



Terry Fox Run
photos
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Erwin Wiens, this year's Grape King, poses in his vineyards with his parents Johannes and Klara, and his wife Dorothy Soo-Wiens at this side. (Denis Cahill)

Erwin Wiens is on a hot streak

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake counsellor and Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens had a couple of unbelievably amazing days last week.

After being named Ontario's 2023 Grape King on Tuesday, the retired Hamilton police officer carded a hole-in-one off the seventh tee during the Town's annual Golf Classic Tournament at the Royal Niagara Golf Club in Glendale Thursday.

He picked up a prize of \$10,000 for his ace on the hole sponsored by McCullough Dental, as well as a pair of sunglasses donated by Niagara Motors.

As for being named Grape King, Wiens was quite surprised when he received the phone call from Debbie Zimmerman, CEO of the Grape Grow-

ers of Ontario. "We speak together quite often," Wiens says of Zimmerman's call. "I'm on the board of the GGO, where I do a lot of irrigation stuff. So when she called me, I figured it was just another one of those phone calls. When she told me I was the Grape King, I was just over the moon."

Because his fellow grape growers are involved in the selection of the Grape King each year, Wiens says being chosen this year is truly special.

"When your peers recognize you, encourage you and support you," he says, "there's nothing better."

Following a tradition begun in 1956, a Grape King is selected by his or her peers to wear the ceremonial chain and represent the province's grape growers as an ambassador

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There was no Integrity Commissioner investigation

Burroughs can finally say that in public

Penny Coles
The Local

It's been a long while since the public was given any news about an integrity commissioner's investigation into an incident between a Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor and a local developer, but finally Coun. Gary Burroughs has the news he's been waiting for and

the right to make it public.

He had to ask for it, though, and it didn't come quickly or easily.

The town has said the Integrity Commissioner found there were no grounds for any further investigation.

Although throughout reports of the incident neither developer Benny Marotta or Coun. Gary Burroughs were ever named

by police or the town, both gave statements to the press, explaining their role in what occurred when Marotta handed over an envelope with \$10,000 in cash to Burroughs after inviting the councillor to meet with him at his Two Sisters Winery restaurant. Once Burroughs realized what was in the envelope, a sequence of events unfolded that involved him attempting to return the cash, handing it over to the town, and asking that the police be notified.

The incident occurred on Saturday, March 4, and Burroughs reported it to the town on Monday, March 6, although some reports had that date later, he says. Having the correct dates was important to him. He reported it to the police and the Integrity Commissioner the

same day.

The Niagara Regional Police investigation led to a public statement in April saying they had concluded their investigation, and that police "do not have reasonable grounds to lay charges under the criminal code."

The police statement also said "the matter is being deferred back to town staff as well as the Integrity Commissioner for further review."

But to Burroughs, what has happened at his end since then was kept behind a wall of silence, and not one of his own choosing.

He and his family went through an horrific time, he says, and there was little he could do except sit back and wait for the town's and Integrity Commissioner's role in the investigation to be made public.

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NOTL resident, former regional CAO, pushing amalgamation

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

A former Niagara Region chief administrative officer will visit his old workplace this week to suggest a bold plan related to amalgamation, saying that \$250 million can be saved over 10 years if the strategy he has put together is put in place.

Harry Schlange has 17 years of experience as the head staffer of municipal governments. In Niagara, he was CAO at the Region, as well as the Town of Fort Erie and the Town of Grimsby, from which he departed late last year.

He was also previously the top administrator with the City of Brampton.

A Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, he is registered to speak to regional council Thursday night, where he will pitch the idea of the Region being merged into one municipality — with one mayor, and 16 full-time councillors, who would have their own paid staff.

Currently there are 32 members of regional council, on top of 126 local politicians in Niagara's 12

lower-tier municipalities.

He believes trimming from traditional services to focus on social issues such as addiction, homelessness, mental health and poverty, through the use of his estimated cost savings, is an approach that needs to be considered, he told The Local Tuesday.

"If you look at the homelessness issue across the region, after the pandemic, it's really heightened," he said, adding that use of these savings would also help decrease taxes.

Healthcare, climate change and immigration are also areas that could financially benefit from his plan, he will tell the Region.

He said the Region and lower-tier municipalities are delivering most of their traditional services, such as economic development, planning, public works, bylaw and many others — the "same way" they did in 1970.

"It's time for a quantum leap improvement," he said, and to him that means current local governments in Niagara have a chance to "shape the future" by moving to a one-city, single-tier government.

He said savings can be

found in reducing management payroll, changes to the procurement process, reducing external contracts costs when it comes to consultants, headhunters and legal counsel.

These are some "conservative operational improvements" that could amount to an annual cost savings of \$25 million, he says in a written document he will give councillors in his presentation.

There isn't a need for 13 CAOs, clerks and deputy clerks, and heads of various departments for each municipality, he said.

"By reducing that, and moving to a single tier, you make the organization much, much more efficient," he believes, adding that having less staff leaders would be a way to recruit the "best" available.

Ontario's new minister of municipal affairs and housing recently said that instead of hiring facilitators to assess the future of six of the province's regional governments, as was previously announced, he wants a legislative committee to handle the review.

MPP Paul Calandra said last week that he would review the move

announced by his predecessor to have facilitators assess regional governments in Durham, Halton, Waterloo, York and Niagara regions and Simcoe County.

With amalgamation talks ramping up, Schlange believes now is the time for the Region and its lower-tier municipalities to start making moves.

"I think rather than wait all the time, they should develop a plan of action now," said Schlange.

The idea of consolidating the Region goes back as far as 2000 when local governments commissioned the Berkeley Consulting Group for a study on governance review.



Harry Schlange, NOTL resident and former CAO of Niagara Region. (Supplied)

Needed improvements were found back then, said Schlange, but no real action was taken.

"Once amalgamation threats went away, they just went back to their normal way of doing business," said Schlange, who added that a recent amalgamation of transit in the region was important to residents, but because there are many needed future investments to keep it viable, it won't be the Region's saviour.

One bone of contention that critics of amalgamation have is the impact on the identity of each town, city and township and their respective villages and hamlets.

His report said there should be a "branding" of those areas, which will continue to instill pride for residents.

He used St. Catharines

as an example — saying that people from Merriton and Port Dalhousie often identify as being from those places, even though their address is technically in St. Catharines.

In Greater Fort Erie, people from Crystal Beach and Ridgeway don't say they're from Fort Erie.

"I think you would enhance that local identity," said Schlange.

Niagara residents would be well served using populations and geography of Hamilton and Ottawa as comparisons, he said.

Ottawa has a population of one million — with one mayor and 24 councillors. Schlange's calculations say this equates to one councillor per 42,000 people.

Hamilton has a mayor and 15 elected council-

lors, who each represent about 39,000 people within its total population of 578,000.

Niagara's population is 480,000 — and with one mayor and 16 councillors (with their own staff), they would each serve 30,000 people.

The Region has already started a process to investigate shared services between municipalities, but Schlange called this "incrementalism," and said it's not the way to go.

"It's too late for that and it's not as efficient as single tier," he said.

"From a behavioural perspective, I think our political leaders should do something that's much bigger than that," said Schlange, who also said his plan creates more accountability in local government.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said he's pleased that it appears the province will be tasking a parliamentary standing committee to conduct reviews of regional municipalities.

But he doesn't feel

Continued on page 5

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'No grounds' for further investigation

Continued from page 1

People would ask him about the Integrity Commissioner's investigation and report, he told The Local.

There was none — and he can finally say that publicly now.

Any discussions be-

tween town staff and councillors have been held behind closed doors, with no notice to the public of what the discussion was about. Burroughs has not attended them.

Town CAO Marnie Cluckie told The Local in April that Integrity Commissioner Ted McDer-

mott could not investigate while it was a police matter, but that she reached out to him once the police said their investigation was concluded.

Asked if McDermott had started his investigation, she told The Local he had not, but she had no information about whether there would definitely be an investigation or when it might start.

There wasn't, and it didn't.

The town, Burroughs told The Local, seemed to think it was best to let the matter go away quietly, not to bring it back into the public eye.

But he disagreed.

"People still come up to me and ask me what the Integrity Commissioner's report said. There was no report. There was no investigation. It was determined there was no cause for an investigation. But nobody knows that because the information has never been made public. My whole life in politics has been based on integrity, and this is about my integrity."

He explained with so much information about the incident on social media and online, he felt it was important to say something on the record to explain how it ended.

Burroughs heard from

the town CAO Marnie Cluckie Tuesday afternoon that a statement would be released, one that was produced at his request and discussed behind closed doors.

Cluckie told him after the meeting Tuesday, which he did not attend, that a statement would be released finally naming him, listing the important dates of what had occurred, and bringing it to the attention of the Integrity Commissioner.

The Integrity Commissioner's response was that there were no grounds before him to warrant an investigation, and accordingly council concluded the matter is closed.

Burroughs and his family have been waiting a long time for that to be made public, he told The Local.

The town statement also acknowledges Burroughs' critical role in

ensuring that the matter was brought forward "in a clear and timely fashion," Burroughs told The Local, and it thanks him and his family for their patience.

Burroughs says this would not have occurred if he hadn't pushed for it, as a statement of his integrity. "That's what this is about."

For that, he added, is so important to the life-long politician, "and for my family."



Coun. Gary Burroughs (Supplied)

Police investigation into missing NOTL man still open

The Niagara Regional Police Service continues to search for 58-year-old Darren Werner of Niagara-on-the-Lake, reported missing on Sept. 17, 2021. His current whereabouts remain unknown. This investigation remains an open missing person investigation with suspicious circumstances. The NRP homicide unit continues to lead the investigation and is appealing to anyone with information to contact detectives at 905-688-4111, option 3, extension 1009451. Members of the public who wish to provide information anonymously can contact Crime Stoppers of Niagara online or by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).



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Five-hour meeting elicits strong response to King St. proposal

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

A proposed three-storey, 17-unit residential development in Niagara-on-the-Lake was met with a flood of opposition at a recent public meeting. The town hall meeting was held to discuss a project pitched to be built on the northwest side of King Street, south of Cottage Street.

At the start of the meeting, there were 83 registered speakers listed to provide input on the plans, said acting town clerk Shaunna Arenburg, who also noted the town has received more than 400 letters in opposition to the proposal.

Every seat in the council chamber was filled, and many people could be seen watching from their feet at the back of the room and in the town hall lobby.

Council members voted to extend the committee-of-the-whole planning meeting by an hour — for a total of about five hours to accommodate as many speakers as possible.

Zoning bylaw and official plan amendments have been submitted to the town by property owner Josh Bice, who was represented by Aaron Butler from NPG Plan-

ning Solutions. The official plan and zoning bylaw amendments are to allow for a higher density, and to address lot frontage, amenity areas and fencing, Butler explained.

Members of council and staff heard a variety of concerns from the public, which included the proposed building's height, visual impacts on neighbours, privacy, parking, emergency access, snow removal, traffic and shadows.

Asked about moving the meeting location to the community centre, as has been done in the past when large crowds are expected, Coun. Sandra O'Connor, who chaired the meeting, said it would not have been possible on such short notice.

She said the community centre auditorium is not set up for livestreaming, and staff would be required to hire a third party to set up the equipment as well as stay and stream the meeting.

"Placing monitors and equipment to allow council to view and hear the presentations adequately while in the auditorium also proves to be a challenge," she said, although not that long ago that was done to accommodate a John Street development.

The planning act sets out the requirements for providing notice of statutory public



A model of the three-storey apartment shows the proposed lot coverage of the building and parking lot. (Screenshot)

meetings to members of the public, O'Connor continued.

"Since speaker requests often don't come in until close to the meeting date, we don't always know the number of people wanting to attend," said O'Connor in an email.

"By the time that we had a better feel for the numbers, there wasn't adequate time to notify the public regarding a change of location as dictated by the Planning Act," she added.

Town staff took a few measures to accommodate overflow, such as TVs broadcasting the meeting in the lobby and a conference room.

Many people were not present, either in-person or

virtually, when they were called on to speak.

Several residents registered indicated they would be attending in-person and might speak, a smaller number indicated that they would participate virtually, and some people did not indicate if they would be attending in-person or virtually.

"We were able to accommodate everyone who wanted to speak," said O'Connor.

She also noted the doors to town hall were locked at 4:30 p.m. when the administration office closed for the day, but were unlocked at 5:15 p.m., 45 minutes before the meeting began at 6 p.m.

Aimee Alderman, senior planner with the town, said comments received from the public meeting will be attached to a recommendation report at a future date when council begins making decisions about the proposal.

"We do keep track of all the public comments received, we keep them on record," she told Coun. Gary Burroughs when he asked about what staff plans to do with the concerns brought forward.

Provisions the proponent is requesting are that the minimum lot frontage be reduced from 25 metres to 19.5 metres, that the requirement of the development including a children's play area be exempted, and that the side of the property that borders a farm be separated by an ornamental iron fence, rather than a wooden fence.

Butler said the development is a "positive response to the need for housing diversity, and the need for housing," in general.

"This proposal is a direct response to that need," he added.

King Street resident Kevin van Niekerk said the proposed development "completely dwarfs the neighbourhood," and that there is currently "nothing that looks anything" like it in the area.

If built, it will sit "sticking out like a sore thumb," he said.

The property is currently vacant, except for a shed, on 3,248 square metres of land.

The town's committee of adjustment approved a minor variance last October to permit an increase in lot coverage, and three lots were consolidated to one.

Alderman said there is nothing in the planning act stopping the property owner to come forward with a new proposal.

Asked by Coun. Wendy Cheropita about what the owner plans to do with units, as in selling or renting them, Butler said they will be rented at first and that a condominium agreement will later be sought.

Resident Patrick Gedge said the town should approach its official plan as its "constitution" and not stray from what is laid out in it.

Council needs to "respect the rule of the law" and "protect the community as elected officials" when the time comes to consider an

approval, he said.

The property doesn't fall into the category of a "strategic growth area" as outlined in the Region's official plan when it comes to growth, said Gedge.

Allan Dickson also said he believes the proposed amendments are out of line and that changes such as the ones being requested should only be granted by the town under the "most exceptional circumstances."

He said the footprint of the building is too large for the property.

"It doesn't fit physically, and it doesn't fit the neighbourhood," he said.

Bill French, also a neighbour of the proposed development, said town planning should be "consistent with the plan we developed and bought into."

If the town grants these amendment requests, more will start popping up from developers, he added. "This is precedent-setting and it's far-reaching."

Norton Street resident Scott Robinson was the lone speaker who did not criticize the proposal.

He called himself an "affordable housing advocate" and cited NIMBYism as the root of concern coming forward throughout the lengthy discussion.

He said town staff are competent and will not recommend a project be approved if it is not planned responsibly.

"It will not happen if it doesn't work," said Robinson.



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Erika Alexander was one of many neighbours who made it to the podium to share her opposition to the King Street apartment proposal. (Screenshot)

Town, Region agree on sharing planning staff

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

The Town and the Region are agreeing to work as a team during steps in the planning process.

A deal was struck at a Niagara-on-the-Lake committee-of-the-whole meeting Tuesday that will allow a sharing of duties when needed.

Bill 23, approved last year, is making significant changes to the Planning Act, with specific impacts involving the removal of upper-tier planning responsibilities.

As a result of this change, the Region organized a discussion with local municipal CAOs and planning directors to determine a new model of planning service delivery that supports the changes to provincial legislation, expected growth needs across the region, and an improved customer-centred service approach.

The agreement was prepared through this consultation and collaboration, and sets out the terms of service delivery between the two levels of government, and is expected to take effect early next year.

"The agreement has been tailored to the needs of

Niagara-on-the-Lake, supports providing customer service excellence and assists in bolstering staff capacity and expertise," reads the report approved by councillors Tuesday.

One of the many changes made to the Planning Act through Bill 23 is the removal of planning responsibilities for upper-tier municipalities.

Staff says this change will mean that much of the planning and planning-related functions that Niagara Region currently looks after will be downloaded to local municipalities.

"Although the planning responsibilities will be removed, the Planning Act change will continue allowing upper-tier municipalities to provide advice and assistance to a lower-tier municipality if agreed to by the council of a lower-tier municipality," the report says.

Coun. Erwin Wiens asked if moving forward with this agreement will "relieve pressure" being felt by the town's five-person planning staff.

Chief administrative officer Marnie Cluckie said it will "help to alleviate" some of those pressures.

Kirsten MacCauley, the town's director of planning, said the deal will allow for

access to expertise the town currently doesn't have, as well as access to additional planners when work is piling up.

"There is some ability for the Region to take on some of that work on our behalf," said MacCauley.

Currently, Niagara Region operates on a fee-for-service approach to cover the staff time to undertake the review function. This same approach is also part of the agreement.

The regional review service will be covered by the

fees collected by the town on development applications and transferred to Niagara Region, "ensuring no impact on the ratepayer," said town staff.

Regional staff will undertake the review role on behalf of the area municipality, but regional planning staff could also work directly from the local municipality's office in a contract capacity.

The agreement allows the town to purchase additional planning resources and expertise from the Region at a rate of \$85/hr.

'Some things we need to do differently'

Continued from page 2

"single amalgamation" is the better approach when compared to continuing the exploration of shared services and "modernizing government."

It's his stance that "decision making needs to stay at the local level," said Zalepa on Monday, a day before his council took steps to move forward with an agreement with the Region to share duties with the planning process.

He said there are some departments that can be handled in collaboration, but recognizes "there are some things we need to do separately."

Zalepa also likes that municipal councillors in Niagara's towns and cities, and one township, are part-time.

It's important that many have jobs locally in both the private and public sector, he said, many of whom have a pulse on doing business, crunching budgets, and are involved in the local economy.

He said he's open to a conversation about trimming the number of politicians in the region, but added it's "not a recipe to reduce costs."

As discussions about amalgamation return to the forefront, Zalepa admitted "we could've done more when the pressure was put on in 2018," but said things sort of "fell to the wayside" due to the pandemic.

Zalepa also said he looks forward to a report expected later this year authored by a group of CAOs from within the region.



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says while there are some improvements to be had in the way the two tiers work together, amalgamation is not the answer. (Supplied)



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EDITORIAL

Let's make sure those in need enjoy their Thanksgiving meal

It's a little early for a Thanksgiving editorial, but in Niagara-on-the-Lake, every day gives us so much for which to be grateful. At least it does for most of us.

Some of us are already making plans for our Thanksgiving dinner, looking forward to the opportunity to gather with family, searching for the perfect turkey, and rounding out the menu.

I'm already grateful knowing there is one more home-

made peach pie in the freezer — lovingly made by the women who were involved in the massive baking project to fundraise for the Terry Fox Run — to share with my family.

Over the years, we have all likely had some less-than-perfect meals, gatherings where someone close to us is unwell or missing, times when it is not quite so easy to be thankful.

However some are already struggling to be grateful —

those who don't have the means to put the basics on the table for themselves or their families. Those who worry about where their next meal will come from, never mind the one with all the trappings we're already dreaming about.

Nobody should go hungry in this town of ours, but more than 100 families, more than 150 individuals, from children to seniors, need help. And this time, after decades of looking after

those in need in town, Newark Neighbours has asked for our help, and they are not receiving the outpouring of support that usually follows their request.

Yes, food is expensive, for all of us. But if we have a little to spare, a little to share, if we can help even in a small way, why wouldn't we?

This Saturday is Newark Neighbours' porch-pickup food drive. While Newark has asked for and received some basic ne-

cessities dropped off for their food bank, they have not received a good response to their request for help filling Thanksgiving hampers.

That is a different list — one that includes stuffing mixes, cranberry sauce, canned fruit and vegetables, crackers and cookies — items that make Thanksgiving dinner more than just another meal on the table.

Newark Neighbours asks that you check out their list of

needs for Thanksgiving (look on page 10 of this newspaper), make a list, pick up some items while grocery shopping, and let them know you will be leaving food on your porch Saturday morning.

It really isn't a lot to ask. And we will all feel better knowing those in need in Niagara-on-the-Lake are being looked after, on Thanksgiving day and every day.

Penny Coles
The Local

Proust Interview with St. Davids School principal

Dr. Robin Williams
NOTL Public Library
Board Member

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library board and staff are exploring the special place books, reading, storytelling and libraries hold in the hearts of our community members. To delve into the depths of this experience, we are turning to the insightful Proust Questionnaire, which offers a unique lens to examine the bond between readers and their connection to books, storytelling and libraries. If you would like to participate in the questionnaire series, please contact Cathy Simpson at the library; csimpson@notlpl.org or 905-468-2023.

plishments across academics, sports, recreation and citizenship — from robotics and chess clubs, to winning teams in soccer, volleyball and basketball. We spoke for an hour about his love of books, his childhood memories related to reading and libraries, and his commitment to literacy for all.

Q: From where did your love of reading come?

Carl Glauser: I was an avid reader from a very young age, with both my parents setting the example, and my grampa who lived outside Montreal was an amazing storyteller and brought the stories of Thornton Burgess books (*The Adventures of Peter Rabbit*, *Bowser the Hound*, *Reddy Fox* etc.) alive for me.

take me to the NOTL library, when it was downstairs under the Court House. It was a big exciting deal to turn right at the bottom of the stairs and be able to choose from all the children's books. Eventually the day came when I was old enough to turn left and allowed to select from the adult section. I can still remember the feelings of excitement, almost like going into a candy store with the anticipation and wonder of the stories to come.

Q: What is your favourite book of all time?

Carl Glauser: J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, which I originally read in childhood, remains as my favourite of all time. Even from 40 years ago I can recount the whole story. At the time, when I read it, I felt myself right in it as it was such a great adventure story. As a kid when I wasn't playing sports, I would be reading, reading, reading. Even today, especially on vacation or in the summertime I am nervous to start a book as I can become lost in it and unable to tear myself away and put it down.

Q: What kinds of books are you reading now?

Carl Glauser: My summer reads include anything by Robert Ludlum or James Patterson but I also love biography and autobiographies. I still run, and play in a couple of hockey leagues and am an avid golfer so interested in the many golfing and hockey books that are available. I just finished *Tiger and Phil: Golf's Most Fascinating Rivalry* by Bob Harig

and I have read most of Lorne Rubenstein's golf writings, including *A Season in Dornoch*, which I got from my father's extensive golf library. I am also having trouble currently with my golf game, so am reading *Ray Floyd's From 60 Yards In*, for tips.

Q: Do you recommend books to family and friends?

Carl Glauser: Yes, and I am impressed with how many of my adult male friends, in their busy lives, still read books. If I read a biography that might be relevant for a friend, I will pass along a recommendation.

Q: What book should every kid read?

Carl Glauser: *The Hockey Sweater* by Roch Carrier. It is the book I will pull out when I go into a classroom to read to the kids. It is about a boy growing up and very badly wanting a Montreal Canadiens Hockey sweater (my favourite team). His mom orders him one from the Eaton's catalogue and what arrives? A Toronto Maple Leaf sweater! It is very Canadian and very fun.

Q: Are there any professional reads that have helped

to shape you?

Carl Glauser: *Stephen Covey's The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. As a teacher and principal, I have been exposed to lots of workshops and readings on leadership, but this is the one that has stuck with me and still impacts how I carry out my work.

Q: Do you have a favourite quote or two?

Carl Glauser: There are many, but going back to Thornton Burgess books, I remember "Luck just doesn't happen . . . luck come from hard work and perseverance," and then of course, from the Bible, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you."

Q: We hear concerns about kids and their reading habits — what are you seeing?

Carl Glauser: When I go into a classroom these days, I still see two or three students who are 'reading too much' and have to be reminded to put their books away. We also still see lots of books taken out of our school library and although I do worry about out of school time use of screens,

TV, tablets and digital games displacing sports and reading, our local school literacy rates are strong.

Carl Glauser is a passionate educator and an avid reader who discovered the magic of books early in life, coming from a family of storytellers and readers.

His athletic interests in many sports, including golfing and hockey, have influenced his reading and special his interest in biography. He is anxious to continue to build a literate-friendly school with strong ties to the local library in NOTL, for all his students.



Principal Carl Glauser

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

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

View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

We construct life's complications and then when things don't work out it is someone else's fault. We ignore that we must begin by being a loving

soul and only then can we be loved. While watching *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger* (Netflix, 2010) I wanted to shake all the characters into reality, but they don't want reality, only the illusion of reality. Perhaps Woody Allen at his best.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the 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

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

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Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. Last week's photo was by a sunflower patch on Lakeshore Road. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com.

COMMENT

Local LETTERS Camera at Crossroads a cash-grab

You may notice a new sign located on Niagara Stone Road, at the Crossroads School in Virgil. I challenge any municipal councillor to provide campaign material suggesting they support and would introduce this initiative once

elected. If you are a certain age you will remember a provincial initiative that had vans with speed cameras on the 400 series highways, which people vehemently opposed. It was a campaign issue that led to the defeat of

the provincial government of the day. Other municipalities introduced this initiative and reconsidered the idea after the community's objections. It is considered by the general public as a money grab. During this period

of trying to discuss tourism and attract more tourists to our community, the leaders provide another argument for people not coming back if they get a speeding ticket in the mail. What evidence is there of the need for this extraordinary initiative?

Is it a regional initiative, as this road is a regional jurisdiction, by the Lord Mayor who was our representative at the region when the timing of the infrastructure reconstruction of Virgil was discussed resulting in a loss of business, etc by locals?

This is a policing matter that only the presence of police officers can resolve, unless they don't get sufficient tickets to warrant the expense, then why the cameras?

Derek Insley
NOTL

Local LETTERS Resident outraged over King Street open house

I am writing to express outrage at how the public consultation process was handled at the open house to discuss the proposed development of 727/733 King Street on Tuesday evening. This was my experience: I attempted to attend this public meeting at the town hall for which I had regis-

tered several days earlier. I arrived shortly before 6 p.m. (starting time) to find no seats available and 15 to 20 people clustered in the single doorway. No attempt was made to accommodate us and, in fact, shortly thereafter the outer doors were locked to prevent any further entries.

However, this was a public meeting to which the public was invited. As it was addressing a very contentious issue — the proposed development noted above — it would have taken very little thought to realize that attendance would be high and space would be required. I was

told by several attendees that a change of venue had been requested, perhaps the community centre, only to be informed that that was not going to happen. This leaves me both astounded and incredibly disappointed with both council and staff. Choosing a venue that is too small, has limit-

ed seating and using the fire code as an excuse to lock people out of a public meeting are unacceptable, high-handed tactics incompatible with the intent of public consultation under the planning act. It belies the concept of open government and severely hobbles our townspeople's freedom of both ex-

pression and information. Shame on you! This is still a democratic country but the process of democracy was clearly denied last Tuesday night to the people of NOTL.

Barbara Whittall
NOTL

Local LETTERS Canadian government can't be blamed for worldwide inflation

Conservative MP Tony Baldinelli's Letter to the Editor (The Local, Sept. 6) stating that "the inflation crisis (was) caused by PM Justin Trudeau and his Liberal government" is just blatantly false, and I'm sure

he knows that. It's just this type of misinformation that has become part of the political process and considered as fair fighting in a political game, and it's why no one trusts politicians anymore. It is a disser-

vice to the public who may not have a complete understanding of that subject. The inflation we are experiencing is pretty much worldwide. How did the Liberal government manage to cause inflation in

the U.S. and in the U.K. as well, not to mention other countries? Just Canada? What a coincidence that so many other countries are suffering the same problem at the same time! Our federal govern-

ment introduced policies very similar to other nations to help us through the pandemic. You can attack the federal government for various things they could have done better in retrospect, but this particular

letter has no substance. It's all innuendo. It's just an arrow shot in the dark hoping to land on a receptive audience.

Jackie Bonic
NOTL

Local LETTERS More issues with King Street apartment

I virtually attended the town meeting on Sept. 12 regarding the King Street proposal for an apartment building. I heard the applicant's representative answer a question regarding the nature of the building. He said that the landowner would "condominiumize" the building, but would own all the units. That raised a number of concerns and the need to question the transparency of the applicant's actions. The applicant has been promoting this project as "intensification" and "affordable housing." They have quoted various plan-

ning documents and have quoted the recent Ontario government push for intensification in the form of affordable rental properties, and the rewards or penalties for municipalities, if or if not denied or approved. The town should definitely consider applications for appropriate and affordable housing! Is this the case here? If this developer was transparent and sincere, they would likely not have purchased a property that was zoned R1 and then submitted amendment applications, nor would they be considering an inade-

quate building on a small property, to provide owner-occupied or long-term rental residences. Here are some of the concerns: 1. Will this truly be residential, inhabited by owners or renters who call it home, or is it going to become an unofficial executive rental, seasonal rental or vacation rental? Its current layout with a lobby and an office, as well as the name on the building elevation drawing, "King Suites," has one questioning the target market and how that would meet the goals of residential intensification. 2. The property is too

small for 17 units. The applicant is asking for a number of amendments and provisions in order to fit this building into this location. That alone indicates the need for serious consideration. The building will not be fronting a road, but rather "hidden," which is not ideal for residents. There are no amenities shown in the plans, such as lockers, a meeting room, a gym, adequate bicycle parking, etc. There is no "backyard" for the resident families and pets to enjoy. There does not appear to be adequate visitor or contractor parking, nor a place

for deliveries or passenger pickup. 3. King Street is a local street that is not intended for the increased vehicle traffic expected for the number of residents, their visitors, deliveries and so on. It is a narrow street where visitor parking is not easily accommodated and parked cars blocking one lane of traffic would become a safety issue for vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. Should this building be approved in this location, I would hope that the town can enforce rules for a condominium, that would re-

quire renters to be for one year or more. I also hope that the condo board will not be made up of only the applicant and his colleagues. A number of changes should be made to ensure a more appropriate condominium building in this location. However, the best solution would be for this applicant to seek a larger property on a more major road and with adjacent public lands, as is suggested for apartment buildings in Ontario.

Paula Ghosh
NOTL



STAY IN THE LOOP

If you haven't already signed up for our daily newsletter, with all the latest headlines from Niagara-on-the-Lake, you're missing out!

Our Village Media website offers hyperlocal journalism, and much more than we can include in our weekly printed edition, coming to you daily. Keep up to date on local news, weather, gas prices, community updates, news from the province, across the country and more!



If you sign up for our newsletter, it will be delivered to your inbox every afternoon. Visit www.notllocal.com/daily

Grape King one day, hole-in-one the next

Continued from page 1

and advocate.

To qualify, the grape grower must have a working knowledge of vineyard management and the grape growing industry. Experts from the industry visit the nominee's farm, where they are evaluated on cultivars, diseases, insects, weed control, soil and canopy management, outreach and the overall quality of the vineyard.

Wiens' tireless work on behalf of the entire industry certainly did not go unnoticed by the judges or his peers.

His 120 acres include a two-acre research plot for Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute. He has also worked with BASF and other companies, using trial plots to test pesticides. He's been on the GGO board since 2015 and has fought for farmers at the provincial, regional and municipal levels.

"I've been trying to move the needle for agriculture for years," Wiens says. "For me to be recognized for doing that, it makes me overjoyed. I don't do things to get recognized. I do them to make

things better. To be recognized is overwhelming."

Wiens started with 28 acres at Line 9 and Concession 1 about 20 years ago, while he was still working as a police officer. Over the years he purchased more acres, reaching a peak of 160 before 'right-sizing' his holdings to the 120 he has today.

He gives much credit to his wife, Dorothy Soo-Wiens, for the success of his farming endeavours.

"Without Dorothy none of this happens," he says. "That's unequivocal. She looked after four kids, looked after the books for the business. I'm always up in front, but if it wasn't for her this wouldn't exist. When I got elected, I got 5,000 votes (4,978 in the 2022 municipal election) — 3,000 of those were for Dorothy."

As for the hole-in-one, it's the first time Wiens has accomplished the rare feat. He says he's never even been close before.

Wiens plays golf with his hockey buddies every Thursday, and usually adds two other rounds of nine holes every week. He regularly scores between the high 80s and low 90s.

After realizing the hole-in-one came with a \$10,000 prize, he immedi-

ately called Joe Pillitteri to donate a portion of it to his Team Pillzy for the Terry Fox Run. Much of the rest of the funds will go back to the community, including his church.

"And some of it will go toward getting me a new Garmin (rangefinder) watch for golf," he adds. "I've wanted one for years and I'm too cheap to buy one."

His lucky streak last week had him speculating where else he might be able to direct his good fortune.

"I thought maybe we should have called an emergency meeting about Randwood and solve it right then," he laughs.

Meanwhile, he's very pleased to be able to drape the Grape King's chain around his neck, and says he might wear it at his next meeting at the town offices with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

"You know, the King outtrumps the Lord Mayor," Wiens remarks. "The monarchy always outstrips the Parliament. Absent any Supreme Court decision, I think I have history on my side."

When Wiens showed up at Simcoe Park Sunday to take part in the Terry Fox Run, some expected

his hot streak to continue with him finishing before all other runners. Alas, though he made great time, he was a bit back in the pack.

But there's no denying

he had a great week anyway.

"To be named Grape King, then to get a hole-in-one, and to do that during the town's tournament," marvels Wiens, "you couldn't ask for

a better script."

"I put my vineyards up against the best," says a confident Wiens. "To do anything in agriculture you have to be good in farming to start with."



Erwin Wiens is proud of the care he takes of his vineyards. (Denis Cahill)



At Thursday's NOTL Classic fundraising golf tournament, Erwin Wiens made a par 3 hole-in-one. (Karen Skeoch)

Local

HOME of the WEEK

507 MISSISSAUGA ST | \$2,179,000

Discover the charm of Niagara-on-the-Lake in this inviting two-story custom built home. The main floor boasts lofty ceilings, hardwood floors, and an abundance of sunlight that bathes the space in warmth. The well-appointed chef's kitchen features granite countertops and a breakfast bar on the spacious center island. The primary suite on the main level offers a generous five-piece ensuite, complete with a double vanity and walk-in closet. The living room, with vaulted ceilings, exudes coziness with its fireplace, while a separate dining area, powder room, and convenient main level laundry complete the picture. Outside, a stone interlock rear patio is crowned by a covered pavilion, setting the stage for outdoor gatherings and leisure. Don't miss this chance to own not only a home but a piece of the laid-back Niagara-on-the-Lake lifestyle.

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Wells of Hope's Passion fundraiser returns Friday

Penny Coles
The Local

The first time Miriam and Ted van der Zalm travelled to Guatemala to deliver clean water to families living in remote mountainous regions, they had their deep faith, their devotion to helping others and their first baby to accompany them.

Fast forward almost 20 years and much has changed. They have raised their family of five children who spent part of each year with them in Guatemala. Four have graduated from university, the fifth is pursuing a PhD — Ted jokes he will be a perpetual student.

And while Ted and Miriam still spend January to May in the mountains of the Jalapa area of Guatemala, and Ted is still focused on drilling wells and delivering clean water to those remote villages, they have built up an organization that does so much more.

But, as Ted stresses — often — they don't do it themselves. Along their journey they have built up a large community of volunteers who make their work possible, from fundraising here on the ground to those who use their time, money and expertise on a wide range of initiatives to help the Guatemalan people.

The couple have gone from hitting the road in a pick-up truck each January, taking their kids and what they needed in the way of equipment with them, and living in tents when they arrived, to setting up a permanent camp called Esperanza, or hope. It's a 13-hectare property for themselves, the volunteers who come to help them, and Guatemalan managers who are there year-round.

After learning early on they needed larger, expensive drilling rigs to get through 1,000 feet of hard volcanic rock, and supporters at home fundraised to make that possible, their equipment now remains at the camp, waiting for them when they arrive in January.

When they are at home in Niagara, Ted can be seen driving around in his Wells of Hope truck, drilling wells to provide the income he needs for the rest of the year. "I'm very blessed to have two of my sons working with me," he says. He and Miriam also operate their Concession 2 home as a bed and breakfast.

And here at home, Scott Maxwell uses his talents to take charge of fundraising efforts to keep the work going in Guatemala — he has supported Wells of Hope since its earliest days, and learned this is where his expertise is most useful, he says.

To that end, Passion, an annual event pre-pandemic, is returning after a three-year hiatus.

In its early days, it was held at Mori Gardens, and the last time before COVID, at Chateau des Charmes Winery, where it will be again this Friday, Sept. 22 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

It's one of three major fundraisers for the organization, says Maxwell, and has helped more than 93,000 people in Guatemala by providing them with potable water — water that women and young children would otherwise spend hours of their day making multiple trips down hills to a water source, then back up again, collecting firewood along the way, buckets heavy with water on their heads.

Wells of Hope, says Maxwell, has also built and provided clean water to two health clinics.

More than 5,600 children have benefitted from the 30 schools that Wells of Hope has built, and a new trades centre has been added to facilitate the training and certification of young people in welding and other trades.

Young adults are learning to manufacture desks and other items, and, adds van der Zalm, although there was a time when Niagara would send containers of items such as used blankets and clothing, now they focus on teaching Guatemalans to create sustainable businesses and agriculture so they can support themselves.

Bridges are being built — metaphorically and physically — by volunteers and by Guatemalans who are learning construction skills.

Education is paramount to van der Zalm, who says he lives by the proverb that "if you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime."

Or, as Maxwell says, "it's never been about handouts, it's about a hand up."

Van der Zalm explains the wide range of skilled volunteers who go to Guatemala to share their area of expertise, from construction, to hydrologists, to dentists and hygienists, each paying for their own transportation and food costs — the only part of their trip they don't pay for is their accommodations.

Especially important to van der Zalm are the high school students, from Denis Morris and Holy Cross and other schools across Niagara and beyond, offering young people the opportunity, as he says, to learn "that we are blessed to live where we do, but not everybody lives as we do."

It's a lesson the teens and volunteers carry with them, many returning, maybe not the next year but a couple of years down the road, when they realize how life-changing it was for them to be able to help others, he says.



Miriam and Ted van der Zalm still spend a part of the year in Guatemala, but they are able to do so much more than drill wells, including building schools, bridges and health clinics. (Penny Coles)

"What we're providing for them is an opportunity, a beautiful gift," says van der Zalm, to learn that they can make a difference in someone's life.

He speaks with gratitude of popular restaurant chains, Canyon Creek and Jack As-tors, whose owner has embraced Wells of Hope with a Water for Wells project, funding trips for their own team members to visit Guatemala, helping to building wells, homes for families and classrooms.

The restaurants charge for water, and any money collected goes to fund Wells of Hope, "so others can also have clean drinking water," van der Zalm says, adding that staff share the reason for the charge and the work Wells of Hope does to their patrons.

Their goal is two-fold, he says — they not only raise money to support the organization, but they have a large audience with whom to share its message.

As do businesses here in Niagara, with support "from many individuals, as well as from the restaurant and hospitality industries," says Maxwell. "At Passion, we fantastic support from the Prince of Wales, Queens Landing and the Pillar and Post."

Food tastings courtesy of Vintage will be paired with award-winning wines from Chateau des Charmes and beer from local breweries, including Oast, Exchange and Counterpart.

Ron Dewberry will entertain with his music and humour, and a silent auction will benefit Wells of Hope.

As popular as the Passion event has always been, says Maxwell, it's more difficult getting people out post-

COVID, but he's hoping supporters are ready for an evening of great food and entertainment.

Tickets are \$100 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets visit wellsofhope.com.

GRACE UNITED CHURCH'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

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SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2023, 10:30AM

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Jack Bell to be recognized as Mason and Lodge Master

Sharon Burns
The Local

Two-time recipient of the Citizen of The Year Award, Jack Bell is still being recognized by his peers for his contributions to the community. And he is still funny. “Well,” he quipped, “they wanted to make sure they got it right the first time,” referring to the double award. In a small ceremony at his home on Sept. 23, Jack will be presented with pins commemorating 60 years as a member of the Masonic Lodge, and 50 years since he was a Master of the No. 2 Lodge, founded in 1792 in Niagara-on-the-Lake. “Past Masters are everyone who has served a term in the office of Master,” said current Master Christopher Hall. “They are generally a well-skilled Mason who is knowledgeable in the ritual and workings of the Lodge, and they are looked upon for guidance from the other brethren.”

Freemasonry is the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. Its members share a common goal of helping each other become better men, explained Hall. Its body of knowledge and system of ethics is based on the belief that each man has a responsibility to improve



Jack and Teresa Bell enjoy each other’s company around their backyard pool. (Sharon Burns)

himself while being devoted to his family, faith, country and fraternity. “Jack has been an asset to the Lodge for a long time, and has always been a skilled Mason with incredible memory work.”

Throughout his lifetime, Bell has been instrumental in supporting many community initiatives. In 1945, his father, also named Jack, organized the flooding and maintenance of an outdoor skating rink in Ni-

agara Falls, and his three sons helped to maintain it, “likely to keep them busy and out of trouble,” according to the Jack Bell plaque on the Niagara Falls Sports Wall of Fame. An arena on Frederica Street was named after Jack’s father. It was demolished in 2013 for residential housing.

The younger Jack maintained his interest in hockey and had been active in the fundraising of both Virgil arenas and the community centre. “He realized that there was a lack of sports for kids that lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and so he was one of the instigators of starting minor hockey and getting the first arena built in Virgil,” said Jack’s wife, Teresa. “He helped to start minor hockey, and he became the first president of minor hockey. He was also on the fundraising committee for the second arena.”

Jack was a referee in the Ontario Hockey Association and a linesman in the American Hockey League. “It’s always been fun,” he said, allowing him to meet “many interesting people.” Following his interests is what seems to drive Bell to this day. Several times throughout the conversation with The Local, Jack credited his joy of life and longevity to simply having fun in the moment. “It’s been an interesting life, from start to finish,” he said. “It’s one of those things — some people are interested in what they do, and some aren’t. I am always interested, and it’s fun.” Bell was born in Stamford in 1931, and moved to Virgil when he and Ed Andres formed Andres-Bell Contracting in 1960, an excavation business like his father ran. Excavating was interest-

ing, said Jack, because “you get to be the first person on a new venture. The very first thing you have to do is an excavation, and put in the footings for the foundation and build from there.” For 20 years he was a volunteer firefighter in Virgil, because volunteers were needed, he said. He sat on multiple boards, including the Lincoln County Board of Education, Niagara Construction Association, Virgil Business Association, Niagara Falls Downtown, and The East Niagara Housing Authority. He volunteered for the local branch of the Cancer Society for a number of years. He said he did so much volunteer work “because I enjoyed it, and I was always invited to take part in them, and I never could say no because they were interesting things. When they’re interesting, you can’t turn them down.” One thing Jack won’t do, however, is give advice to young people today. “I wouldn’t dare, because I’m not connected to them, so there’s no point in me giving them advice,” he said. However, after some reflection, he thought the best advice would be to think before speaking. “Think before you shoot off your mouth, and then you’ll be safe much longer, and likely live much longer,” he opined. He also suggested travelling, especially to Africa, as he did in the mid-1990s. “I’m quite serious about that. It’s one of the best trips I ever had. It is entirely different than most places you’ve ever been to. If you ever get the chance, don’t turn it down. It’s a lifetime achievement.” Jack and Teresa’s blended family are dispersed. One son

lives in London, England, a daughter lives in Vancouver and son Scott passed away in 2006. He enjoys sitting in his garden and watching people swim in their inground pool. “He is trying to stay out of trouble,” joked Teresa. “He walks every day because he’s had too many strokes, which affected his one leg. So the more exercise he gets, the better.” “He’s had a quadruple heart bypass,” she added, “and he got through that. He’s tough.” Bell had part of his colon removed in 2019, just before COVID, followed by a type of bladder cancer, but he is doing well now, despite dementia affecting his short-term memory. Bell credited his toughness with working on the family farm on the corner of Church’s Lane and Portage Road in Niagara Falls. “Life is like a bowl of cherries, once you learn how to spit out the pits, you’re all set,” quipped Jack. He also admitted that he likes a good laugh, “because you can’t carry grudges.” Sometimes “you forget why you have the grudge to begin with,” he explains, and it’s not worth carrying it. Teresa met Jack, fittingly, in the hockey arena where her son played minor hockey. “He’s the love of my life. As soon as we met each other, we just knew there was something there. Our friendship developed, and before we knew it, there was a spark there that we just couldn’t get rid of.” “We actually didn’t get rid of it, we fanned the flames,” he added. The couple will celebrate 40 years of marriage in February.



COMMUNITY DONATION PROJECT

Porch Pick-up Food Drive

Newark Neighbours, together with our partners from the NOTL Rotary, NOTL Kinsmen and St. David’s Lions Clubs, are holding a porch pick-up food drive.



We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held in the last several years. It is always overwhelming. Thank you all very much.

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

On **Saturday September 23, 2023**, teams are available to pick up your food donations anytime between **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** If you wish to donate food 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 Gravy (turkey or chicken or Gravy mix
• Cranberry &/or Apple Juice	• Canned Pineapple	• Applesauce or Canned Fruit
• Canned Corn	• Canned green beans	• Canned peas
• Snack Crackers (any type)	• Cookies - any kind or flavour	

GENERAL ITEMS REQUIRED ON AN ON-GOING BASIS

• Canned Salmon	• Condiments - salad dressings, mayonnaise, sauces (e.g. HP Sauce, soya sauce, Worcestershire sauce etc.), dried spices, salt & pepper	• Habitant Soups
• Canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli	• Peanut Butter	• Sidekicks and Ramen soup packets
• Chunky Soups - any kind or flavour	• Canned beef stew	• Jams - any flavour
• Canned Ham, Corned Beef or Spam	• Flakes of Ham, Chicken or Turkey	• Kraft Dinner
• Canned Fruit	• Soda (Soup) Crackers	• Canned Potatoes / Instant Mashed Potatoes
• Canned Beans (kidney, chick-peas, lentils)	• Canned Tomatoes	• Rice
• Tomato Sauce	• Pasta	• Coffee (instant/regular/ decaf) Tea
• Pudding cups - any flavour	• Cereal and Oatmeal - any kind	• Household items e.g. dish soap, laundry detergent, cleaning products
• Shelf stable milk (e.g. condensed, powdered, rice, etc.)	• Paper Towels / Toilet Paper	• Toiletries e.g. toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, hand and body lotion, mouthwash, feminine products
• Canned Tuna	• Granola Bars / Cookies	



FIDA fundraiser most successful yet

Bill Falk, comic and MC Joe Pillitteri with Betsy Wall of FIDA (photo at left), at the best fundraiser the organization has had yet, raising more than \$100,000, says Wall. She was delighted to be on stage with Lawrence Hill (right) author of *The Book of Negroes*, who talked about the importance of literacy in shaping an individual's destiny. (Photos by Joy Sanguedolce)



Local Love

Loyalty Discounts for the Locals we Love



Local Love Recipe presented by:



Caprese Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 large tomato sliced
- 8 oz fresh mozzarella sliced
- 5 - 6 basil leaves sliced
- 1 Tbsp OLIV Pesto Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 2 tsp OLIV Cask 18 Balsamic Vinegar
- Salt & Freshly Ground Pepper

Directions : Place sliced mozzarella on a large platter Top each mozzarella slice with a tomato slice. Drizzle with the Pesto Oil, Cask 18. Sprinkle with basil leaves, salt & pepper. ENJOY!



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Love Where You Live: SUPPORT *Local*

Community runs, walks, rides for a great cause

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Terry Fox Run is an important fundraiser, but it's about more than money — it's about a community coming together.

When the clock struck 10 a.m. Sunday, runners, inline skaters, walkers and bikers departed Simcoe Park on their way down King Street, toward the Common, along the Niagara Parkway and back to the park, where many hung around for quite some time sharing stories and reflect-

ing on loved ones who have battled cancer.

This year's run was in honour of NOTL native and long-time volunteer firefighter and fire captain Mike Vriens, who battled for almost seven years with glioblastoma multiforme, a cancer that affects the brain, before passing away in 2019. It is considered a workplace cancer related to firefighting.

His brother Gary said the family was honoured to be there to represent their late brother, who also worked for the town and attended St. Vincent de Paul, St. Michael Catholic Elementary and Niagara District Secondary Schools.

"It's a tough disease, and there's little chance of surviving," Gary Vriens told The Local. "Mike lasted much longer than others I have known with the same disease. I'm sure the money raised through the Terry Fox Run helped him along the way during his fight."

At press time, the NOTL Terry Fox Run had raised \$61,554 toward its goal this year of \$125,000.



The Vriens family, Gary and Nancy Vriens, Dieter and Corrinne Unruh, and Susan and John Vriens were at the run in Simcoe Park Sunday to honour Mike Vriens. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Almost 60 employees and their families and dogs from Wind, Ma and East Izakay restaurants participated in the run. Craig McCallum explained their goal was to raise \$1,500 and before the race started had raised \$2,450. The restaurant group employs many people who are recent immigrants to Canada, he said. "Introducing them to Terry Fox, and his mission, is a great way to introduce newcomers to Canadian culture, what it means to be a Canadian. It's a great cause that we strongly believe in."



Warming up the muscles before heading out.



Organizer Joan King in the amphitheatre with Joe Pillitteri, Lucas Pillitteri, Leo Pillitteri and Sophia Pillitteri. Team Pillsy had raised \$32,765 to make it the number one team in the province. Pillitteri got the crowd energized with some of his trademark humour, which will be on display once again at a Sept. 29 comedy night fundraiser at the NOTL Community Centre.



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa finds a photo of himself in a collage from the 2014 run, before heading off to cycle the route.



Isaac Trapasso and Jayden Dulas signing the Terry Fox banner in Simcoe Park.



Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens runs while his wife, Dorothy Soo-Wiens, bikes alongside.



As she does every year, Juliet Dunn warmed up the crowd with a stretching routine prior to the 10 a.m. start time.



Participants begin to reach the finish line, some with smiles.

St. Davids School holds its neighbourhood run



About 400 St. Davids Public School students parade down Tanbark Road.



Charlie, Michael, Joey, Hunter, and Husmain show off their temporary Terry Fox tattoos.



Many of the youngest Dragons walked with their older buddies.

Mike Balsom
The Local

The staff at St. Davids Public School did the seemingly impossible Friday afternoon. Only nine days into the new school year, they were able to organize more than 400 students to take part in the school's version of the Terry Fox Run.

The entire school gathered in the gym prior to the walk, where organizer Jeff Climenhage talked to the assembly and showed videos of Terry's original 1980 Marathon of Hope.

Following the assembly, the students gathered at the back of the school, where some of the youngest Dragons paired up with their older 'buddies,'

while others located their parents, who were invited to participate and walk with their children.

The route for this year's walk took the students down York Road to Tanbark, where they looped around the subdivision and back toward York Road. At that intersection, the Kindergarteners were led back to the school, while the older students continued up Tanbark toward Sparky's Park, where they again looped before walking back to the school.

Climenhage told The Local that through the efforts of the students, their parents and the St. Davids staff about \$1,500 was raised to support cancer research.



Stella, Vivienne, Coco and Ariella walk the Terry Fox route around St. Davids Friday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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Without volunteers, there would be no run

Joan King gave much credit to the many volunteers who help plan the Terry Fox Run each year and also show up at Simcoe Park to help with registration, distribute fruit to the participants, sell T-shirts and act as marshalls along the route.



A group of volunteers gather for a photo before the run. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Volunteers Brian Carty and Sarah Pillitteri at the registration table.



Volunteers Karen and Lauren Skeoch sell T-shirts at Simcoe Park Sunday.



Volunteer Tina Brouillette ensures runners are able to navigate safely through the Commons path.



Volunteer Ben Bartel directs participants at the intersection of King and John Streets.



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Three new exhibits celebrate 40th anniversary of RiverBrink

Local Staff

RiverBrink Art Museum is celebrating its 40th anniversary at a Fall Opening Reception with the unveiling of three new exhibits.

Mark Crofton Bell: The Mom Project, brings a series of portraits of Bell's mother,

painted from observations during the final years of her life.

"What began as an activity to pursue while visiting his mother in long-term care developed into a sustained exercise in looking," says a RiverBrink news release.

"The subtle changes over time are recorded in the small oil on board portraits."

On Aging, the second exhibit, brings together portraits from the Samuel E. Weir Collection at RiverBrink — the sitters are older adults, their careworn faces displaying the passage

of time.

The 40x40: Anniversary Exhibition is a result of RiverBrink staff calling upon the community to share their favourite piece from the museum's permanent collection, with a description of why it held significance for them. "The

result is a dynamic selection of 40 inspiring pieces, including paintings, drawings, sculpture, silverware and more," says the news release.

The Fall Opening Reception is Saturday, Sept. 23, from 3 to 5 p.m.

"These new exhibitions engage viewers on a person-

al level, from the selections and reflections provided in 40x40, to the poignant depictions of frailty captured by artist Mark Bell," says museum director/curator, Debra Antonic.

Please RSVP for the Fall Opening Reception to amc-cann@riverbrink.org.

Dig Our Roots brings 21 wineries together in one place

Sharon Burns The Local

Dig Our Roots, a celebration of the birthplace of modern Canadian winemaking, is returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake after a four-year break.

Twenty-one wineries will be participating in a wine-tasting event over one weekend mid-October at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, while several wineries will be offering specialized tastings and tours at their sites at the same time.

"Dig Our Roots is a celebration of Niagara-on-the-Lake's history of grape growing and award-winning winemaking heritage," said Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake chair Madison Vine. "Each bottle poured at the event carries the

story of our terroir and the expertise of our winemakers."

The Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake is a self-funded marketing organization that, for more than 25 years, has existed to tell the story of their iconic wines. All members are committed to serving 100 per cent VQA wines in signature programs.

Grapes grown in Niagara-on-the-Lake are special, said Brianne Hawley, marketing manager of Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Appellation, the term that refers to the specific place a grape is grown, has been classified by VQA (Vintners Quality Alliance Ontario) as a distinct area.

Within the larger appellation are sub-appellations of the Niagara River, Niagara Lakeshore, Four Mile Creek and St. David's Bench.

Geology, soil, elevations and variations in temperature and precipitation all have an effect on the wines being produced,

but the main factors that influence Niagara-on-the-Lake wines in relation to other wine-growing regions are our proximity to water and the climate that creates for our grapes.

"Dig Our Roots is a reimagined event," said Hawley. "The wineries really want to display and show everybody how important our appellation is, how important the land is where we grow our grapes, and how that comes out in our wine."

"We've added an additional layer of history by hosting the event at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum," said Vine. "As you indulge in the creations of our wineries, you're surrounded by the echoes of the past, a reminder of the pioneering spirit that laid the foundation for our vibrant wine region."

"You don't often get 21 wineries in the same room," said Hawley. "We're all coming together into one room where

you can really taste, and we're going to have over 75 wines at the event."

Wineries will also be hosting events at their sites throughout the weekend. Guests will be able to sip at Dig Our Roots at the museum, and could sign up for other events at other properties, said Hawley.

"Those will be specialized tastings along the same idea as premium VQA, or perhaps meeting with a winemaker, perhaps going into the vineyard during harvest."

Tickets to Dig Our Roots at the Museum are \$90, and include tastings, live music and light food fare. Three tasting sessions are available throughout Friday and Saturday, Oct. 13 and 14.

Tickets are available at wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com.

Information for Dig Our Roots site-specific winery experiences can also be found on the website.

Lots of smoke generated at Clare's celebration

Sharon Burns The Local

Clare's Harley Davidson held their September Smoker on Saturday, celebrating 120 years of Harley Davidson motorcycles. Vendors, food, lots of smoke, lots of wheelies, and lots of burnouts entertained the large crowd of motorcycle enthusiasts.

Highway Heathens / Crooked Clubhouse Extreme Motorcycle Stunt Show performed twice during the day, burning rubber and shredding tires at the York Road store.

Christian Restivo, a stunt rider from Buffalo, is part of the Highway Heathens team. "Today we are celebrating the 120th Harley anniversary," he said. "You're going to see a lot of smoke, and some sparks. It's crazy," he said enthusiastically. He pointed to the back tire of a motorcycle he rode in the 11 a.m. stunt show. "Look at that tire there. We shredded them in half already."

He described the stunt show, with eight riders, and some special guests, as "controlled chaos." He rides a 2021 Street Glide Special and a highly modified 1200 Sportster.

Special guest rider Brad Wall, originally from Welland, was there with his wife, Lauren, and young daughters Chloe and Hunter.

"I'm going to be putting on a show on my 2009 FXD. I also have a Road Glide that's currently broken. I broke it this morning, so we're going to do the best we can on the single bike that I've got. There'll be lots of drifting burnouts. Crowd interaction, smoke and wheelies. It's a good time," he said.

Wall only started riding motorcycles three years ago and said he immediately fell in love with the stunt scene. "It's freeing. It's almost therapy and it's something to be able to push it," he said, referring to pushing both himself and his Harley Davidson bikes to the edge of performance.

"I love putting on a show, love interacting with the crowd, seeing the smile on my kids' faces and on other kids' faces by doing something on a bike that most people would think you can never do."

All riders in the stunt show ride Harley Davidson motorcycles, which is not the usual bike chosen for this extreme sport. A quick internet search does not even list Harleys in the top ten of stunt bikes.

"They're Harley Davidsons," said Wall. "That's the biggest thing that interests me. The first bikes I got into were sport bikes, but as soon as I saw people could wheelie and drift Harleys, I thought that was the craziest thing."

Drifting is a technique where the rider oversteers, with loss of traction, while maintaining control and driving (drifting) the bike through a corner.

"I never thought I'd be the one that could do that. I just got the bikes three years ago and here I am doing shows and travelling."

The learning curve hasn't been without its consequences. "I think last year that I must have crashed about 100 times." Sure enough, his Instagram page posts about "15 good crashes," and he credits the skills he has today with the crashes. "I think that's the only way I could get to where I am today."

Wall pushes the limits every time he rides, he said. "I am not scared to hurt myself, but I try to keep throttle back a little be-

cause I do have the two young ones and family to take care of. But at the end of the day I gotta live the life that I want to live. I have all the support from my wife and my kids and they enjoy doing it."

In some shows, Wall includes his young daughters. "They'll hop on, and we'll drift together with them on the tank. It's a really good time. The community is just fantastic."

After six shows this year alone, the girls seemed unfazed by what dad was doing on the tarmac, and instead played with friends behind the event.

Wall's wife, Lauren, says she "used to get nervous because he had no idea what he was actually doing. And he will admit that when he first started doing power wheelies, he's like, 'I'm lucky I didn't die.'"

"Now he's explained to me that he knows how to control the bike and what he's doing and the technical aspect of it. I'm a little more calm."

Sole female rider Elizabeth Raynsford, out of Mississauga, stunted on a 883 XL Sportster. She amazed spectators as she rode by, standing straight up on her seat as she did so. At one point she sat behind a rider as he performed wheelies, while her gloved hand trailed along the surface of the tarmac.

Restivo has three sons under the age of four. "My four-year-old has an electric Harley," said Restivo, and has already shown an interest in stunting.



Christian Restivo demonstrates a wheelie on a Harley at Clare's. (Sharon Burns)



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Cowboy Junkies appearing at PAC next week

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Partridge Family have nothing on Cowboy Junkies, who play the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines on Sept. 27.

Like the fictional pop group, Cowboy Junkies is a family band, composed of siblings Margot, Michael, and Peter Timmins, along with Michael's longtime friend Alan Anton. But in contrast, there are three other Timmins siblings, a brother and two sisters, who are not members of the Toronto-based band.

As well, Cowboy Junkies never had a Shirley Jones figure driving them around in a brightly-painted repurposed school bus, another major difference. And they certainly have never delivered the bright, sunny pop featured in the



The family band: Michael, Margot and Peter Timmins, with Alan Anton. (Supplied)

show and on Partridge Family albums from the early 1970s. Finally, that sitcom lasted only four years. The Cowboy Junk-

ies are closing in on 40.

"When we get together as a band, it all comes naturally," says Michael on the phone from his Toronto home. "And there's something about the way we connect musically that has a very distinctive sound. We always try to keep things fresh. Only the four of us can make this noise, and we never take that for granted."

With Margot's haunting, often softly delivered vocals, Michael's fuzz-drenched guitar work, Peter and Alan laying down a steady rhythm on drums and bass and unofficial fifth member Jeff Bird's mandolin and harmonica, they produce a sound that could be described as a ferocious kind of beauty.

In fact, the band pretty much coined that phrase on June 2 when they released their 20th album, *Such Ferocious Beauty*.

The 10 original songs, all written or co-written by Michael, are classic Cowboy Junkies in sound and feel. They are that rare band who has consistently progressed through

four decades while at the same time staying true to their roots, which go back to the 1986 release of their debut album, *Whites Off Earth Now!!*

"From the very beginning we've exploited that element," Timmins says. "Having Margot's vocal there attracts people, and we put something behind it that oftentimes is discordant or aggressive. It's the juxtaposition of that ferociousness and that beauty. For this record we really pushed that formula."

That first album in 1986 was very blues-based, featuring covers of standards by Robert Johnson, John Lee Hooker and Big Joe Williams. Two years later they made waves across North America with the release of *The Trinity Session*, recorded in a Toronto church with the band gathered around a single microphone.

Such Ferocious Beauty was instead recorded in the band's Toronto studio, The Hangar.

"We bought the building about 15 years ago," says Timmins. "It has a few apartments that we rent out in the back

and our studio space is there. We've been recording there for years now. It's always exciting to gather together there for our rehearsals, too, before heading back out on the road."

Like their 2020 album *Ghosts, Such Ferocious Beauty* deals with deep loss. That previous eight-song collection was a reflection on the passing of their mother, Barbara. The new one deals with their father John's dementia and subsequent death.

That's painfully clear with the first song, *What I Lost*. The album begins with the lines "I woke up this morning, didn't know who I was / I looked at the room, I didn't know where I was / Or if I ever was," and drifts into a reminiscence of the Quebec countryside, where John and Barbara raised their children. It perfectly captures the confusion of someone suffering from dementia.

Elsewhere, there's the classic mythology of *Circe* and *Penelope*, with "a life full of regret and dreams," and *Hell is Real*,

where Margot sings "I'm scared, and I'm angry, and I'm lonely." Michael insists that the song is more ironic than it is fatalistic.

"The record was written in the summer of 2020, right when we were in the depths of COVID," he says. "And there was all that political and social stuff that was happening in the States. And with Dad getting deeper into dementia, all those elements came together to form many of the ideas and feelings of this record."

As the band's principal songwriter but not its vocalist, he's fortunate to have a singer to whom he rarely has to explain the ideas behind his songs.

"Margot and I are number three and four of the six siblings," Michael says. "We're very close in age and in what we are going through in life. She knew what was going on and was a part of it. When I write about personal, private things she always has her own insight into that because she's living it too."

In recent years the band has been going through the tapes of their sessions from throughout their career. They've released expanded versions of *The Trinity Session* and their third album, 1990's *The Caution Horses*, both with early demos. And their 2022 record *Songs of the Recollection* was a collection of cover versions, many of which have become favourites in their live sets.

Timmins promises that the St. Catharines show, coincidentally taking place at the PAC's Partridge Hall Wednesday, will feature some of those cover songs, as well music from throughout their career, with a shorter first set of numbers from the new album.

For information and to purchase tickets to the Cowboy Junkies show, visit firstontariopac.ca.

NOTL Cats



Again the community responded, say organizers of the recent NOTL Cats fundraising sale Saturday, with \$2,359 raised. Calypso, the cat in the photo, was expected to give birth last week. Sadly, her kittens were delivered stillborn. The fundraiser was intended for future vet bills for her care and for the kittens. Shortly after Calypso was rescued she was diagnosed with Entropion (an eye disease) and she requires surgery. The vet estimate is \$3,500, and proceeds from the fundraiser will now be used to cover the surgery expenses, says fundraiser organizer Tanya Rice. (Supplied)

Mark Crofton Bell: THE MOM PROJECT



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Lantern Festival benefits Dog Guide Program

Residents at Creekside Senior Estates held their second annual Lantern Festival and chose the St. Davids Lions Club as the recipient this year, earmarking the proceeds to go to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide Program. It's a small event held inside the Estates at poolside. The lanterns are sold for \$10, a special personal message is attached if desired, a small candle is then lit inside and they are set adrift in the water to a lovely playlist of music. Sheila Mead and Gina Minutillo spearheaded this initiative and gave the proceeds to St. Davids Lions President Susan Snider (centre). (Supplied)



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Exciting action at NOTL Tennis Club finals

Mike Balsom
The Local

It took some close, exciting, skillfully played matches Saturday afternoon before the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club could crown its 2023 singles champions.

Fellow club members, friends and family gathered on the Memorial Park bleachers to watch Mohsin Kamran, Sean Hilliker and Fran Doran capture their respective titles.

The morning began with the semi-finals. In the Women's division, Doran edged Karen Rhind 8-6 and Ann Davies downed Natalie Early by the same score to advance to the final.

Things were close between Doran and Davies, who lost to Milla Matsko in last year's Women's A division final. Davies placed second again this year, as Doran prevailed 6-4, 7-5 to

win the championship.

"It was a fantastic game," Davies told The Local after the match. "It's always a pleasure to play with Fran because she is such a lovely player. She had excellent placement and she's really skillful."

"She challenged me with a lot of high balls," Doran said of Davies. "The girls know I like to hit a lot of low balls. She kept me running, she returned everything I hit to her. That's how the game is supposed to be played."

In the Men's B division, last year's champ Harry Schlange beat Scott McGregor 8-4 in the morning to punch his ticket to the afternoon final, where he faced Sean Hilliker, a teacher at Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls, who ousted Glenn Barr 8-2 in the semi-final.

The pair played a marathon two-hour-plus match, including a lengthy tie-breaker. In the end, Hil-

liker thwarted Schlange's attempt at a repeat win, beating him 6-4, 5-7, 10-8. When it was over, Schlange, whose loud groans and choice words might have been heard across the common where the Scout camp had been set up, seemed almost relieved to step off the court.

In the Men's A division semi-finals, Gerry McIlhone fought through Ken McGillivray's strong serves and well-placed groundstrokes to win 8-2. The other semi was a hotly contested match between Rob Lipovsky and Mohsin Kamran. Kamran came out on top 8-6 after he adjusted to Lipovsky's repeated attempts to force him to his backhand.

McIlhone, whose match against McGillivray concluded while the other semi-final was still going, had a chance to watch Kamran and clearly used the

same strategy as Liposky in the final that afternoon.

It worked in the early stages of the match, as McIlhone took an early lead in the first set. But Kamran used the same strategy, forcing McIlhone to his backhand and tying it up 4-4 after eight games.

It see-sawed from that point, with McIlhone going up 6-5, Kamran tying it, then McIlhone going up again 6-5 with a chance to capture the first set. But Mohsin broke McIlhone's serve in the 12th game, forcing the tiebreaker.

Again, McIlhone started strong, going up 4-1, but Kamran, a fairly new club member who works for Farm Credit Canada, fought back repeatedly before taking the tiebreaker 11-9 to win the first set.

From there, it seemed that McIlhone had left it all on the court in set one, as the

34-year-old Kamran used his quickness and power to take the second set 6-0 to capture the championship.

"It was a terrific match," McIlhone said. "The difference between the first and second set, though, was energy. He really raised his game. He hit the ball harder, he hit it for power. He served better, he hit groundstrokes better. He came up with some great shots and made some great points."

"The first set was really tough, it was anybody's game," Kamran said. "He really made me cover a lot of the court. I felt like his pace came down a bit in the second set. It gave me a little bit of leeway. I felt he lost a bit of power by then. Gerry is a fantastic player."

On the consolation side, Mike Symanski and Bill Devolin took the Men's A and B matches respectively, while Natalie Early was the Women's consolation winner.

It was perfect tennis weather with blue skies and low humidity," said club vice president Hugh Dow. "It made for an exciting day for this year's Singles Tennis Tournament."

Summary:
Mens "A" Singles
Champion — Mohsin Kamran beat Gerry McIlhone 7-6(10), 6-0
Consolation — Mike Symanski beat Victor Zilinskaskas 6-2, 6-1

Mens "B" Singles
Champion — Sean Hilliker beat Harry Schlange 6-4, 5-7, 10-8
Consolation — Bill Devolin beat Alec Papidimitriou 6-2, 6-3

Ladies Singles
Champion — Fran Doran beat Ann Davies 6-4, 7-5.
Consolation — Natalie Early beat Karen Rhind 7-5, 1-6, 10-8.



Mike Symanski and Viktor Zilinskaskas, Mens A Consolation final. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Mohsin Kamran in action in the Mens A final match.



Natalie Early and Karen Rhind, Women's Consolation final.



Fran Doran in action in the Women's final.



Ann Davies in action in the Women's final.

LocalSPORTS

Preds surprised by Tottenham in home opener

Mike Balsom
The Local

A stretch of three-on-three play in the third period turned out to be the difference in the Niagara Predators home opener Friday at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. The Tottenham Railers used a speedy attack to hand the Preds a 5-3 loss to start their Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League season.

"We didn't come out for the third period," coach Kevin Taylor said after the disappointing loss. "We've been doing three-on-three's in practice, and they were absolutely terrible tonight. I'll chalk this up as learning, but they've got to be better than that. I didn't expect such a bad effort in the third period."

One of the largest crowds in the team's three-year history cheered enthusiastically as each player was introduced prior to local resident Devon Botbyl dropping the puck for the ceremonial first faceoff.

The Predators seemed to feed off the energy of the crowd in the first two periods, outshooting the Railers 35-26 and skating to a 3-2 lead by the end of the second before it all fell apart in the third.

Newcomer Shane Kaplan scored the Preds' first goal of the season 9:30 into the first period when Guy Manco fed the puck back to the blue line to Nicholas Nicoletti. The defenceman took a quick wrist shot that was deflected by Kaplan past Tottenham goaltender Thomas Rousseau.

Shortly after that goal, the



Local resident Devon Botbyl, accompanied by his father Scott, dropped the puck for the ceremonial opening faceoff. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Predators were successfully fending off the Railers attack during a five-minute boarding penalty taken by Ethan Culp. When his teammate Dylan Denning was subsequently called for slashing, the Railers enjoyed a two-man advantage. Tottenham capitalized on the Preds' inability to clear the zone when Gabriel Mammoliti scored the tying goal on the power play with 3:51 remaining in the first.

With penalties assessed to the Predators' Dylan Denning and Aidan Jones as well as Galeone Nicolo of the Railers near the end of the first period, Tottenham began the second with another advantage, this time four-on-

three. Just 43 seconds in they went up 2-1 when Sebastian DeCastro took a cross-ice pass from Ryan Anderson and tucked the puck past Niagara goalie Zane Clausen.

The Preds tied it up five minutes later when Buffalo native Denning took a pass from Isaac Locker and scored on a wrist shot from

the blue line. With 6'5" Niagara-on-the-Lake native Josh Frena screening Rousseau, Denning's shot knotted the game at 2-2.

The Preds went up 3-2 when Culp, on his way to the ice after a check from behind, fed the puck to Locker, who was closing in on Rousseau's left side. Locker, all alone in

the face-off circle, was able to beat the goaltender with a quick shot.

The Preds took that lead into the third. But the Railers tied it up just over three minutes in when James McLean knocked a rebound into the net past a sprawling Clausen.

Four minutes later, Niagara forward Nolan Wyers

retaliated on some rough play by cross checking a Railers defender in front of the net. A battle ensued, with another Railer jumping in to help. Reese Bisci entered the fray to assist Wyers and ended up exchanging punches with Tottenham's Alexander Madimanos. Bisci, Madimanos and the Railers' Emile Martin were all given two minute penalties, while Wyers was handed a five minute cooldown.

During the ensuing three-on-three play the Preds were outskated by Tottenham and repeatedly had trouble clearing their zone. Ryan Anderson and Alexis Hebert scored within 32 seconds of each other to put the Railers up 5-3.

The Predators had three power play chances of their own after that, and actually outshot Tottenham 18-12 in the third period. But Rousseau, chosen as the first star of the game, continued to shut the door on them the rest of the way.

"The first period, we got the jitters out," Taylor added. "I thought we played really well in the second. But the third just ruined the game for us. It's too long of a game for some of these guys this early in the season."

Friday night the Railers played a physical, speedy style of game that last year's Thunder squad rarely exhibited.

That's because it was a much different Tottenham team than last year's, who went 14-27-1 and finished seventh in the GMHL's nine-team South Division. Over the offseason the Thunder were sold to Michael Prock, who rebranded them as the Railers and brought in Niagara Falls native and former Fort Erie Meteor Vito Scaringi as head coach.

"And we're a much different team than last year, too," Taylor said. "We only had Bisci and Wyers returning on forward from last year. You have to take the learning into consideration, it is the first game. It comes down to how the loss happens. There wasn't enough intensity, enough urgency out there. I didn't see the speed that I expected, either."

Up next for the Predators is the St. George Ravens, another Greater Metro league team with new ownership. Predators owner Robert Turnbull, who had also owned the Ravens, sold the team to Russ Lockwood.

The Ravens, who opened their season with a lopsided 10-0 loss to the North York Renegades Friday night, come to Virgil Friday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors.



Predators forward Reese Bisci moves the puck into the Railers zone.

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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	47	48				49					50			
51				52	53				54	55				
56				57				58						
59			60		61		62			63		64	65	66
67					68					69				
70					71					72				

- Across:
- 1 Grouches

6 Female supporters

10 Flat-topped hill

14 Misbehave

15 Arizona city on the Colorado

16 In addition

17 Latin American dance

18 Side

19 --- Christian Andersen

20 Sharp flavor

22 Note hastily

24 34th President

25 Moonshot program

28 Sound of a lion

29 Louse egg

30 Washed out

31 Watch --- step!

33 Not odd

35 Free

36 Settlement

37 Nudge repeatedly

38 Aloof

40 Conductive elements

43 Hoppy brew

44 Conforms

45 Blockhead

47 Pirate's plunder

49 Mischievous

50 Solitary
- 51 "L" operator

52 Unpleasant to look at

54 Conjured up

56 Attila, e.g.

57 Aught

58 Political top dog (Abbr.)

59 Brief swim

61 It's worth ---!

63 Start playing tennis

67 Skin

68 Film genre

69 Flowing and ebbing

70 Roman wear

71 Large and scholarly book

72 Heap
- Down:
- 1 Coverts rotary motion into linear motion

2 Appliance and electronics maker

3 Bill dispenser

4 Hollow gas globule

5 Mar

6 Unit of computer memory

7 Regret

8 Key with three sharps

9 Pacific country

10 Speed measure

11 Seinfeld cohort --- Benes

12 Clicked

13 Valuable possession
- 21 Prius maker

23 Choice morsels

25 Interest charge

26 Two identical things

27 Shoppe adjective

28 Manage

32 Be in debt

34 Old kind of computer monitor

36 Fighter ace

37 Lower

39 "Rosemary's Baby" actress --- Farrow

40 Provides input for an amp.

41 Observe

42 Levelheaded

44 Cook in hot oil

46 Central bank

47 Artist's workshop

48 Diminishing

49 Extremely

50 Snap

51 Map

53 Enormous

55 Kevlar garments

58 Funeral woodpile

60 Electronic helper just for you

62 Border

64 Old food label letters

65 Carpet cleaner (Abbr.)

66 Moose

OBITUARY



LT. COL. (RET.) DAVID VICTOR GEARY
MAY 24, 1927 – SEPT 14, 2023

It is with great sadness that the family announces the passing of David Victor Geary. David was born in England but was a proud Canadian. He attended Ridley College. Summers were spent canoeing the Haliburton Lakes. He graduated from University of Toronto with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and was a boxing champion. David attended the Royal Military College in Kingston, where he met and married Hilda Catherine Whitty and started a family. He was a nurturing father and took an active role in childcare. He loved to sing songs on road trips across the country. The family enjoyed camping, boating, fishing, water skiing, and golfing, but family picnics with Hilda's extended family were the highlight of the summer. In winter they went curling and skiing and built backyard skating rinks. Highlights for him were golfing with Sean Connery and taking the family to see the Beatles.

As an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces he was a proud member of RCME. He had eleven different postings across Canada, in England, and in Germany. He loved the challenges of his work. He retired early to care for his father in Niagara-on-the-Lake and worked at Brock University. As a military officer, and while at Brock, he was loved and respected by friends and colleagues. His kindness extended to everyone he met. In his retirement he lived in Haliburton and St. Catharines. After the death of his beloved Hilda, after 50 years together, he lived with two of his daughters and their husbands, Debbie and Russell in Niagara Falls and Theresa and John near Blackstock.

David died peacefully in his sleep, age 96, at Niagara Health Systems in St. Catharines after a fall. Cremation will be arranged by Essentials Cremation and Burial Services. A celebration of his life will take place at a later date.

David will be dearly missed by his children Victoria (Don), Jim, Camie (Peter), Debbie, and Theresa (John), his 12 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife Hilda, brother Neville and his wife Trix, and his son-in-law Russell. David generously supported many charities. In lieu of flowers, a donation to a charity of your choice would honour his memory. Online condolences may be shared on David's tribute page at EssentialsNiagara.com

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

Sudoku solution from
September 13, 2023

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

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

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

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THIS NEWSPAPER

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Local

The Trusted Voice of Our Community

Red Roof Road Rally off to a great start

Sharon Burns
The Local

On Saturday, Red Roof Retreat hosted what planners hope will become an annual event: The Red Roof Road Rally.

The local organization that provides respite for families of young people with special needs was bustling with activity from more than 100 volunteers, drivers and participants under sunny skies on a cool fall day.

Twenty-one cars took part in the rally and raised \$20,000 by solving 25 clues throughout the Old Town, St. Davids, Queenston and Virgil. Driving safely and under the speed limit was emphasized in the welcoming speech by Jon Taylor, Red Roof Retreat board

member.

Taylor moved to the area five years ago and knew he wanted to be part of the community to make a difference. Even though he “had never been in a car rally, and never organized one,” he brought forward the concept of this unique event to the board, whose immediate support was secured.

The clues were given to the cars’ occupants at the start line, and, to avoid congestion, cars were released from the Concession 6 property every two minutes. In scavenger hunt style, participants would solve the clue (by finding the destination, or asking random people to perform a dance, for example) and submit proof via photo or video to a judge. Each clue had a point value assigned,

and the team with the most points won bragging rights and rally-themed trophies.

Taylor has been on the board of several different charities and is “absolutely astonished at how people step up for Red Roof Retreat. I think that’s a testament to (founder) Steffanie Bjorgan and what she is doing. We should be very proud of this facility.”

Addressing participants before the rally began, Bjorgan described herself as “a woman of simple pleasures, and one of the things that makes me happy is sharing Red Roof. What I love about today is that there are people here who know Red Roof, but I love all the new faces.”

She encouraged people to find her to ask questions or to receive a tour of the 11-

acre hobby farm that is home to horses, a goat, a pig named Wilbur and many other animals. “It’s absolutely a beautiful piece of property, a great place for our kids to enjoy, and I want to say thank you on behalf of all of our kids and families and thank you to our volunteers and our board members.”

Participants were treated to lunch, and listened to the rock sounds of local band, @ the Twelve, made up of former NOTL Station 1 Fire Chief Cort Day on bass; and vice-president of operations of Lais Hotels, Paul MacIntyre, on vocals and guitar. From St. Catharines, rounding out the band are Matt Troyan and Paul Smith, on drums and guitar, respectively. The band formed in the winter of 2019, and the

men enjoy bringing their music to charity events.

Taylor promised that the event “will build some momentum, and next year will be bigger and better.”



First place team: Jason Day, Lyle Hall, Ben Taylor and Paul Weiss.



Red Roof board member Jon Taylor and founder Steffanie Bjorgan. (Photos by Sharon Burns)



Entertainment was provided by @ the Twelve, with Cort Day on bass, Matt Troyan on drums, Paul MacIntyre on vocals and guitar and Paul Smith on guitar.



Volunteers Colleen Hughes, Cathy van der Zalm, Petra Halbggebauer, Tracie MacIntyre, Christa Rawsthorne and Shari Hartwick take a moment to relax at the road rally.



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