shot and can really snap the puck"

One player on the ice this weekend has already signed with the Predators. Mario Zitella, a 21-year-old Hamilton resident, was brought in to add some leadership to the team, and will have the "C" or the "A" added to his jersey as either captain or assistant before the season begins Oct. 1.

"Last season he was supposed to play for the Brampton Admirals (of the Ontario Junior Hockey League)," Eriksson said of Zitella. "He was there for camp and then they shut down. He's getting a second chance as an over-ager because he lost a season."

Zitella, who has been working as a personal trainer this summer with younger hockey players, was happy to be invited to the prospect camp.

In 2018-2019, Zitella split his time with the Welland Junior Canadians and the Thorold Blackhawks of the GOJHL, scoring 10 goals and 22 assists over 48 games. Eriksson likes the 5'8" forward's agility and hockey IQ, and says he will fit in with Dante Massi of Niagara Falls, who has also signed to play with the team.

"I'm hoping to go play D-III (NCAA Division III College hockey in the U.S.) and move on in hockey," Zitella told The Local. "I played at the Hill Academy (a co-ed independent prep school in Caledon for student athletes, with a focus on hockey and lacrosse) a few years ago. There were a lot of European players there. I'm excited to have another team



Predators general manager Johan Eriksson is pleased with arena facilities. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

with half-and-half European and Canadian players."

Zitella hasn't ruled out a future playing the sport across the Atlantic, and says he'll keep that option open post-university.

Eriksson admits the Predators roster will be quite heavy on the European side, which is natural given his own background as a scout and player representative in Sweden. But he is hoping to pick up a few more Canadian players before the season kicks off.

A number of Swedish players will be arriving in NOTL this week, and will settle in with their billets before hitting the ice for the main team camp Sept. 16. Nicole Merritt from Revel Realty has offered to help the Predators to coordinate housing for them.

Eriksson said other teams in the GMHL will also have a high foreign concentration, including his former team, the South Muskoka Shield, and the New Tecumseth Civics, who will roster a number of players

from Russia.

"We need four or five more local players," he said. "I'm keeping in touch with the coaches in the GOJHL to see who gets cut from those teams, and I'm looking at some Junior C players too. We expect to invite a few to our main team camp."



The Predators have started training camp in preparation for their pre-season exhibition game, to be played at home Sept. 24.



Mario Zitella from Welland is one of the locals who has signed to play for the Predators in Virgil.

After three nights in the arena, Eriksson is thoroughly impressed with the facility.

"We have a big office space and the rink is great," he said. "The guys who work here, we're getting to know them, they're great guys. Everyone has been very helpful, the whole town.

And sponsors are coming in more and more."

Once the European players arrive, the Predators will have just over a week to gel as a team in preparation for their pre-season exhibition game. They host the St. George Ravens on Sept. 24.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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- Across:
1 Sizable
4 First Lady before Mamie
8 Speedy
12 Flintstone pet
13 Large international show
14 "I am just --- boy, though
16 North of Tex.
17 Take --- Train (Duke Ellington song)
18 Upper story
19 Totters
21 European mountain system
23 "Copacabana" showgirl
24 Tucson time
25 Barrier
27 Holler
29 Sheet of glass
30 Computer interconnection system

- 31 Higher degree
34 Marzipan base
37 Tomb Raider --- Croft
38 Not ordained
39 Undiluted
40 Big Blue
41 This place
42 Sawbuck
43 Chemical pollutants banned in 1975
45 Leftovers
47 Space viewed from below
48 Play on words
49 Computer brains
50 Some foreign Government heads
51 Tree with a partridge at Christmas
52 Adult female pig
55 Interlock
58 --- Silvers or Collins
60 Singer/songwriter --- Mars
62 Thespian
64 Line about which rotation occurs
66 M --- mouse
67 Formerly the Gold Coast
68 Model and actress --- Suvari
69 Liquor measure
70 Adhere to
71 Toboggan
72 A T M I D

- Down:
1 E.g. Schwinns
2 Arm of the sea
3 Target
4 Gamble
5 Breathe out
6 Incantation
7 Cleaner
8 Aviation safety grp.
9 Fittingly
10 "Licence to Kill" Bond girl Talisa ---
11 Labor strenuously
12 Campus housing
15 --- Building, now the Comcast Building, N Y C
20 Graceful waterbird
22 Lasting mark
26 Logical operator
28 Viral genetic material
29 Mary Jane
30 Flee
31 Court statement
32 Heavenly instrument
33 Fabric colors
34 Hill dwellers
35 Emblem of Wales
36 Large number
37 2,000 to a ton
40 Arabic "son of"
41 Slugger's stat.
43 Common measure of pollutants
44 Turning point
45 Health club
46 Edge of a street
49 Singer --- Dion
50 Ring

- 51 Screen dot
52 Osaka fish dish
53 Aromatic bulbous vegetable
54 Habit
55 Journal
56 Reverberation
57 Dagger thrust
59 Overactors
61 Coarse file
63 Flat fish
65 Down

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku
solution from
September 8,
2021

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

Across: 1 Big, 4 Boss, 8 Fast, 12 Dino, 13 Expo, 14 A poor, 16 Okla, 17 The A, 18 Attic, 19 Reels, 21 Alps, 23 Loia, 24 M S T, 25 Wall, 27 Cry, 29 Pane, 30 L A N, 31 Ph D, 34 Almond, 37 Lara, 38 Lay, 39 Neat, 40 I B M, 41 Here, 42 Ten, 43 PC Bs, 45 Scraps, 47 Sky, 48 Pun, 49 C P Us, 50 PMS, 51 Pear, 52 Sow, 55 Mesh, 58 Phil, 60 Bruno, 62 Actor, 64 Axis, 66 As in, 67 Ghana, 68 Mena, 69 Shot, 70 Obey, 71 Sled, 72 P I N.
Down: 1 Bikas, 2 Inlet, 3 Goat, 4 Bet, 5 Exhale, 6 Spell, 7 Soap, 8 F A A, 9 Aptly, 10 Soto, 11 Tail, 12 Dom, 15 R C A, 20 Swan, 22 Scar, 26 AND, 28 FN A, 29 Pot, 30 Lam, 31 Plea, 32 Harp, 34 Ants, 35 Leak, 36 Many, 37 Lbs, 40 Ibr, 41 HRS, 43 P m, 44 Cusp, 45 Spa, 46 Curb, 49 Celine, 50 Phone, 51 Pixel, 52 Sushi, 53 Onion, 54 Wont, 55 Mag, 56 Echo, 57 Stab, 59 Hams, 61 Rasp, 63 Ray, 65 Sad.

LocalSPORTS

Demonstrations, mini-lessons at skateboard park

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The Virgil skatepark is a year old this Saturday, and the town is celebrating with an open house.

The free event takes place Sept. 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will include live skateboard demonstrations and on-site mini-lessons provided by CJ's Skatepark, a non-profit organization out of Mississauga dedicated to promoting skateboarding safety.

Town recreation supervisor Dan Maksenuk says the open house is being funded through a grant received through the ParticipACTION Community Better Challenge Program.

"We were awarded one of these grants two years ago for our pickleball open house," he says. "It's a grant that's awarded every year as a challenge to crown Canada's most active community. We were awarded a small sum this year, and the anniversary of the park opening is a great way to use it."

Maksenuk started looking for a partner, and stumbled

onto CJ's, not even knowing at the time that it was a non-profit company.

CJ's founder Jay Mandarino is that rare find, a 60-year-old successful business person (he was named the Mississauga Board of Trade's 2020 Business Person of the Year) who still finds time to practise his Ollies, Nollies and kickflips.

Mandarino founded CJ's in 2008 as the world's largest indoor, not-for-profit, climate-controlled indoor skatepark.

"We work with all kids in the community, including those with special needs," he says. "Of course, we have youth and adults as well. We also operate an international certification program in 30 countries and 375 cities, certifying instructors."

Some of those certified instructors who skate at CJ's will be accompanying Mandarino this weekend to demonstrate a few of the common skills and tricks.

His enthusiasm for skateboarding is obvious. He raves about the empowerment and



The Virgil Skatepark has been open for a year, and will celebrate the anniversary with skateboard demonstrations and on-site mini-lessons. (File photo)

self-confidence it promotes, as well as the creativity people use in performing tricks.

"It's not a team sport, where there is a lot of emphasis on winning," Mandarino adds. "It's really, truly a fun sport. There's no judgement, no boundaries as far as nationality or income. You can do it anywhere."

Mandarino keeps his ear to the ground, hoping to offer CJ's services whenever a new skatepark opens up.

"We really try to get behind it and promote it with the local community, sharing the sport that we love," he says.

And it's important to him to have skateparks in towns and cities to get kids off the streets and skating safely.

After connecting with Maksenuk, he checked out the Virgil skatepark via video and photographs and was impressed with what he saw.

"There's something there for everybody," he confirms. "It's great when you have good community members who are doing what's best for the community. Generally, (skating) doesn't get as much support as hockey arenas, soccer fields and basketball courts, which tend to be more mainstream sports."

Mandarino says the inclusion of skateboarding for the first time in this summer's Tokyo Olympics may have changed that. It definitely has created a massive amount of interest in the sport across the world.

"I was interviewed on CBC,

and they told me skateboarding was one of the more popular sports being watched during the Olympics," he marvels. "It's kind of interesting how it's all changing. It's exciting to have more and more parks in Canada."

A skater for almost 50 years, Mandarino has also experienced huge changes in the equipment over that time. Back when he started skating, plastic banana boards with stiff wheels were the order of the day.

A 1976 skateboard jump over a Ferrari on Toronto's Yonge Street near the Eaton Centre remains to this day one of Mandarino's claims to fame. It came about as he and a friend were performing tricks on the street, holding out their hats to collect coins for tickets to see a movie.

An organization was selling \$100 tickets on the car, but they were moving slowly, so Mandarino offered to perform the stunt to increase interest. He was successful, after about 30 failed attempts, each of which did not damage the sportster, to the relief of the organizers and their insurance company.

These days he admits it takes a bit longer for the results of any mishaps to heal. And safety is the name of the game in his promotion of the sport. He promises he will be fully stocked with safety gear for newbies to wear during his visit to NOTL.

Maksenuk is intrigued with the certification program that CJ's runs, and hopes to speak to Mandarino this weekend about

possibly running some certification clinics in town some time in the future.

Both Maksenuk and manager of parks and recreation Kevin Turcotte say they have been floored by the number of people frequenting the skatepark in Virgil over the past 12 months.

"We're very surprised with how much use it's gotten," Maksenuk enthuses, "especially with such a wide range of riders. If you go on a weekend, you'll see tons of families there in the morning. As the day goes on, more teenagers and young adults are there closer to the evening."

He's happy to see different

demographics using the facility.

"You have bikes, skateboards, scooters being ridden," he adds. "The central location in the park is great too, I think people feel very safe, and it's close to the washrooms and the splash pad."

All COVID-19 restrictions and safety measures, including physical distancing and mask use, as required, will be adhered to during the event.

Interested participants hoping to take skateboarding or scooter lessons this weekend should visit the town's website at notl.com/skatepark openhouse to pre-register for the sessions.



Jay Mandarino, founder of CJ's Skatepark, a non-profit organization out of Mississauga dedicated to promoting skateboarding safety, will be at the Virgil Skatepark Saturday. (Photo supplied)

LocalHAPPENINGS

FISH FRY

Thursday, September 16th
4 - 7 p.m.
TAKEOUT & DINE IN
CASH ONLY

1 piece \$10
2 piece \$13
with fries
and coleslaw

Legion
BRANCH 124
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

ST. DAVIDS LIONS DRIVE-THRU BBQ

Friday, September 17th • 4 to 7 pm
1462 YORK RD. ST. DAVIDS

PLEASE WEAR A MASK WHEN ORDERING/PICKING UP

COMBO MEALS:
All meals come with bottled water. Add a soft drink for \$1

- Lions Burger & Fries \$10
- Lions CDN Burger & Fries \$12 (topped with peameal bacon)
- Lions Peameal Bacon & Fries \$10
- Leo's Hot Dog & Fries \$6

Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
niagarapumphouse.ca

Tailgate TREASURES

Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021 | 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
247 Ricardo St., Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

Get ready to dive into a pile of treasures & finds!
Sports equipment, antiques, patio furniture, frames, art supplies, crafts, books, home decor, small kitchen appliances & more!

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

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

LocalWORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, September 19th

10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering - In-Person & Online

Message:
Matthew Unruh - All In With One Another

Our services are also streamed online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our website for more information!

www.ccchurch.ca

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Worship Services
in this section, please contact:

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YARD SALE

YARD SALE

62 Bay Berry,
NOTL
Sat. Sept. 18
8:30 am

Multi-family;
household; workshop
tools; LPs & 45s;
gardening; books;
puzzles and more

NOTICE

To place an Obituary or
In Memoriam in our Classifieds,
please contact Julia at:
julia@notllocal.com or
905.934.1040
Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

OBITUARY



BANNERMAN, ETHEL ELSIE (LEAH)
June 18, 1919 – July 25, 2021

The family of Leah (Amatrana) Bannerman (nee Dakin) — husband, Lloyd (deceased 2014); sons Guy (Marian and daughters Grace, Rachel), Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON; Christopher (Fumi and sons Yuma, Sho) London, UK; Jonathon (deceased 2012); and daughter Maja (Rusty), St. Catharines, ON — announce the peaceful passing of their beloved mother and grandmother. Cherished as a mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt, friend, teacher and disciple, Leah was a seeker of the divine within. She left earth as she often wished, with a soulful smile on her face.

Born and raised in Manitoba, she met Lloyd Bannerman when both were employed at Boeing in Vancouver. They married in 1944, raising their family in communities across the country. An independent woman who pursued a variety of interests including courses in woodworking, auto mechanics, dressmaking, and pottery in 1950s Toronto, Leah's studies in Early Childhood Education in 1960s Ottawa led to her becoming Manager of the Child Development Centre at Sault College in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario for 11 years (1973-84).

Leah and Lloyd later moved to Stratford, Ontario where she pursued her passion for pottery, building a studio in her house and taking courses in England and Singapore. Her specialty was handcrafted beads created for jewellery. She continued her interest in life-long learning and in her growing family following their move to St. Catharines, Ontario in 2006. She remained a dedicated spiritual seeker and inspiring person until her death in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario at 102.

The family would like to thank the staff of Pleasant Manor/Heritage Place in Virgil for their unfailing kindness and loving care of Leah. As Leah herself said daily, "Gratitude, gratitude, gratitude."

In accordance with her wishes a private family memorial will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Rankin Daycare Centre on The Rankin Reserve would be greatly appreciated.

Contact: Linda Huber, Director of Children's Programming for Batchewana First Nation. Email: lhuber@batchewana.ca Phone: 705-759-0330

OBITUARY

HARMAN, WILLIAM GEORGE "BILL"—passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on September 6, 2021, in his 82nd year. Beloved husband of Gloria (nee Messenger). Loving father to Scott (Laura), Nancy (Ken) Decker, and Cathy (Jim) Doran. Stepfather to Sharon (Alvin) Crocker, and Gary (Kimberly) Phillon.

Bill was a caring older brother to his only sibling, Patricia Uronick. He loved being a grandpa/Popa and was very proud of Sarah, Leah, Maxwell, Alyssa, Braydon, Chelsey, Callum, Keagan, Christine (Alex) McDougall plus two great-grandsons Charlie, and Elliott. A special uncle to nephew Edward (Tracey) Uronick. Bill will always be fondly remembered by many in-laws, extended family and friends. Predeceased by his parents William II and Emily (nee Catton).

Retired from TRW/Thompson Products after a 37-year employment, Bill enjoyed golfing, alpine skiing, and being a team member of the longest running cribbage league in North America. He was also a dedicated Blue Jays fan, an avid reader and could often be found washing his 1985 gold Corvette, keeping it always in immaculate condition.

Bill's family would love to express their heartfelt gratitude to all the staff at Hospice Niagara, for their compassionate care during his final days.

Memorial donations can be made to the Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation or Hospice Niagara/St. Catharines, in lieu of flowers.

In accordance with Bill's wishes cremation has taken place and a private reception will be held on Sunday September 19, 2021 at 1p.m. at PLEASANTVIEW FUNERAL HOME 2000 Merrittville Highway (off the corner of highway 20). In keeping with COVID regulations capacity is limited within the Funeral Home and social distancing must be maintained. Please share your condolences, memories, and photos at www.pleasantviewcemetery.ca. Arrangements entrusted to Pleasantview Funeral Home 905-892-1699.



DICK (BERG), CHRISTINA—passed away peacefully at Pleasant Manor in Virgil on Thursday September 9, 2021 in her 96th year.

She is predeceased by her husband Jake (1984), son Dennis (2020) and granddaughter Amy Marie (1980). Christina will be missed by her remaining siblings Hank, John (Sue), Art (Mary), sister-in-law Janice as well as many nieces and nephews.

She is lovingly remembered by her children; Bob (Annie), Anne Marie (Brian), Bill and daughter-in-law Shirley. Loving grandmother of Anna (Greg), Sara, Emma, Kaitlin (Jordan), Greg (Sarah), Christina, Jake (Angie) and Denise (Colin) as well as 9 great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM



DR. JOSEPH E. POHORLY - SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

Remembering the life and legacy of our father who left us a year ago. Every day that goes by, we wish you were still here with us. We will always remember your great passion for the art of winemaking, your inspiration you have brought to others as a wine legend in the industry and your innovative grapeseed oil. Your kindness in helping others, whether it was engineering design, building, educating or volunteer work, will not be forgotten. Our father, Joseph never stopped working and always had a pen in his hand as he was always thinking, and pondering what his next project would be. Dad always loved to be around people as he loved to socialize, loved food and great conversations. Our father loved road trips especially the countryside, taking in all the farms and agriculture. You will be greatly missed and never forgotten. Love Barbara and Caroline xoxo



VAN LEEUWEN, MARIA (MARY) THERESIA—passed away peacefully in Hospital, on September 8th, 2021 in her 85th year. Predeceased by her husband Andrew Van Leeuwen (2013). Devoted mother of Wendy Oickle (Wayne), Sandra McDougall (Luc), Audrey Barclay (Todd), Kevin Van Leeuwen (Donna). Loving Grandmother to Chantal (Paul), Brandon (Ashley), Ian (Tasha), Bruce (Stephanie), Sarah, Matthew, and Dylan. Loving sister of Jack DeVreede (Rita), Jan (Janny), Corrie (Hans), Joop (Toos), Kees (Gerda), Bert (Gerda), Hans (Els), and Sjanette (Piet). Mary grew up in The Netherlands in Den Hoorn near Delft and lived through WWII as a young child. She loved gymnastics coaching children for many years and was very involved with the Girl Guide organization while in Holland. She followed her older brother to Canada, marrying Andrew in Holland and emigrating in 1963. They lived in several places until they settled on Charlotte Street where she lived for over 50 years. Mary dedicated her time to raising her four children and taking care of the household. She also made time to participate and volunteer with the Catholic Women's League including helping organize the annual Dutch Dances at the Parish Hall. She also continued to work with Guiding in Canada and was the Brown Owl of the 24th Niagara Brownies for several years. Mary enjoyed vacationing with family and friends at Sherkston Beach on Lake Erie where they owned a trailer for many years. Mary was an active and competitive card player right up until her passing. She played Klaverjas for many years with the Pioneers Card Club and also enjoyed playing Bridge with several groups. Mary also enjoyed her 30+ years working as an usher at the Shaw Festival. Many thanks to the PSWs at Radiant Care Pleasant Manor, Arbour View who helped her to be more comfortable in these past months. Also, thanks to the LHIN and Palliative Care team for all their support these past few weeks.

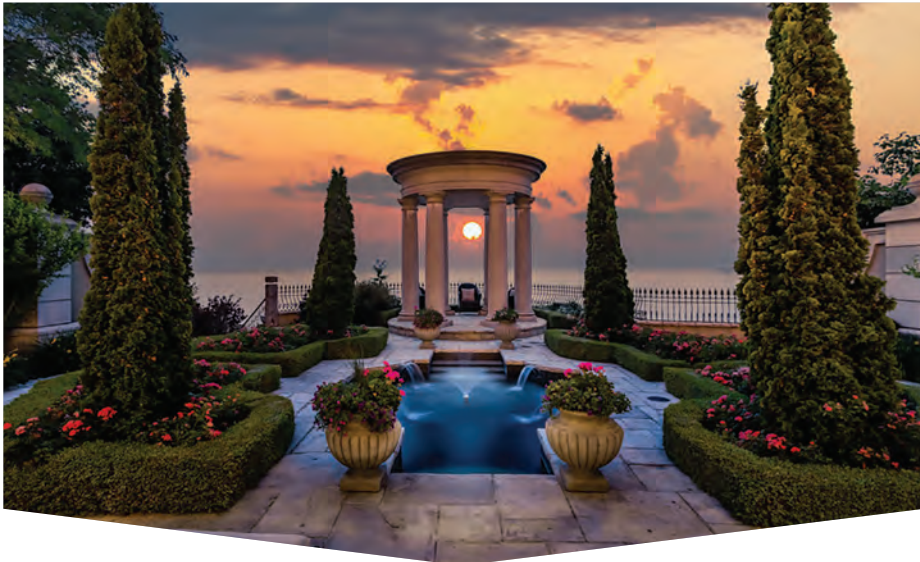
Visitation was held at Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls on Sunday, September 12th from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Funeral service followed at the funeral home at 2 o'clock. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Niagara Health Foundation. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



FOLLOW YOUR DREAM, HOME.



EXCLUSIVE - 328 Niagara Boulevard, Niagara-on-the-Lake This lovely 3 bedroom home has been meticulously cared for and is an exceptional dwelling. The design of this 2,330 sq. ft. 3 bedroom home drew its inspiration from the water views of Lake Ontario. You certainly cannot beat the location!
\$2,075,000



SOLD - 20 Bayview Drive, Port Dalhousie There is no better vantage point to enjoy the incredible sunsets and Toronto skyline than this address. It was a wonderful experience putting the Buyer and Seller together and negotiating a happy ending.
\$3,200,000



NEW TO MARKET - 481 Linwell Road, St. Catharines 12 Unit Apartment for sale. 10 of the 12 units have been completely renovated including windows, patio doors, kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, trim, doors, bathrooms and light fixtures. The owner's attention to detail has created a virtually maintenance free building. For information on the rent roles and expenses, please reach out to me.
\$3,300,000



NEW TO MARKET - 92 Main Street/101 Dalhousie Street, Port Dalhousie This house with the address 101 Dalhousie Street is part and parcel of the Church located at 92 Main Street. The Church includes a 5,000 square foot Banquet Hall and a Gym 50 feet by 100 feet. It is zoned Institutional 2 and permitted uses include development of townhouses and/or an apartment building. For further inspiration visit: <https://mymodernmet.com/converted-church-houses/> In the hands of some clever homeowners, these churches are being restored and converted into incredible, modern homes.
\$3,600,000

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