



Legion
remembers
Queen
Elizabeth II

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Ben and Pam Froese are farming to provide the kind of life they would like for their kids, James, Lucas, Tessa and Hunter. (Denis Cahill)

NOTL's Ben Froese named Grape King

Penny Coles
The Local

Ben Froese, a third generation farmer, is the Grape Grower of Ontario's sixth Grape King.

At just 39 years of age, he is operating two farms under the name Willow Lake Ventures, one of which was his father's, and the other in St. Davids, which he purchased when he decided he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps.

In 2002, when Ben was a just a teen, he lost his father James Froese in a tragic collision on Concession 2, when a driver failed to stop at Line 2.

Ben explains his dad and uncle at one time operated the family farm on Niven Road, on land his grandfather Jake Froese, a two-term lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the 70s, had started farming. Jake also had property on Lakeshore Road, living there and farming it, but eventually swapped homesteads with James. Ben's parents took over the Lakeshore

Road acreage in 1996. "My dad wanted to venture off on his own, and I'm lucky he did," he says. "I took it over from my mom to keep it going, and she sold it to me 10 or 12 years ago."

His mother still lives there, and Ben runs the farm, which, added to his St. Davids vineyards, "something I started completely by myself with my wife," equals about 100 acres.

He refers to that as "a small farm," one that also includes chickens and some pigs, although his focus is on grapes.

After high school, Ben went to Niagara College, graduated with a four-year business degree, and then travelled to New Zealand for a one-year co-op position in farming.

When he returned from New Zealand in his early 20s, he took over the family business, which was planted with peaches, strawberries and wine grapes. He then converted the

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Events present reflection on truth and reconciliation

Mike Balsom
The Local

Indigenous relations and understanding are at the core of two events happening next week to mark Orange Shirt Day.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Tim Johnson, director of Landscape of Nations 360°, has curated a concert event entitled "Treaty" to take place next Thursday, Sept. 29 at at 6 p.m. at the Niagara Parks Power Station Plaza. That will

be followed the next day with a series of Truth and Reconciliation activities curated by Niagara Falls Métis artist Brian Kon at the same Niagara Falls location.

"I was looking to present a reflection on truth and reconciliation that comes from a deep Indigenous perspective," says Johnson, the former associate director for museum programs at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian.

"We realized that people knew what was going down, what was happening through history in their contact with Europeans. This was met often with bewilderment, confusion, sometimes amusement, and sometimes with humour, just to survive."

To that end, Johnson identified a list of words in the context of Indigenous relations, and came up with the idea to have artists, historians and civic leaders comment on the meanings or

definitions of those words. Words like 'treaty,' 'reconciliation' and 'truth.'

"In that context, we recorded their thoughts about those words in relation to Indigenous peoples," Johnson explains. "From that, we've worked with an ensemble of Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians to curate songs that will correspond to those words and what our subjects said about those words."

Johnson sees it as an in-

depth approach to dealing with truth and reconciliation through music and musical theatre.

On Thursday, videos of those subjects talking about those words will be played, then the musicians will step up and explain how the songs they will perform relate to those words.

"Ultimately," says the Mohawk from Six Nations, "it ends on a note that speaks to the alliances and friendships that we have. It's about

strengthening those friendships and maintaining the alliances that we have and reconnecting in solidarity with all peoples."

Musically, the almost-two-hour free outdoor concert is being helmed by Joshua Arden Miller, an Onondaga from the Six Nations of The Grand River and long-time member of the award-winning blues and soul group

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Run raises \$150,000 for Terry Fox Foundation

Penny Coles
The Local

As organizer Joan King said Sunday morning, although the Terry Fox run is an important fundraiser, it's about more than money.

To those who gathered in Simcoe Park, it was about community, about sharing stories, sometimes crying together, and drawing on the energy of a crowd of people all inspired by the strength and courage of one man.

After a two-year absence,

gathering in person seemed more important, and more appreciated than ever. There were many familiar faces of people who have volunteered or taken part in many runs, and new faces of those who had a reason to come out for the first time, some running for loved ones lost, others who are grateful survivors and were there so others will be as well.

Evabeth Fast is a cancer survivor who rode her bicycle with her family along the Terry Fox route Sunday. She is just 10 years old, a Crossroads student who

was diagnosed with a Wilms tumour, rare kidney cancer that primarily affects children, in November 2017. She was five years old and in Kindergarten when she had her left kidney removed at McMaster Children's Hospital, followed by chemotherapy. Her mother Stephanie says Evabeth has some memories of that time, although she doesn't remember losing her hair. "She's terrified of doctors and hospitals," says Stephanie, "but everyone has been great," and Evabeth now

can just live life."

Stephanie remembers just months before her little girl's diagnosis, the family was travelling through Thunder Bay and stopped at the statue of Terry Fox. "It was very emotional," she says, "super powerful to see it."

Five years later, she and the family were excited to be in Simcoe Park, although it was an emotional time as well. "We feel very lucky. So many others are not so fortunate."

Hilda McCann was one of the familiar faces, there to walk



Joe Pillitteri's daughter Juliet and his sister Caroline Martinelli are cheered on by Crossroads students. His daughter Olivia and his son Johnny both participated in Kingston, where they go to university, without being asked, says Joe — "a win" for him as a parent.



Crossroads students (in orange) cheer on participants of all ages. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Carol Dyck in her survivor shirt signs the poster of Terry Fox.



A group of Vineridge students led by Holly Rowe (left) participated in the Terry Fox Run, while other students marshalled along the route, and all stayed after the event to help clean up Simcoe Park.



Pat and Hilda McCann walked for their daughter Bridie, who died of cancer at the age of 36. Pat recently had cancer surgery, which he feels he's beaten, and Hilda is a five-year-plus survivor.

on behalf of her daughter Bridie who in 2012, at the age of 36, died from a very aggressive cancer.

A year later, in December 2013, Hilda was diagnosed with breast cancer, at a stage that offers a good recovery rate, and after surgery and chemotherapy, has been able to return to walk in her red shirt, as a survivor. With her for the first time was her husband Pat, also walking for Bridie. Having had a brush with cancer himself just this past March, he has had surgery, was fortunate not to need chemotherapy or radiation, and decided it was time he joined in the walk. "I'm being very positive about this," he says. "My doctor has turned me loose, and I'm fine. I'm a glass half full kind of guy."

Carol Dyck, another cancer survivor grateful to wear a red shirt, was a volunteer for the run. The day makes her think of her parents, both of whom died of brain tumours, her father at the age of 52, her mother when she was 68.

Jazz singer Juliet Dunn was also at Simcoe Park, there to sing O Canada before the run started, her presence very much appreciated so soon after the death of her husband, Peter Shea. He had been battling an aggressive form of prostate cancer for almost four years before his death

Aug. 21, at the age of 50. The talented drummer, pianist, and vocalist who co-founded the TD Niagara Jazz Festival with Juliet had been having undiagnosed health problems since 2018, and in 2020, a trip to the emergency department led to a CT scan, and he learned he had stage four cancer that had spread to his lungs and liver. Shea went through radiation and chemotherapy treatments, and stayed positive throughout, making many Jazz Festival appearances at the piano, including on Canada Day this year in Simcoe Park.

He wouldn't have looked sick sitting down and playing, but he needed a walker, and help getting in and out of the car at that point, says Juliet.

After she left Simcoe Park Sunday, Juliet was headed off to join the Niagara Symphony Orchestra to narrate *Harriet: A Journey to Freedom*, a commissioned piece honouring the life of Harriet Tubman and the local history of the Underground Railroad.

There have been rehearsals and performances for scheduled events leading up to Peter's death and since, she says — there was even a rehearsal on the day of his death, one she didn't have to take part in it, but did have

Continued on page 3

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Run brings community together for a great cause

Continued from page 2

to open their studio for musicians who were devastated to hear of his passing.

It couldn't be cancelled, she says — there wasn't time to re-schedule. "It's such a cliché, but it's true, the show must go on."

And several of them have, surrounding her with friends and other musicians, and requiring her to "focus and compartmentalize. It's been weird, and hard. But I know Peter would want it that way."

Juliet lost her mother, Beth Naomi Ellis, in May — she was

a 30-year cancer survivor who died of an aneurism. Juliet's sister, Kim Ellis-Durty, died of cancer in October 2021, just 10 months after being diagnosed with stage four breast cancer.

It's been an incredibly difficult year, she says, but Peter, throughout his illness, "was a trouper. He didn't complain." On his final day, friends and family stopped by, says Juliet, and he was able to hear Peter's Song, written for him by one of his students, Emilio Geremia, just 14 years old.

It had been a good day, she says. And when he passed, she added, "it was with a smile on his face."

Members of the van der Zalm family were also at the park to take part in the run, which honoured John van der Zalm, who died recently after seven years fighting cancer.

Like Terry, says King, "John was no quitter. He came out every year, even when he had to walk it with a cane." It was such an honour to know him, and to meet his family, she added.

Mandy Ollerhead Faulkner was also at Simcoe Park Sunday, having come from her home in New York State to take part in the run. Faulkner and Alex Schulz organized the first Niagara-on-the-Lake Terry Fox Run in 1991, when they were just high school students. They answered an ad they saw in the newspaper looking for volunteers, organized the route and every other detail, and continued running it until they went away to university, when local volunteers took it over.

Faulkner still comes back for



Joe Pillitteri and Bill Pristanski joked about competition, and competing or not, they both made significant donations to the Terry Fox Foundation.

the run every year, except for the two years of the pandemic when crossing the border was a problem. She took part in it Sunday with members of her family, and expressed her gratitude to King for ensuring the local run continues more than 30 years later.

And of course the two top fundraisers for the NOTL

run, Joe Pillitteri of Team Pillsy, and Bill Pristanski, in town from Ottawa to take part in his 42nd Marathon of Hope event, were there, Pristanski collecting more than \$50,000 in donations, and this year Pillitteri taking it a little easier, walking with several family members and enjoying the morning.

Pillitteri's sell-out comedy evening at the community centre Friday raised \$58,000, with tickets and all proceeds from drinks, a live auction and a raffle going to the Terry Fox Foundation, and with the money collected from the run, he expected his total to reach \$80,000 to \$90,000.



Stephanie Fast with her daughter Evabeth, who had cancer surgery and chemotherapy five years ago, were going to ride bikes for this year's event. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Kasia Bak, and Matt, Eleina and Isaac van der Zalm all participated in this year's run in honour of John van der Zalm, who died of cancer in May.

Team Pillsy donations about \$80,000

Joe Pillitteri's sold-out comedy night — word from those who attended was that it was his best show yet — at the community centre last Friday night raised \$58,000, bringing his run total for this year to at least \$80,000. Proceeds from tickets, drinks, great silent auction packages and raffle prizes go to the Terry Fox Foundation. (Penny Coles)



Sean Wright swims for Terry Fox



Sean Wright wanted to challenge himself for this year's Terry Fox Run, and decided to swim instead, from Lakeshore Road to the Simcoe Park gazebo. After getting a hug from his dad, Bob Wright, Sean walked to shore, checked his time — 1:21:46 — and caught his breath before posing for a photo with kayaker Neil Richardson, Sean's brother Ben Wright, his mother and father Patti and Bob, and kayaker Jimmy Bergman. The two men in kayaks said the water was choppy — both tipped their kayaks at one point — and the current was going against Sean, but he did a great job completing his swim in good time. (Penny Coles)

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Pedal Pushers raising money for palliative care

Penny Coles
The Local

The number of clients the local palliative care organization helps, and the services it provides, have grown exponentially in recent years, as has the need for funding those services.

Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director for the

Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service, says many people are unaware of how much the organization has expanded, rebranded, and increased its number of staff and volunteers to keep up with its growing number of clients. Along with that growth comes the need for funds to cover operating costs, including

the programs it provides and the equipment it lends out, all free of charge. Coming up this Saturday is the Healing Cycle, a major fundraiser for the organization. Its Pedal Pushers team has been raising money for palliative care in Niagara-on-the-Lake for 10 years, with cyclers riding in the Healing Cycle Fundraiser for Hospice and Palliative Care services across Ontario.

“Our small but mighty team has raised the most money for this competitive fundraiser over the past several years,” says Bagnulo. Last year the team raised more than \$20,000, and the goal for this year is \$25,000.

Thanks to an offer of a matching donation of up to \$25,000 from local developer Rainer Hummel, who has witnessed the services provided and wanted to help out, the organization has an opportunity to raise \$50,000 for operating costs, says Bagnulo.

“We are fiercely trying to raise donations this year to that level. If it is in your heart to donate to a very important crucial service in your backyard, this is the year.”

The Healing Cycle ride is presented to all Ontario communities and residential hospices in Ontario to collectively come together virtually or in person to compete against each participating organization. There is a first place in raising funds as a team, as well as first place in raising funds individually. The local Pedal Pushers has taken that first place year after year because of the very generous donations to the service in NOTL, says Bagnulo.

The money raised helps palliative care clients by supporting visiting volunteers for companionship and respite, in-person and virtually; one-on-one bereavement services for loved ones and caregivers; grief walks; equipment lending; transportation, and many other programs.

Raising \$50,000 could mean the local service might acquire another professional piece of its organizational puzzle, a part-time bereavement psychosocial position, says Bagnulo.

There is also always a call for much-needed equipment such as special Roho pillows to prevent bed sores, which can cost \$400 or more each, wheel-



Last year's Pedal Pushers team included riders on the Pedal Pub, and raised \$20,000. The Pedal Pub will again be part of the ride this year. (Photo supplied)

chairs, walkers, canes, transfer chairs, bath and shower support, commodes, foam mattresses, sheepskins and more. The upcoming fundraiser could help purchase more equipment, she says. For more information about the ride visit [www.](http://www.notlpc.com)

notlpc.com or the Pedal Pushers' team page at <https://thehealingcycle.crowdfunder.ca/10653/team/4582> The local Pedal Pushers ride is this Saturday, beginning at the Pedal Pub office on Mary Street at 9 a.m.



Tim Taylor, aka Santa, has a goal of riding 700 kilometres to fundraise for palliative care. This year he has chosen a trail of that distance that crosses PEI as his inspiration, and although he has been piling up the kilometres here in Niagara, he will finish it on the actual trail in PEI in the coming days. (Mike Balsom file photo)

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2. We have started a review of our **zoning bylaw**, or "building law", including: expanded Heritage areas and neighbourhood character studies, streetscapes, size and compatibility of neighbourhood blocks, future institutional requirements, and better compatibility within neighbourhoods. We will also be introducing secondary suites which are apartments in existing homes that will allow us to increase housing stock within existing homes.
3. This Council approved the **Glendale District Plan**. This is an exciting area that will be built out over the next 10 to 20 years for residents, employment, green spaces and services. In collaboration with the community, we will be starting the next phase of the planning process.
4. Council started a process to determine what should be built on the **old hospital site**. It is a significant piece of land and will have a great impact for and in our community. We will be engaging with the community on the proposals.
5. The **Tourism Master Plan** is long overdue. We need to better manage tourism and build the infrastructure necessary to ease the impact on residents, particularly traffic and parking. We started this work about a year ago, however in the meantime, I was pleased to join forces with Hoverlink in their new venture of creating an eco-friendly cross-lake commuter service. This will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remove thousands of cars from major highways.

Together we are on a good path. Continue on this journey with me. I am asking for your support on October 24th. I will continue to be your full-time Lord Mayor!

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Six years ago, the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra invited NSO music director **Bradley Thachuk** to collaborate with arguably the best Tragically Hip tribute band in the world, **The Strictly Hip**, in a cross-border project to honour the legendary Canadian band. The show debuted in Buffalo to an audience of over 10,000 and in 2020, the NSO Canadian premiere met with a capacity crowd at Partridge Hall.

When Thachuk first became associated with the BPO, his first large project was a Stevie Wonder tribute, followed by arranging for Steve Hackett of Gen-



A sold out crowd in Buffalo, NY

esis. That project garnered worldwide attention, overseas touring, and a worldwide DVD/CD/LP release. Since then, Thachuk has written for multiple artists including Canadians Jim Cuddy and Bahamas.

"I enjoy conducting these shows simply because the symphony hall is where we keep alive the greatest music ever written," says Thachuk. "Many rock acts have catalogues that deserve to be preserved and

there is no better way to keep these legacies alive than alongside Beethoven and Brahms," he says.

Thachuk and his twin brother now write and produce their own rock/orchestra tribute acts. "We

see them as a way to bring a new audience into the concert hall, as well as appealing to people like us who value multiple genres of music," says Thachuk. "The music is fun, and boisterous," he says. "It's a different

experience than attending a symphony, these concerts are not merely a tribute you can see in a club, they are best described as experiences you'll talk about for years."

Experience hits like *Ahead by a Century*, *Bobcaygeon*, and *At the Hundredth Meridian* with a fist in the air and an arm around your buddy at Fallsview Casino's Avalon Theatre in Niagara Falls, the perfect venue for this concert event backed by the full power of the NSO!

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EDITORIAL

Take the high road and show respect during campaign

It's unlikely this election will come and go without some degree of nasty politics. It's an angry world we live in, and with the ease social media offers for those who want to lash out, and the undercurrent of hostility in life these days, never mind politics, expecting kindness and consideration for others may be asking too much during an election campaign. Think back to the 2018 election, when change was obviously in the wind, but life was a little more civilized. It seems to have changed so very much in the four years, and not in a good way.

Most of us, certainly those in the media, are already well aware of the rumours, innuendos, exaggerations and untruths that are doing the rounds, in conversation and on social media.

The candidates' meetings will be starting soon. Four years ago, they were informative, illuminating and respectful. Let's hope they remain that way. Heated public debates are good for democracy, even essential, but they can be heated and respectful at the same time. Taking cheap shots at opponents says more about the person who is slinging the mud than about the person it's aimed at. Civility doesn't seem like too much to expect, and really, this community — any community, for that matter — deserves better.

We have a great group of candidates and some diversity in both age and experience, so there is no shortage of good choices to be made. We hope voters will pay attention to all the information that will be available in the coming weeks, at candidates' meetings and in the media. We hope for a good voter turnout. And we hope to see the respect all candidates deserve.

Penny Coles
The Local

Night dive in the Lower Niagara River

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

A number of years ago our local dive club hosted An Evening Underwater, featuring Canadian underwater cinematographer and Skin Diver Magazine editor Jack McKenney. Held at Laura

Second Secondary School in St. Catharines, it proved to be a memorable evening of underwater film.

One of the masterful 16 mm films Jack showed that evening was entitled Things that 'Go Bump in the Night. Great filmed sequences coupled with sound effects made

it really stand out in my mind. And it was what I was thinking of the other evening as four of us gathered at the Navy Hall parking lot to conduct a night dive in the Lower Niagara River.

Three of us had done a great drift dive a few days before from Smugglers Cove

to Navy Hall and the clarity of the water had been great. So, we all thought it would be a good opportunity for a night dive off the dock. Conditions that evening, however, proved to be a bit challenging as the current at depth was much stronger than anticipated, and it ended up that it was us that were bumping in the night. Bearing our underwater cameras and bright video lights we had been hoping for a sighting of a sturgeon or other

interesting denizens of the river. But we soon realized it would be too difficult to stay at depth, and we all retreated to a shallower depth. Even here the back current that takes us to the dock was noticeable stronger. We have found that the variation in current is often due to hydro requirements upstream. The demand for electricity must have been particularly strong that evening.

One might wonder why we would do this? Night

diving offers a new perspective at a familiar site. When your vision is limited to where your lights drop off, you tend to look more closely at subjects that are closer. Fish are often mesmerized by the light, or indeed attracted to it, and come closer. Sometimes, they even react to seeing their reflections in the dome lenses we often use to take wider shots, swimming directly up to the lens.

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View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The hero of the four part series *The Thief, His Wife and The Canoe* (Britbox 2022) is in deep financial troubles, so fakes his own

death with the support of his wife, and step by step the the sea of lies grows impossibly deep. This bizarre true story is fascinating, but incredibly sad.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who

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



Help Jack the cat

Jack is a rescue cat, and a home has been found for him, but he desperately needs extensive, and expensive, dental surgery first. He is friendly, very sweet, and needs help so he can go to his forever home. To learn more about his surgery and to donate go to GoFundMe and search Jack's Dental Surgery, a page set up by Elizabeth Pilzecker (Photo supplied)



A rare sighting these days is this small crayfish. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

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

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Local LETTERS

Queen earned ‘enduring respect and affection’

I join with others in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Over a century ago, Bahá'u'lláh, in clear and unmistakable language, wrote to the monarchs and rulers of the world, to its religious leaders, and to mankind in general that the long-promised age of world peace and brotherhood had at last

dawned, and provided the spiritual principles required to achieve these lofty goals.

Included in those receiving His message was Queen Victoria. He recognized and praised Queen Victoria for having forbidden “the trading of slaves, both men and women,” and for entrusting “the reins of counsel into the hands of the representa-

tives of the people,”

Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, further advanced the acceptance of others as part of one human family, and provided seven decades of selfless service to the peoples or her realms. She earned over those decades an enduring respect and affection.

Lawrence Clarke
Virgil

Aquatic plants close to shore in constant movement

Continued from page 6

In shallower waters, I’m always attracted to the movement of the aquatic plants that grow quite tall. They are in constant movement from the back current closer to shore, and provide an interesting sight to watch and film with a GoPro camera. Fish life can often be found in amongst the plant growth and provide subjects for close-up photos. Smallmouth bass, rock bass, gobies, yellow perch, sheepshead and the occasional carp are commonly spotted

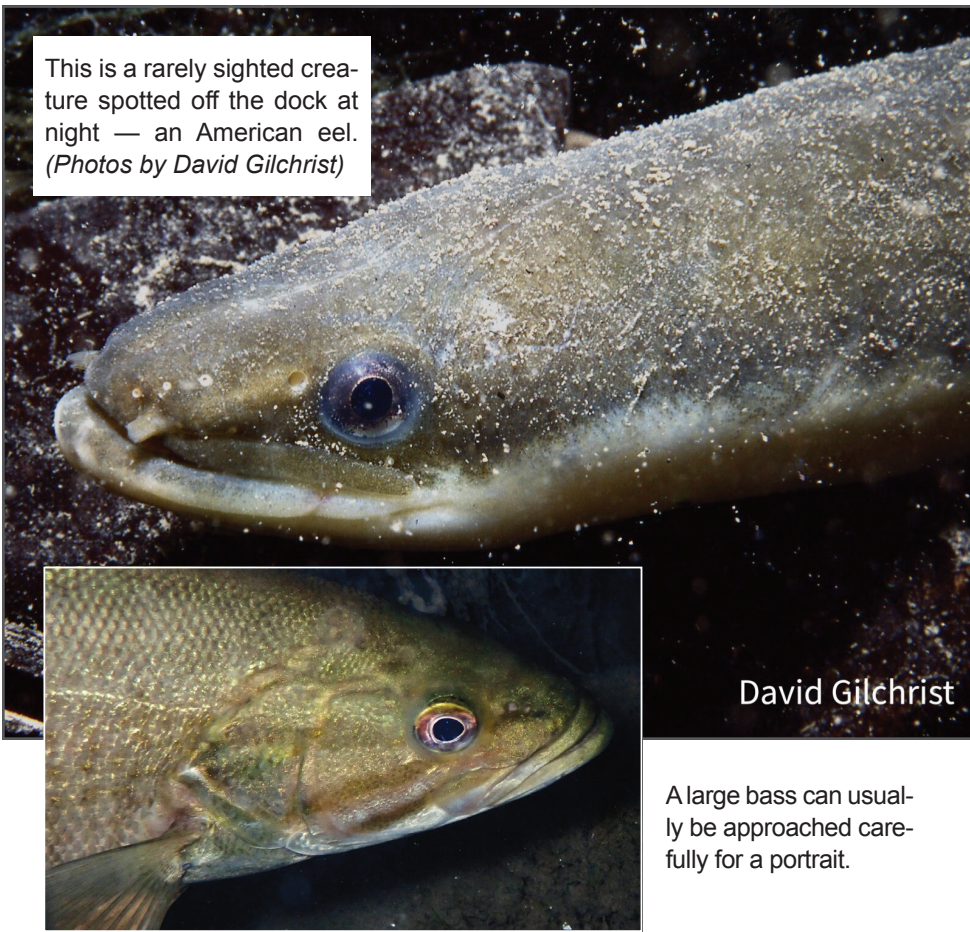
on such dives, making it a worthwhile evening pursuit for divers.

Over the years we have witnessed the introduction of invasive species — zebra mussels and round gobies to the freshwater aquatic ecosystem in the Great Lakes. These aquatic invaders have certainly proven to be a massive problem and they are very noticeable in the river. Gobies are the dominant species of fish observed on dives there and most, if not all the bottom of the river is covered by zebra mussels,

wherever they can attach themselves.

Some species of diving ducks, cormorants and others appear to eat both of these invasive species, but they don’t seem to have much of an impact on numbers.

On Monday, Sept. 26, from 1 to 4 p.m., Swim Drink Fish, the Great Lakes Ecoregion Network and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society will be at Navy Hall to talk about the Great Lakes in advance of a public forum. For more information go to <https://www.swimdrinkfish.ca>.



This is a rarely sighted creature spotted off the dock at night — an American eel. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

David Gilchrist

A large bass can usually be approached carefully for a portrait.

Local LETTERS

Poles installed in St. Davids present safety issue



In addition to the extensive series of no-parking signs at The Grist location, we would like to bring attention to a brand new and very dangerous road safety issue that has resulted from the installation of two rows of approximately four-foot poles that restrict active roadway lane travel. The new installation was completed in haste on Sept. 8.

This new road work traffic control installation is inviting head-on collisions and signifi-

cant risks associated with large truck and car conflicts. Somebody is going to die as a result of this. This situation needs to be elevated on a forthwith basis before somebody gets killed.

In addition, this new installation is another example of poor infrastructure planning, and lack of government transparency, not too dissimilar as how the issues associated with the proposed roundabout are being managed.

The region needs to explain

what is the purpose of the new installation, and if there is a need to widen the travelled lanes to eliminate the risk of head-on collisions.

We would be very happy assist the region and the town in developing a more safe roadway management design than what has currently evolved.

Two very concerned local citizens.

Peter and Stephanie Rusin
St. Davids

Intersections need to be made safer

On the bright sunny morning of Sept 13 at 8 a.m., while on my way to work, I needed to lower my visor due to the bright rising sun obstructing my view. I was driving east bound on Line 5 coming up to Concession 2.

When I stopped at the intersection, to my shock and horror, I was the second person at a crash scene where someone had driven the same route moments before me but obviously did not see the stop sign at the intersection and drove full speed across Concession 2, T-boning a north-bound vehicle which was also traveling at full speed.

The home owner at the corner was already on site checking on the two drivers. One driver was standing beside the road and appeared fine but the other was painfully crawling out of his overturned vehicle.

There was debris strewn all over the road. I quickly called 911 and stayed to warn oncoming traffic to slow down. I stayed until the police and

paramedics arrived.

Concession 2 is very busy in the morning and a short cut between NOTL and Niagara Falls. I stood on the edge of the road and waved my arms at passing cars, hoping to warn on-coming traffic to slow down. I almost become a victim as well as a young lady completely ignored my warning and drove full speed through the debris, sending pieces flying in all directions.

I had stepped way back and was lucky to not have been hit with anything. I can’t be sympathetic if her car sustained some damage!

My husband and I have lived in the area all of our lives and know the dangers of speeding cars on the concessions and people not stopping at the cross roads. We have lost a best friend and an extended family member this way. Before it was a four-way stop, I was T-boned at Four Mile Creek Road and Line 3 by a driver who drove through the Line 3 stop sign. Fortunately, we were not seri-

ously hurt but our vehicle was a write off.

I have witnessed cars driving right through these rural stop signs and luckily not hit anyone – but wonder if they were even aware of what they just did?

When driving on any of the concessions and even Creek Road, I always slow down and watch for other cars when nearing an intersection wondering if the car will stop or not.

Can I advocate and suggest that on each crossroad:

- Install larger stop signs with flashing red lights to warn drivers
- Add four-way stops
- Add rumble strips when coming to a stop sign

I know I have read about these suggestions in newspapers many times before and with the increased traffic due to increases in population, wine tasting tourists and bike riders can we revisit the issue and make it a municipal election issue?

Karen Ediger
NOTL

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ZALEPA
FOR LORD MAYOR

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Common sense
leadership for
Niagara-on-the-Lake



‘It’s the workers who make this all possible’

Continued from page 1

entire farm to vineyards, and as an Arterra supplier, he continues to grow several different varieties of wine grapes on both properties, including ice wine.

“I felt really clearly that this would be a great opportunity, and it would be crazy to turn it down,” he says of taking over his dad’s farm, and travelling in New Zealand made him realize how much he had waiting for him at home.

“We get along great,” says

Ben, referring to the family members operating the Niven Road farm, “but I have a piece of my own now. We have our little piece of heaven here with our kids, and we really appreciate it.”

“It’s the lifestyle we chose,” he explains. “We live a little differently — we live off the land. We really try to just do everything ourselves and be self-sufficient, and that’s what I’m trying to teach my kids.”

He and his wife Pam have four children, aged six to 10,

all attending St. Davids Public School, and she works at home with him — helping to run the kids to all their sports keeps them both busy. She has a master’s degree after attending Brock University and then a university in Britain, and may one day pursue her goal of working in the area of criminal justice, helping children.

Ben coaches hockey and lacrosse, and remembers how much he enjoyed sports as a kid, with his dad coaching.

When Ben went to Col.

John Butler on East and West Line, “I was always told there had been a Froese at Butler from the day it opened.” That continued until the day it closed, he added.

One of his kids just finished a project at school, he says, on the history of Pam’s family. Her mother Wendy was from a generation of farmers — it’s her family that is represented on the Clark Family Vineyard label on Peller and Trius Wines. Pam, he says, “is a seventh generation granddaughter of Col. John Butler, so she has roots here even deeper than mine.”

He considers their two farm properties the perfect size for them, allowing them to focus on quality, with a small group of people helping.

He stresses the importance of his five workers from Jamaica, men he considers friends, men he has worked with since



Ben Froese with Deon, Chapolin and Mark on his St. Davids farm. (Denis Cahill)

he started farming.

Before he married and had a family, he says, he used to play dominoes with them, eat pizza and wings, and work along side them every day. Now, he starts every morning by heading to their house to discuss what they are going to do for the day. “We’re always together. It’s those guys who make this possible for me,” he stresses. “I’m just steering the ship.” He also has a Vietnamese couple who live in Niagara Falls and help out on the farm.

Ben says James “was such a good father to me. I feel I got a whole lifetime worth of knowledge and encouragement and blessing from those short years I had with him.”

Losing his father at such a young age made him strong, and that experience, along with his faith in God, and the work ethic his father taught him, “made me choose the steps I’m taking today.”

He and Pam share that experience — she lost her father, Joel Murray, in a horrible work accident at GM, when she was in her first year of high school.

“We think about that all the time. Our kids don’t have a grandfather. That taught us to be thankful every single day. I know I could go tomorrow. Losing my dad at such an early age gives me reason to be thankful for every little thing.”

They are both very passionate about the town, and are grateful to live and work in NOTL. And Ben says he’s also very passionate about farming. “If I do something, I go all out. And we’re just one of the younger generation that’s doing it, trying to be mindful of the environment and making it work.”

The young people his age, bringing up their families and giving back to the community, have their parents to thank for setting a good example, he says.

He speaks of the baby boomer generation as “an amazing group of people who worked hard to make this community what it is,” and have passed that on to their kids.

He also speaks of other farmers who have been mentors — Kevin Watson, who took over his farm at a young age after his father died, Doug Hernder, Albrecht Seeger, all three of them Grape Kings, and other “great farmers who set a good example for us.”

Many of his friends have had to move out of town to buy houses and find jobs, and he says he’s fortunate to be one of a core of his generation who has been able to stay and bring up a family here. “There are a lot of people who would love to come back, and sometimes we take it for granted,” he says. “I don’t want to ever take it for granted.”

A Grape King, says the Grape Growers of Ontario, is chosen for being an “exemplary grower,” and also someone who will be an ambassador for Ontario grape growers.

Ben says it’s an honour for him and his family, but stresses again, “what is most important to me is the workers. This wouldn’t happen without them.”



Ben Froese and his wife Pam on their St. Davids farm, with Lucas, Hunter, James and Tessa. (Denis Cahill)



Niagara-on-the-Lake
Rotary
Club



Porch Pick-up Food Drive

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



We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held last year - it was 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 24, 2022**, 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 | • Canned Gravy (turkey or chicken or Gravy mix | • Canned green beans |
| • Cranberry Sauce | • Applesauce or Canned Fruit | • Canned peas |
| • Cranberry &/or Apple Juice | • Canned Corn | |
| • Canned Pineapple | | |

GENERAL ITEMS REQUIRED ON AN ON-GOING BASIS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| • Canned Tomatoes or Tomato Paste | • Tomato (Pasta) Sauce | • Beans (kidney, chick-peas, lentils, black, white, dried pea, other) canned or bagged |
| • Canned Tuna | • Canned Ham, Corned Beef or Spam | • Canned Salmon |
| • Canned mixed vegetables | • Flakes of Ham, Chicken or Turkey | • Canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli |
| • Habitant Soups | • Canned beef or chicken stew | • Canned Baked Beans |
| • Chunky Soups | • Campbell's Soups - any kind | • Kraft Dinner Mac and Cheese |
| • Soda (Soup) Crackers | • Bottled Juice/Juice boxes - any kind | • Sidekicks & Mr. Noodle packets |
| • Snack Crackers - any kind | • Cereal - any kind | • Cookies - any kind |
| • Granola Bars | • Jams - any flavour | • Oatmeal |
| • Peanut Butter | • Ketchup/Mustard/Mayonnaise/Relish | • Cake Mixes (any kind) |
| • Rice | • Soap / Shampoo / Conditioner | • Coffee/Tea (any kind) |
| • Jello - any flavour | | • Paper Towels/Kleenex |
| • Toothpaste/Toothbrushes | | |


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Disero: On a good path, but more work to be done

Betty Disero
Candidate for Lord Mayor

I have been involved in municipal volunteerism and leadership since 1985; initially as a Toronto councillor (1985 to 2003), and more recently as a town councillor from 2014 to 2018, and lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake since then.

Throughout my career, I have demonstrated impeccable integrity, hard-working, proven leadership through an inclusive, pragmatic and conciliatory approach to planning, and solving problems in managing your municipal government.

I attend many events

in the community and belong to a long list of distinguished organizations: NOTL Rotary, Shaw Guild, NOTL Town Ambassadors, Friends of Fort George, NOTL Historical Society, the NOTL Horticultural Society and the NOTL Social Club. I am a full-time lord mayor.

My priorities for council are financial accountability, finalizing our vision and continuous improvement to town service infrastructure.

I have increased and will continue to increase the capital reserve to help protect taxpayers from unforeseen expenditures. I have put controls and spending freezes in place until expenditures

are justified through business cases and increasing revenue streams like the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) to ensure tourism is helping to pay for tourism infrastructure.

I am near completion on our planning objectives to protect both our natural and built form heritage, encouraging to maintain a village feel in all of our settlement areas, and protecting our vibrant farms. The Tourism Master Plan is also set to come out next spring. These plans must be looked at in an integrated way, not in isolation.

When the Glendale District Plan was approved, it plotted out the areas to protect greenspace, places of natural heritage and spaces for public amenities first. This was a good process. Our work is continuing on the Glendale Secondary Plan. It will include a main street with cafes, shops and bike paths. I will be collaborating with the Region to ensure it is not over-developed.

I, together with town councillors, started a process to determine what should be built on the old hospital site. It is a significant piece of land and will have a great im-



Betty Disero

pact on our community. I will be engaging with the community, soliciting input on proposals.

I will continue to improve parks (we improved seven parks this term) together with our community partners. We must look at increasing activity for our young families.

Healthcare will form a large discussion this coming term. I have received

a commitment from Niagara Health System for a new nurse practitioner for primary care who will serve residents in Niagara-on-the-Lake who do not have a doctor.

Although council approved a project called Tapestry - assisted living for seniors - it did not proceed due to the impacts from COVID. I, together with town council,

must now search more diligently for an alternate solution.

We have come a long way. We are on a good path. We must now finish what we started.

Each candidate for lord mayor was asked to submit 500 words telling readers a little about themselves, their priorities, and their message to voters.



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Transparency, accountability among Goettler's priorities

Vaughn Goettler
Candidate for Lord Mayor

After having attained three degrees from both McMaster University and University of Toronto I became a successful entrepreneurial businessman. Those who know me are aware that I come from inauspicious beginnings and that I worked hard for what I achieved. I am truly blessed to have achieved the level of success that I have experienced, but it didn't

happen by chance. Rather, I planned it and worked for it.

I know for certain that I have the education, skills, ability and experience to address the challenges facing NOTL today.

I subscribe to Hoda A. Kamel's analysis of how a business person melds with a politician:

"In business you have to understand your clients. In politics, you have to understand your constituents, in exactly the same way. Ulti-

mately, to be relevant in both business and politics, you have to be able to appeal to the needs of your target market." "A good marketer always understands the environment in which the business operates. A good marketer understands the economics of the business, the regulations and rules surrounding the venture, the social environment, along with demographics, and lastly, the technological environment. A successful politician also needs to do the same amount of research to understand the environment in which they operate. They need to know what is going on around them at all times. Change is inevitable and one has to have their pulse on the environment."

As lord mayor, my mandate would achieve success based upon the following:

Working as a team

I will be a lord mayor who leads and works collaboratively, and with respect for council members and town staff. Council is elected democratically by our residents to represent all con-

stituents. Constituents are heard through their council members, including the lord mayor.

Transparency

Our town deserves accountable and transparent leadership. Whether it's our town's finances; tourism strategy (including parking solutions); legal disputes; St. Davids' round-about; obstructive posts on Four Mile Creek Road; Glendale District Plan; the so-called 'spill' on Line 6; the Traffic Plan, or our negotiations with the region and province, etc. Our residents deserve to know the whole picture, and should expect competent, effective decision-making with sustainable strategies. These issues need to be understood thoroughly and negotiated wisely with the various stakeholders, and then communicated openly with residents.

Preserving and enhancing NOTL's heritage, embracing wise progress

The history of NOTL is very important to me and to my family. We live in, and respect, our heritage home and our heritage town. The pace of development has quickened in recent years. Although necessary, progress needs to be managed wisely and consistently. Development fees should go towards services



Vaughn Goettler

and amenities based on the assessment of our communities' priorities, into the future.

Financial accountability

NOTL has two councillors on regional council. As lord mayor, one of these positions would fall to me. I would be strongly active on regional council, looking out for the interests of all NOTL communities and our natural resources. I would ensure that residents are informed of how 60 per cent of their tax dollars paid to the region result in relevant services and amenities.

Sustainability and tourism

Our town needs a tourism and growth strategy that is built to last for future generations. Past generations have worked diligently to build our town into what it is, and we need to respect that. However, we cannot continue to erode our town's unique identity and risk our sovereignty with unwise policy. Tourism must work for tourists and residents alike.

Each candidate for lord mayor was asked to submit 500 words telling readers a little about themselves, their priorities, and their message to voters.



NOTL VOTES

October 24, 2022

TOP PRODUCER



August 2022
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Royal LePage NRC Broker / Manager **Ryan Johnstone** is proud to recognize **Peter Domarchuk** as top producer in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Royal LePage Office for August 2022. This Summer has been a turbulent time in the housing market. Peter's success during this period is because of his focus on intentionally over delivering on wholehearted service to our customers. I also appreciate Peter's passion for supporting local Niagara-on-the-Lake businesses, and organizations like Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. Surgite!



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Zalepa promises leadership for council, community

Gary Zalepa
Candidate for Lord Mayor

I have been a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake since moving here as a teenager. I was a town councillor from 2008 to 2014, and have been the town's regional councillor for the past four years. I have served on many committees, to name a few: chair, NOTL urban design committee; chair, Region of Niagara budget committee of the whole; chair, Region of Niagara housing committee.

Following high school I studied business and political science at Brock University. My wife Tammy and I live in the Old Town

with our two sons, Nathan and Benjamin. I have more than 30 years business and volunteer experience. I have owned a local real estate brokerage, managed a large corporate firm in Toronto and now work from my home office for a national real estate company as vice-president of brand expansion.

I have volunteered in many capacities, including referee and coach for NOTL Minor Hockey; coach of NOTL Minor Soccer; board member, Music Niagara; RiverBrink Art Museum; chair, 809 Newark Squadron sponsor committee, Royal Canadian Air Cadets and St.

Mark's Church.

I have always found ways to get involved, work with others and make things better. In my professional life and community involvement I gravitated to opportunities which built character and experience. My business experience and time on town council and regional council, including the various committee and boards, allows me to positively impact the community. I am experienced in leading functional meetings and ensuring healthy conversations. All participants need to be engaged, feeling that they contribute, and make a difference.

I believe that public engagement in our community is damaged, and residents' confidence in council is at risk. During this term, the town has witnessed a council member resignation and multiple councillors are not wishing to seek re-election. They cite lengthy, unproductive meetings and personal time commitments. Several senior staff have left town employment or been removed. This is a symptom of poor governance.

During my past years on councils, I was able to voice my opinion in a fair



Gary Zalepa



NOTL VOTES

October 24, 2022

and respectful environment, unconcerned about being isolated or bullied. A difference of opinion was accepted, in fact it made for better decisions and did not become a personal character issue. Today we have a dysfunctional culture that is harmful to our communities, damaging the Niagara-on-the-Lake image and impacting our sustainability. I promise to deliver leadership to council and the community, leadership that will listen, engage in the issues that we will face, and treat opinions and public with respect and fairness.

I will lead council to identify its intentions in a collaborative strategic plan, developed at the beginning of our term, bringing sustainability and focus back to local government.

Each candidate for lord mayor was asked to submit 500 words telling readers a little about themselves, their priorities, and their message to voters.



YOUR NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE LUXURY LEADERS

Based on transactions in Niagara On The Lake reported to ITSO MLS® in 2021

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"We must never forget those who sacrificed everything for our freedom. Much appreciation to the Legion for all they do."

Betty Disero

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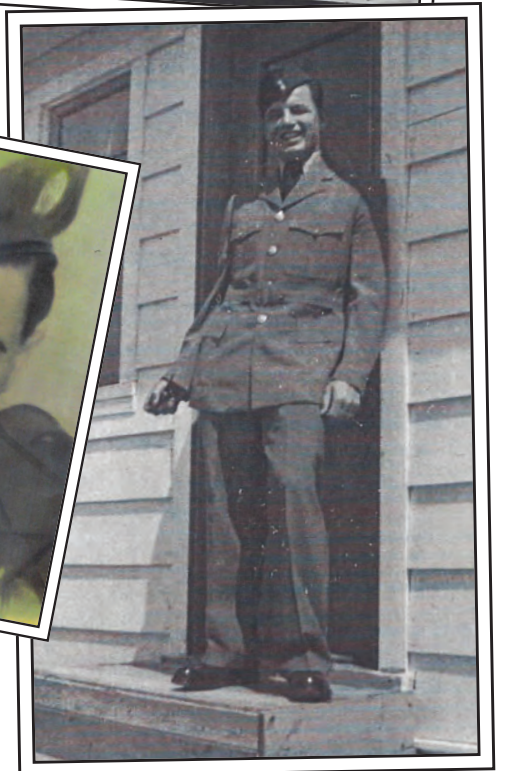
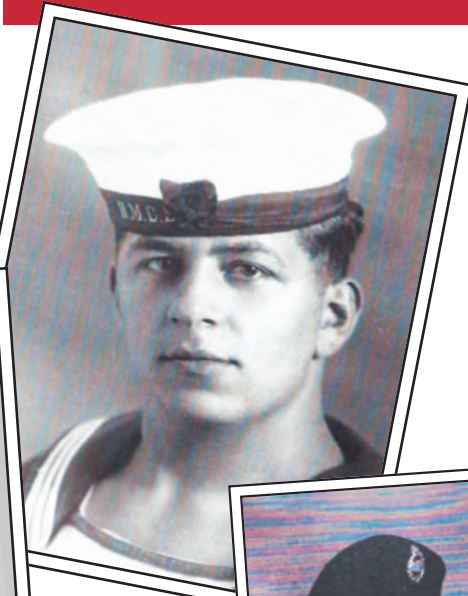


Decoration Day Service

Sunday, September 25th
2pm

Lakeshore Cemetery

Decoration Day refers to when our branch
places a flag on the grave of each veteran
buried in our community. These are
the heroes that survived conflict and
returned home.



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Legion service honours Queen Elizabeth II

Penny Coles
The Local

While people lined the streets of London Monday morning, and around the

world others were glued to TVs to say their final goodbye and see Queen Elizabeth II laid to rest, in Niagara-on-the-Lake a small crowd gathered in

the drizzle for a Royal Canadian Legion service in her memory. Before long, the rain stopped, the umbrellas went down, and about 100

residents paid their respects to their monarch of 70 years. Rev. Sheldon Kofsky led the service with bible readings he said were

favourites of the Queen, including the 23rd Psalm. Last Post was played, two minutes of silence observed, the Canadian flag at the cenotaph lowered

and raised again, and Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Legion Branch 124 present Al Howse spoke to

Continued on page 15




Lord Mayor Betty Disero speaks to the crowd at a service organized by Royal Canadian Legion member Al Howse and led by Rev. Sheldon Kofsky.



Legion member Stan Harrington lowers the flag for two minutes of silence, then raises it again. (Photos by Penny Coles)

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'She defined service for us all'

Continued from page 14

the gathering.

"Our hearts were filled with great sorrow learning of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on Sept 8, 2022," said Disero.

Through her years on the throne, from 1952 until the year of her 70th anniversary of her reign — longer than her four predecessors put together and a milestone that will forever be remembered — she epitomized the essence of

public service, Disero said.

"As the first Capital of Upper Canada, the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is eternally grateful for its rich ties to the British Crown. NOTL and the Royal Family have had strong ties for decades. In these times of

grief, it is our responsibility to offer support and deepest condolences to the Royal Family, the people of the United Kingdom, and those who unite the Commonwealth."

Howse said although the Queen's role in Canada was a ceremonial position, "she was, nevertheless, a great example for us."

On her 21st birthday, she declared "that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be de-

voted to your service.' She defined service for all of us," Howse said.

"She understood military service, and what it meant to the soldier, the family and the local community," as did the Prince of Wales, her sons and grandsons.

"Her Majesty was the example of integrity. She lived a very ethical life, following her faith and her understanding of her position." She was diplomat-

ic in difficult times as the Commonwealth changed to meet modern needs, said Howse, and her stoic style kept her above politics, but she also had a keen understanding of current affairs.

"God bless the memory of Queen Elizabeth II."

After a benediction by Kofsky, and the laying of a wreath, the service ended with the crowd singing, many for the first time, God Save The King.



Legion member Al Howse laid a wreath honouring Queen Elizabeth II at the Queen Street cenotaph. (Penny Coles)



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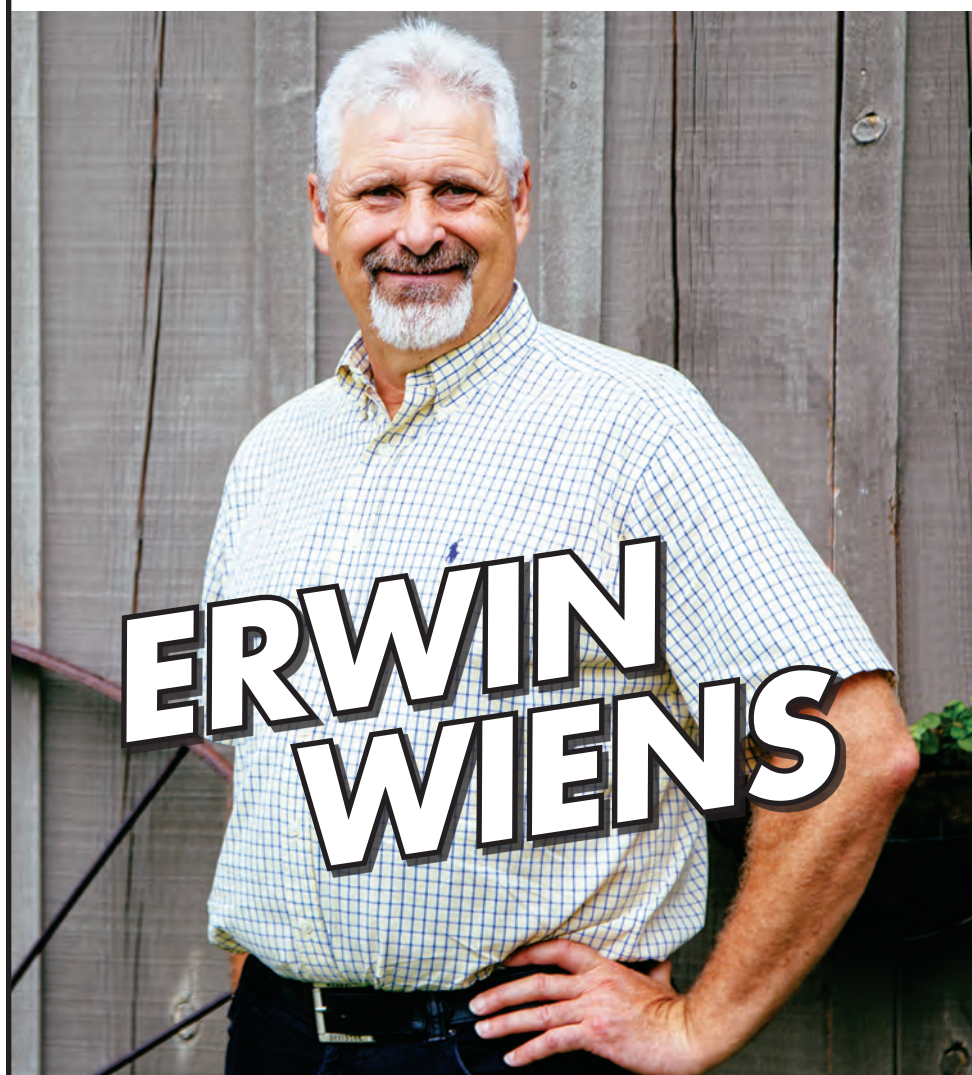
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Conversation with Queen at Queen's Park 'comfortable'

Penny Coles
The Local

Allan Waxman, a former member of the Governor General Horse Guard, shared something with Queen Elizabeth II — their love of horses.

On July 6, 2010, the Queen was at Queen's Park in Toronto, wrapping up a nine-day visit to Canada by unveiling a plaque commemorating the 150th anniversary of the dedication of Queen's Park, which was named in honour of Queen Victoria.

Waxman had taken a bouquet of red and white roses, which happened to match her dress, and when he called out "God Save the

Queen," she made her way over to him, he said.

His father, who was in the Royal Air Force, had just passed away, and he spoke of that to her. He also told her he loved horses, and his grandfather had bought him his first horse. "She laughed and said her grandfather had bought her first pony," says Waxman.

The conversation was just a few minutes, but it seemed much longer, he said, and the crowd must have agreed — he got a round of applause from those nearby for being able to have a conversation with the Queen. "She made me feel so comfortable."

When he picked up the flowers to take with him, he said, "I felt it in my heart, that it was meant to be."

He was able to get a great photo of her holding the flowers, and two years later, for her Diamond Jubilee, he sent her a copy of it in a nice frame.

In return he received a letter from Buckingham Palace, signed by her Lady-in-Waiting, thanking him. "The Queen was touched by your thought for her at this time," it said, and she was pleased to be reminded of her time visiting Canada.

Waxman, who works at the LCBO on Queen Street, has the letter, framed, along with a photo of himself on his horse Troy, and the photo of the Queen when she spoke to him in Toronto.

The photos are there for members of the public to see, he said.

He is pleased to think she is now with Prince Philip, her husband of 74 years, he said, "and her spirit will endure."


Attending Queen's funeral



Katie Reimer invited some of her neighbours to attend a Queen's funeral gathering at 6 a.m. Monday morning, wearing their best funeral clothes, including hats and gloves. Tea was served in china cups, along with the Queen's favourite foods: smoked salmon sandwiches with crusts cut off, scones with clotted cream and strawberry jam, jam sandwiches, and chocolates. "It was as close to being there as we could be," says Reimer. The women did the same for Prince Harry and Megan Markle's wedding, with high tea and champagne. The ladies at the gathering were Donna Seymour, Ada Dunatav, Carole Berlove, Donna Turner, Katie Reimer, Hedi Kopeschny, Marb Colao, and Syl Wiens. (Photo supplied)



When Allan Waxman went to Queen's Park hoping to see the Queen, he took a bouquet of flowers. He couldn't know how perfectly they would match her dress. (Penny Coles)



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Allan Waxman sent a photo he had taken to the Queen, and received a reply from Buckingham Palace. His photo of the Queen is on display at the LCBO on Queen Street, where he works.





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Local ARTS & CULTURE

Reading at Ravine introduces new Foster play

Danny and Delilah a love/dislike relationship

Mike Balsom
The Local

Ravine Vineyard in St. Davids will play host to Canada's most prolific playwright on Oct. 5 when Norm Foster premieres a new play, *Danny and Delilah*, in a lunchtime reading.

With almost 70 plays in his oeuvre, Foster, an Officer of the Order of Canada, is also known as the most produced playwright in the country. Each year an average 150 productions of his plays are mounted worldwide. The Foster Festival, based in St. Catharines, is a professional theatre company dedicated to his work.

Foster had recently completed a play called *My Hero*, about a 40-year-old man living with his mother, when he decided to flip the script for his next one and have a 40-year-old woman living with her father.

"I threw in a young student who becomes their ward, and then a next-door neighbour, and that's how the story developed," Foster says of *Danny and Delilah*.

Danny is a 72-year-old curmudgeon and Toronto Maple Leafs fan whose daughter Sherry, a guidance counsellor, urges him to take in Delilah, a high school student who needs a place to stay when her father returns to Pakistan. Despite their differences in age, culture and outlook, Danny and Delilah form a bond.

"It's really like a love/dislike relationship," Foster laughs, on the line from his New Brunswick home. "Not love/hate. Sometimes it's uncomfortable, and sometimes it's comfortable. And the daughter, Sherry, is rarely home, so

it's usually up to Danny and Delilah to sort things out themselves."

Foster Festival artistic producer Emily Oriold says *Danny and Delilah* is an example of Foster stretching himself into new territories while maintaining his trademark comedic chops.

"They strike up a really unusual friendship," says Oriold about the title characters, "but a really sweet one. They learn each other's culture, they learn a lot from each other. It's a really beautiful story. He's really examining how different cultures interact with each other and teaching his audience about that. It's inspiring."

Oriold, who grew up in Wroxeter, a small village in Huron County, fell in love with Foster's writing when she saw his play *The Melville Boys* at Blyth Festival in 1997, shortly after graduating from high school.

Written in 1984 and known as a modern Canadian classic, Foster's comedy shines the spotlight on two brothers whose weekend plans are disrupted by the arrival of two sisters. They of course pair up, and much laughter and many tender moments ensue in a play that continues to define the former radio broadcaster's style. It was, in fact, the success of *The Melville Boys*, the second play he wrote, that convinced Foster to leave his job as a morning radio host at Fredericton's CIHI radio to write full-time.

Oriold went on to study dramatic arts at the University of Waterloo, where she says she was fortunate enough to learn almost as much about the business side of theatre as she did about acting. One of her first post-grad roles was in a travelling production

of the musical *The Fantasticks*, which she also produced.

A few years into her career in drama, she realized that Foster's work wasn't being celebrated sufficiently. So in 2014, she wrote to the playwright with the idea of starting a festival dedicated to his plays. To her surprise, he loved the idea, and the Foster Festival was born two years later.

"I really respected his work," says Oriold, "and I was pretty darned determined to do it. I really felt there had to be a festival dedicated to his work. We got along really well when we first met, and we've just continued it from there."

And with *Danny and Delilah*, the creative and professional relationship that has grown between playwright and producer has found its way into Foster's writing.

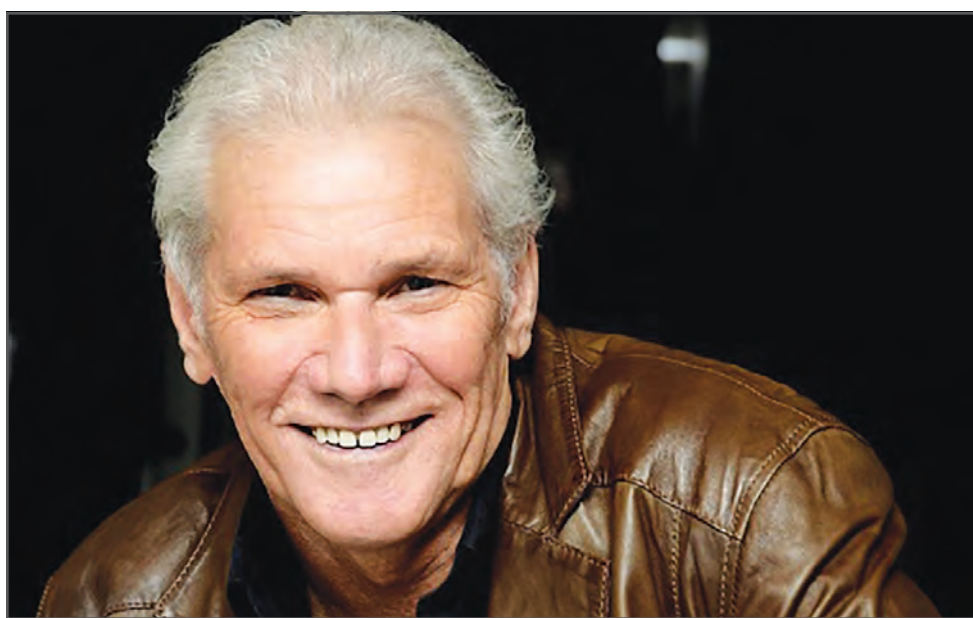
"I had Emily in mind when I wrote it," Foster says of Oriold, who will read the part of Sherry at Ravine. "I know Emily is an actress, but she's sort of gotten away from it, and she's really good. When I'm writing for her, I'm picturing her saying the lines. If it doesn't seem right for her to say the lines, I think maybe she would say them in a different way."

"Norm had done that before for a few friends," says an incredulous Oriold, "but I never entertained the idea that he would think of me when writing a part. To think it's father/daughter, that means a lot to me about our working relationship and how much we've become friends over the years."

At Ravine, as at Ridley College's Mandeville Theatre the following evening, Foster and Oriold will be joined by well-known Toronto-born actor Sheila McCarthy and director Marcia Kash. Oriold is excited about the upcoming public reading, a big part



Foster Festival artistic producer Emily Oriold will have a role in the reading. (Foster Festival photo)



Playwright Norm Foster likes to hear early reactions from audiences before staging a new play. (Foster Festival photo)

of Foster's creative process.

"In the workshops, actors and directors will help give feedback on his work," Oriold tells The Local. "He listens for the rhythms. Norm writes very rhythmically, listening more than watching. The next phase is to do it in front of a public audience so he can hear where they're reacting."

"I trust the audience's reaction," Foster confirms. "I don't say 'they didn't laugh at that, they must have missed it.' I know they didn't laugh at it because it wasn't funny. It's very important to have the audience in the room so I can hear it."

Following the readings

in Niagara, Foster will make his final tweaks to the script to ready it for production. Oriold holds out hope that the festival she began with Foster's blessing will present *Danny and Delilah* in its on-stage version some time in the future. But she doesn't foresee herself playing Sherry on stage any time soon.

"I wish, but it won't be me," she says, wistfully. "My producing duties are quite large, so to do a full run is difficult for me. But this is a great opportunity for me to stretch my acting skills and to work with Norm."

As one might imagine with Canada's most prolific

playwright, Foster's visit to St. Davids comes after a trip to Orangeville to open *They're Found in Trees*. Following *Danny and Delilah*, he's off to Beverly Hills for the premiere of *A Clean Brush*, a play about two house painters. And he'll begin looking for a taker for another new play called *Bridge Narrows*.

The Oct. 5 reading takes place in Ravine Vineyard's Event Centre, with lunch served at 12:30 p.m., and the reading to begin right after dessert service. A question and answer period with Foster and the company will follow.

For tickets visit <https://thenormfostertheatrefestival.thundertix.com/>

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Notice of Public Information Centre

Queenston – St. Davids Wastewater Servicing Strategy (RR81)

Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Study

Niagara Region is undertaking a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) study to assess alternatives for the wastewater servicing strategy in the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant service area. The existing wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1989 and has since undergone equipment replacements and various maintenance activities while continuing to service the village of Queenston. Further upgrades are necessary if the plant is to continue operating efficiently.

This study examined two servicing options:

- Upgrade the existing Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Decommission the existing wastewater treatment plant and redirect flows through a new sewage pumping station and forcemain to either of the sewage pumping stations in St. Davids

After a detailed evaluation of the two options, the most feasible solution is to upgrade the existing plant at the current location. No capacity increases, new facilities or land are required for this solution. The work involves rehabilitating existing facilities to effectively treat flows up to the wastewater treatment plant’s current average rated capacity of 0.5 megalitres per day and improving site access.

The Process

Although the recommended solution is categorized as a Schedule “A+” project in accordance with the approved Municipal Engineers Association Class Environmental Assessment process, the Region is continuing to follow the process for Schedule “B” projects. This includes the completion of phase 1 and 2 for this process. As such, the study provides a definition of the problem(s) / opportunities associated with the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant and Queenston – St. Davids wastewater systems, develops and evaluates alternative solutions, determines the most feasible solutions and identifies methods to avoid or minimize impacts to the community and natural environment.

Get Involved

Niagara Region encourages the public and stakeholders to actively participate in this planning process. Information about the project will be available on Niagara Region’s website as part of Public Information Centre #1. You can learn about how this project will contribute to Niagara’s overall growth plan, key servicing issues being considered, and how you can have your voice heard.

Public Information Centre #1 Details

A presentation and information regarding the study will be made available on the project website (access using web address below) beginning Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. This will be followed by a two-week period to submit Public Information Centre #1 related comments to the project team. Responses to all comments will be provided on the project website following the two-week review period.

niagararegion.ca/projects/queenston-st-davids

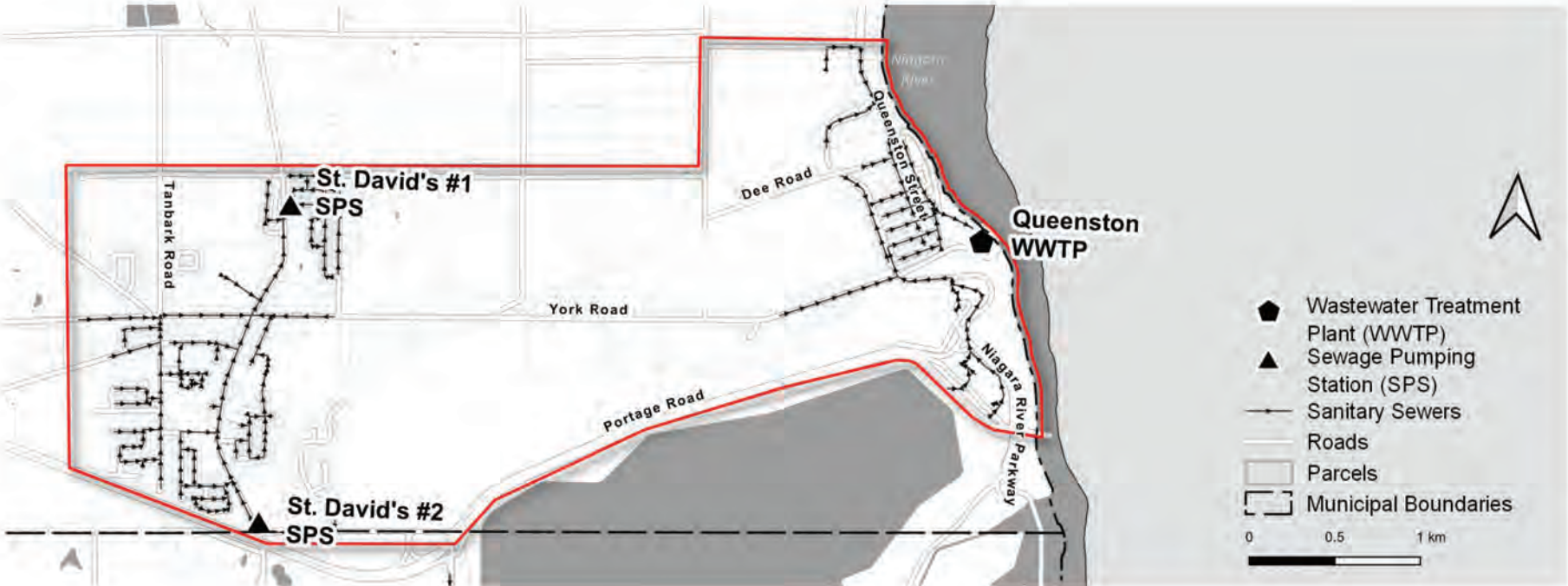
Upon completion of the study, a Project File Report documenting the study process will be prepared and made available for public review and comment. Anyone who wishes to comment on or to be involved in this study should indicate their interest, preferably in writing to the project team.

Robert Stret, P.Eng., PMP®
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Water-Wastewater Engineering
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Tourists help Ollie train to be therapy dog

Pamela Nowena
Special to The Local

I was convinced our three-year-old King Charles Cavalier Spaniel, Ollie, would make a wonderful therapy dog. Thirteen pounds of love and confidence, he was sure to bring comfort and a smile to residents of long-term care facilities, patients at hospitals, and stressed young people heading into exams or a challenging athletic event.

But when I contacted Therapeutic Paws of Canada, an impressive organization that certifies volunteers to provide pet therapy in local communities, I realized their standards were very high. I worked through the form-filling, reference-gathering, vet certification, phone interview and application for a police check. The only remaining hurdle was Ollie's in-person evaluation. As we were to learn, this was an intensive two-hour examination where every possible stressful and tempting scenario was presented to the dog. To pass, he would have to remain calm and friendly in every situation, and I would have to remain in control.

Ollie hadn't had any formal training since he was a puppy, and though I was convinced he had the right



Gemma helps Ollie learn to help others. (Photo supplied)

temperament for the job, I knew he needed help to become his best and calmest self. Enter trainer Julie Clark, and her retired therapy dog Gemma. Julie donated her time and expertise to help train Ollie. Gemma is a German shepherd/border collie mix — a beautiful, calm, and gracious lady. She would teach Ollie a lot. While Ollie has the new king's name in

his breed, Gemma has the personality of the late queen. Julie suggested we take the dogs to Queen Street to interact with the tourists, so on two balmy September afternoons, Julie, Gemma, Ollie, and I walked NOTL's beautiful downtown, asking strangers to help us train Ollie. Julie watched for people who smiled at the dogs, which was almost

everyone. She looked for people in wheelchairs, people using walkers or canes, and exuberant people who were happy to follow whatever instructions she gave them. Apart from a couple of young women who were racing to their expired parking meter, everyone we approached said yes. We asked people to pet Ollie, speak loudly to him, run at him

from behind, shake their canes at him. We met people from many American states, from Britain, and other Canadian provinces. Everyone told us how they loved our town and how lucky we were to live here.

I remember one elderly couple. The man walked with two canes and appeared very frail. He smiled at the dogs, and we stopped. His

worried wife told us her husband loved dogs and was sad they could no longer own one. But she was nervous our dogs might cause him to fall. We could see she was conflicted because her husband so wanted to visit with our pups. In the end, Julie kept Gemma well back, and I lifted Ollie to be petted. I will never forget the expression of pure joy on that man's face as he stroked Ollie's long ears and spoke gently to him. Here was the reason Ollie should be a therapy dog.

The merchants on the street were also amazing. We asked several stores if we could bring the dogs in so Ollie could become accustomed to different surfaces, rooms, and crowded spaces. Again, everyone asked said yes.

I am so grateful to live in a town where people visit and bring their smiles and good spirits with them. I'm grateful for the merchants who serve them and who support the local community with kindness. The tourists are right. We are lucky to live here. And we are lucky to have the tourists.

Ollie passed his evaluation. Now if only I pass the police check.

To learn more about Therapeutic Paws of Canada go to <http://www.tpoc.ca/>

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The Scout Brigade of Fort George is a two-night, 1812-themed scout camp, teaching participants about life as a soldier in Niagara. Youth from the Canadian Cub Scouts and the Boy Scouts of America camp on the Commons, take part in activities in Fort George, and conduct mock battles with cap guns. The traditional parade down Queen Street to the cenotaph did not take place this year, but Coun. Gary Burroughs suggested at Monday night's committee of the whole meeting that the town work with the camp organizers to ensure the parade, part of the town's history that goes back to the Scout Jubilee of the '50s, be held next year. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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Lecture series on climate change offered at library

Mike Balsom
The Local

While using the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library as his work space nearly every day pre-COVID, Dr. Adam Martin, an assistant professor in the department of physical and environmental sciences at the University of Toronto, felt he should give back to the community.

His chance to do that begins next Tuesday evening, when the 42-year-old resident of the Old Town begins a series of three talks on climate change called *The Changing World*.

"I have a couple of lectures, introductory environmental science and climate change lessons, that my undergraduates really find interesting," he explains. "And I thought these would be really good, publicly accessible topics that might be of interest to people in the community."

He worked with Debbie Krause, the library's community engagement coordinator, to broaden his lectures to appeal to all ages and all levels of expertise. He promises there is no previous scientific training needed to understand the themes.

The first session in the speaker series focuses on the causes of climate change. In a broad sense, says Martin, it comes down to human activity. On Tuesday, he'll fill in the gap with the science that backs up that conclusion.

"In its most simple terms, it's the increase we've seen in

greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere," says the Welland native. "The science involves tracking that. Where are the increases coming from and what are the activities that have led to them? There are some natural processes that create gases. But the science is quite clear - human activity is what's leading to big spikes in CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere."

Martin acknowledges the struggles professors such as he have had convincing climate change deniers about their concerns. He feels that some progress has been made in the past five years, though, and adds that events such as the speakers series are ideal for advancing the public's understanding of the issue.

"The experience of climate change," he says, "especially with wildfires, droughts, flooding and heatwaves, it's been so overwhelming. People are now living the experience of climate change. It's quite undeniable. That voice is starting to be minimized."

Lending credence to the scientific process is the fact that the incidents that have been taking place worldwide are now matching up with what climate scientists had predicted about 10 years ago.

"By extension," he says, "our predictions for the future of our climate are looking like they're pretty accurate."

The graduate of Welland Centennial Secondary School first became interested in what

he calls "the science of being outside" while earning a Bachelor's degree in physical geography at the University of Guelph.

"I really just wanted to work in nature," he says. "I wanted to find some kind of career path that let me do that."

An early job opportunity working on stream restoration in Fort Erie showed him that he could find his way onto that path. He became progressively more interested in forest ecology, specifically that of tropical forests.

He pursued a Master's in the forest conservation program at the University of Toronto and followed that up with a PhD in 2012 under his U of T mentor, Sean Thomas, in that school's faculty of forestry.

Martin teaches in the Centre for Critical Development Studies in Toronto. His primary interest is in how differences in morphological, chemical and physical characteristics of plants influence the structure and function of agro-ecosystems. His research focuses on the functional traits of leaves and how the interaction between crops can lead to resilience, taking him across Central America, the Caribbean and southeast Asia.

"We measure things about plants," he explains in layperson terms. "What their leaves look like, the chemistry of their wood, for example. All of those little things tell you how the plant is going to respond to its environment. We characterize those

traits of plants in much more detail, and this tells us a lot about the conditions they are best suited to grow in."

Through his research, focusing primarily on coffee agro-systems, he and his collaborators have been able to discover the benefits of diversifying agricultural systems. Planting different species and varieties with different genetic makeups in a single system, they found, can aid in resistance and the ability to rebound from climate shocks.

Adam and his wife Dana moved to NOTL in the summer of 2019 with their two young sons. Since settling here, he has been a guest speaker on a couple of Jane's Walks (named in honour of urban activist Jane Jacobs) in the Chautauqua area. He has also begun expanding his focus to include the impact of climate change on vineyards.

Lecture number two in the library series, scheduled for Oct. 27, focuses on what the future of our climate will look like.

"Overall, it depends on what our CO2 emission profile will look like in the future," he warns. "If we continue to emit at the rate we are, or if we increase our emissions, it will look pretty bad. If we see some mitigation, we have a chance of minimizing temperature increases. Generally, the science will tell us, no matter what we do, we are looking at increasing temperatures."

Along with that warming environment will come an in-



Dr. Adam Martin

crease in the melting rate of glaciers, which further contributes to a warming environment.

"I just saw some studies that certain continental glaciers in Antarctica and the Arctic are losing ice very, very quickly," he adds, "much more quickly than we anticipated. This is a real thing, and we are seeing real time observations of that."

The series wraps up on Nov. 29 with a talk entitled *Are We in the Midst of Earth's Sixth Mass Extinction?*

"It sounds like something of a shock term," Martin admits. "We'll talk that night about how, in biodiversity science, the thought that humans are triggering a mass extinction is actually rooted in science. Earth has a history of about 4.6 billion years. Life on Earth really took off about 500 million years ago. Over that history, we know from the fossil record that the Earth experienced five mass extinc-

tions, when biodiversity just dive-bombed."

The current rates of extinctions, he adds, are on par with what was seen in those five extinction events. The current evidence proves that certain species of trees, amphibians, mammals and aquatic life are experiencing extinction rates that haven't been seen for millions of years.

It's not all doom and gloom, though. Martin says a lot of work is being done in the areas of climate change resistance and resilience to buffer the potential eventuality of a human extinction.

"We have to address these environmental change issues," he says. "Maybe I'm too optimistic, but we are starting to see some change in behaviour."

The series of three one-hour talks promises to be informative and thought-provoking. For information and to register, visit notlpubliclibrary.libnet.info/events

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JOKE



What do you think of that new diner on the moon?

there really wasn't much atmosphere.

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Local News

Sept. 22 is the first official day of autumn! Enjoy the changing of the season and all the beauty autumn has to offer!

Hometown Happenings

By: Maanak Gandhi-Malhotra, 6

In July, me and my mom went to the St. Davids Lions Club Carnival. It was at the St Davids Public pool. We walked because it is close to our house. When we got there I met my friend Asher. Me and Asher went on rides. There was also games, raffles and a magician. The fair was lots of fun. I hope every kid goes to the fair.



Interview with Sophie

- Q. What are your hobbies?

A. My hobbies are soccer, art, and coding.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. When I grow up, I want to be a professional soccer player, a famous artist, and a teacher.

Q. What is your ideal day in NOTL?

A. My ideal day in NOTL is going out for little princess tea, then playing with my sister at the Old Town's playground.

Q. Why did you pick the art camp at the Pumphouse over any other summer camps?
- A. I picked art camp because this was my favourite summer camp I have ever been to.

Q. What did you like best about summer camp?

A. Painting on canvas and enjoying the paintings at the gallery.

Q. What was your favourite art piece you made at the camp?

A. My favourite art piece was the 3D landscape because I loved painting on uneven surfaces.

Q. What is your favourite thing about NOTL?
- A. My favourite place in NOTL is the Virgil arena where I play soccer with my dad.

Q. How would you change the world if you could?

A. I would not want COVID to be around anymore, and I would stop people from littering and hurting the planet.



Sophie, age 9

Niagara Pumphouse Art Camp

by Sophie, 9

I loved art camp. We worked on five different art projects per day. We made sculptures, we painted on canvas, made drawings with crayons, markers, and oil pastels. I enjoyed looking at the beautiful paintings at the art gallery by the local artists, and spending time outside by the river. The art camp ended with a mini art show outside by the river. We presented all our art. Parents came at the end of the day and looked at the artwork of all the children in camp. It was a great experience to know artists, create new art and make new friends. I can't wait to go back to the Pumphouse next summer.



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LEAVES
CHANGE
FALL

SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

CHARITY

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.

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Reconciliation revelry promises good time, great music

Continued from page 1

Pappy Johns Band. “He’s our core in the lead ensemble, our captain,” raves Johnson, who also helped curate this month’s Celebration of Nations event at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre. “And he’s put together a great core band.” Miller will be joined by fellow Indigenous musicians Blaine-Bomberry on guitar and drummer Oren Doxtator on drums. They’ll be rounded out with keyboardist Miles Evans-Branagh and bass player Allen Duffy, both non-Indigenous musicians. Native American Music Award winners The Ollivanders will also be performing.

“As a band themselves, they are a reflection of truth and reconciliation,” says Johnson. “Two of the members are from Six Nations Reserve, and two are from Caledonia. And they came together at a time when those two communities were embroiled in a land claim dispute. They are an exceptional group of musicians.” California-based singer-songwriter Rob Lamothe will also take the stage, as will Indigenous musician James N. Wilson and powerhouse vocalist Tasheena-Doxator. The repertoire will include a number of recognizable cover songs that relate to the theme, as well as some original music from the artists.

Johnson adds, “we’re call-

ing it a ‘reconciliation revelry,’ as we’re not only looking at reconciliation in the context of these words, but also having a good time. Like Celebration of Nations, this is not intended to be just an Indigenous gathering. It’s to bring people around to understanding Indigenous peoples’ cultures and expressions. And looking for crossover subject matter to engage with non-Indigenous audiences.”

Johnson says that’s always been the fibre behind what he and his collaborators on various projects have done over the past six years. And through those efforts, he agrees when it is suggested that Niagara has become a leader in many ways when it comes to facilitating Indigenous understanding.

“Niagara really shines nationally in this regard,” says Johnson. “It’s palpable. It’s a big country, and there’s a lot going on. But I think you can say as a case study, Niagara sets a really good example.”

The concert is followed on Friday morning at 7 a.m. with a traditional sunrise ceremony led by Grandmother Jackie Labonte and the lighting of a ceremonial fire by Dave Labbe.

Then, at 10 a.m., the story of Phyllis Webstad and the origins of Orange Shirt Day will be shared with the goal of moving toward cultural understanding and reconciliation marked by this national holiday. The ceremo-

ny will include Indigenous stories, music, traditions and more.

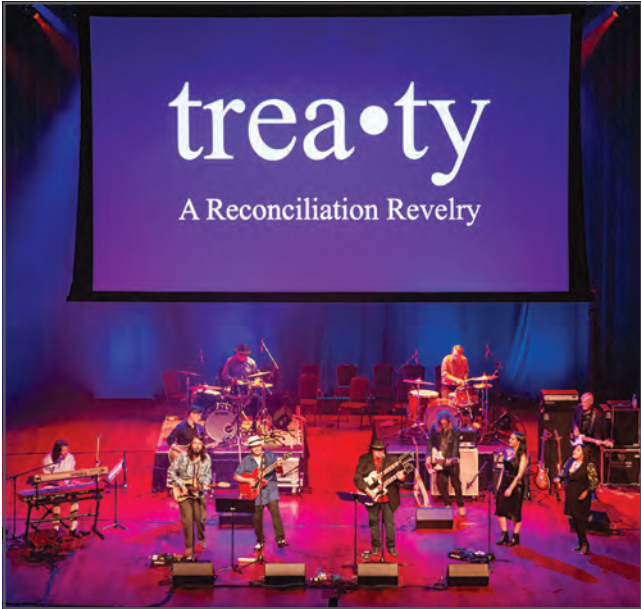
Both events are free and will be held outdoors at the venue, which Johnson says

has plenty of on-site parking. Participants are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair to the park.

And beginning at 8 p.m. Friday, nearby Queen

Victoria Park will turn orange for 15 minutes every hour to mark the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. The evening will conclude with a fireworks

display at 10 p.m, featuring a special orange finale. Niagara Region Native Centre’s Powwow Drummers and Singers will perform throughout the evening.



The entire ensemble of Treaty. (Photos by Alex Heidbuechel)



California-based singer-songwriter Rob Lamothe will take the stage during this special event.



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LocalSPORTS

NDSS golfers recognized for back-to-back wins

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara District Secondary School graduate Brad Neudorf has always looked back on the school's success in golf in 2007 with great fondness. But he never expected it would earn him and his teammates induction into the Niagara Golf Wall of Recognition.

Neudorf, along with Evan McCaughey, Marc

Forbes, Mark Hicks and Ricky Watson, won both the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations (OFSAA) golf championships in the 2007 calendar year.

"That was the year that golf switched from a spring sport to a fall sport," Neudorf remembers. "We won in spring, 2007 and again in fall, 2007. No one had ever done that in the Niag-

ara Region. And our whole team has continued to be involved in golf since. So John White told me it was fitting that we would be inducted."

White, Neudorf's first golf coach before he became a teenager, is one of the driving forces behind the Wall of Recognition. The wall, represented by a website only, recognizes members in three different categories: players, professionals and

superintendents. A fourth category honours members for lifetime achievement in the game.

"They were all very good players," White says of the NDSS team. "They were all friends, they golfed together and had a lot of enthusiasm for the game. Winning an Ontario championship is pretty special."

Neudorf first picked up clubs for a round of golf at seven years old, says his father, Danny.

"One day he was being a pain in the neck with all of his buddies," Danny says, "and I asked them all if they had ever been golfing. So I took them down to Peach Trees (it was on Niven Road at the time) and honestly, he was hooked on the game right from the start."

With some coaching from White, Brad went on to compete in the Canadian Junior Boys Championships before the back-to-back OFSAA victories. His success earned him a scholarship to play first at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, before transferring to Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, where he won a Northeast Conference (NEC) championship.

After earning his Bachelor's degree in accounting in Connecticut, he pursued his Master's in business administration at Brock University, getting a chance to work once again with White on the Badgers' golf team, competing in the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU, now called U Sports) championships.

White remembers Neudorf coming to him as one of his first students in the basement facility at Beechwood Golf and Social House.

"He was a really good all-around golfer," White tells The Local. "There really wasn't one part of his game that stood out from the others. He hit the ball far enough, he was a good putter. He did everything quite well. And he was great to teach. We had a lot of fun."

Looking back on the NDSS team, Neudorf remembers it being a great time in his life.

"Billy Simkin, the head golf pro from Niagara-on-the-Lake, coached our team," recalls Neudorf. "He was just a couple of years older than us, so he meshed really well with us. Mark Klassen and Ken Reidiger were our staff advisors. They took us to a high school tournament in



Brad Neudorf today, a businessman, husband, father — and still a good golfer.

Myrtle Beach for a couple of years. They were great to us."

Now 32 years old, Brad doesn't have specific memories of those two OFSAA victories, having golfed many rounds both competitively and for pleasure since then.

"I just remember the trophy," he laughs. "But I do remember Mark Hicks almost winning the individual championship."

Hicks was tied with Nolan Krill of Bear Creek Secondary School of Barrie after 36 holes at the fall, 2007 tournament at the Master's Course at Lionhead Golf Course in Brampton. He lost the title to Krill in a playoff.

The induction ceremony will be held this Saturday, Sept. 24 at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club, following the 73rd Walt McCollum Niagara District Champions of Champions Golf Tournament.

Martha Cruikshank, winner of eight Ladies and two Senior Ladies Championships at the NOTL Golf Club, will also be recognized that night.

Neudorf is busy contacting his old teammates to encourage them to be there for a reunion.

"After high school we all went to university in different places," he says. "I see Marc Forbes often, Ricky and Evan once in a while. I haven't gotten confirmation from all the guys yet. I'm pretty sure Evan is going to be there, and I just spoke to Mark Hicks' father (Mark Hicks Sr.) at the NOTL Golf Club last weekend. The goal is to rally the troops to be there this week."

The recognition is icing on the cake for the father

of six-month-old Kennedy, who is extremely appreciative of all that the game of golf has given him in his life.

"It's allowed me to travel, to experience the world," says Brad. "It allowed me to get a first-class education from two great schools. The people I've met along the way have been fantastic. I'm speechless about all of the relationships I've built over the years through golf."

All the same time, the owner of his own IG Wealth Management practice in St. Catharines never expected to be recognized for something that he and his friends accomplished back in 2007.

"I was sitting at home about three weeks ago, and my wife Alex came in and dropped a note on my desk," he says. "When I finally picked it up, it threw me off. I got pretty choked up. I was excited. It's great to get recognition for something we did 15 years ago."

The member at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club credits Alex for having a deep understanding of how much golf means to him, even with the demands a six-month-old daughter places on the household. This past Saturday, he was back at the NOTL Golf Club with his brother Devon, playing in the member-guest tournament.

And father Danny is excited to be in St. Catharines Saturday for the induction ceremony.

"I watched the effort that he put into it to develop his skills," says Danny. "He was nominated by his peers, too, and inducted by the committee on his first pass. Of course, I'm proud as a peacock."



Coach Mark Klassen, golfers Ricky Watson, Marc Forbes, Evan Caughey, Brad Neudorf and Mark Hicks, with coaches Billy Simkin and Ken Riediger. The golfers are being recognized now for back-to-back wins in 2007, when they were NDSS students. (Photos supplied)



2022 MUNICIPAL TAX REMINDER NOTICE

**FINAL SECOND INSTALLMENT
DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Tax Rates as per Final By-Law No. 5421-22

Payment may be made by **mail** or by drop off at the **Town Municipal Offices** at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road (PO Box 100, Virgil ON L0S 1T0). A 24-hour mail slot is located at the front (accessible drop box) and side entrances of the Town office for your convenience. Post-dated cheques are accepted. **Payment can also be made electronically from your bank account using the 19-digit roll number.**

If payment is made at a bank or other pay station, your account will be credited only after the Town has received settlement from the bank. Please allow **ten (10)** working days for payment processing.

A penalty of 1.25% will be added on the first day of default and on the first day of each month thereafter. To avoid penalty and interest charges, **payment must be received at the Town Municipal Office by the due date. Penalties may not be waived.**

Failure to receive a bill does not excuse a taxpayer from the responsibility of payment of taxes and penalty. **If you have not received your tax notice, please contact the Finance division at 905-468-3266 to ensure that your correct mailing address, including PO Box, is on file.**

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For information on payment options or to sign up for eSend, visit the Town's website at www.notl.com or contact our Finance division directly at 905-468-3266 ext. 230.

LocalSPORTS

Town's golf classic raises money for fitness equipment

Penny Coles
The Local

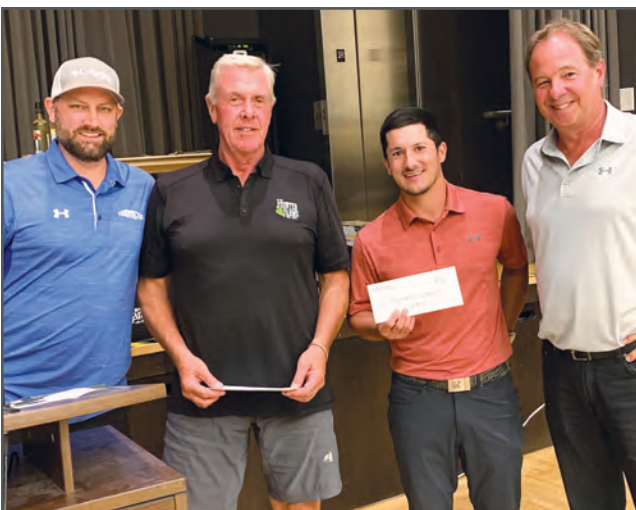
It was a perfect day for golf.

The town's 22nd Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Classic was held last Thursday at the Royal Niagara Golf Club in Glendale, after a two-year pause due to pandemic restrictions.

This tournament, organized and led by a committee of town staff and

residents, raises money for a parks and recreation community project, and in the past money raised has gone to Voices of Freedom Park, St. Davids Pool.

This year, with fewer golfers registered than in the past, the money will go to the track and fitness area in the community centre for enhancements to replace various cardio equipment, repairs to the walking track, and a new coat of paint.



Kevin Turcotte (left) and Alfred Dyck (right) hand out prizes for the longest drive to Ken Hunter in the over-60 category and Rob Ellis in the under-60 age group. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Jeff Peters, town acting operations director Kevin Turcotte, Luke Andres from the Meridian Credit Union, and Casey Sharpe — Peters and Sharpe won prizes in the putting contest sponsored by the Meridian Credit Union.



Brad Neudorf and Matt Hozack were two of the men's winning foursome. With them on the golf course, but not at the dinner after the tournament, were Bryan Neufeld and Corey Fowler.



Kevin Turcotte congratulates Chris Merza, Theresa Dyck, Petra Browning and Angela Redekopp, who won for the best women's foursome, with a score of one over par.



Holly Dowd won the longest drive for a woman over 60, and Petra Browning for a woman under 60, with prizes handed out by Kevin Turcotte and Alfred Dyck.

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Loop

‘Good first game’ ends in 2-1 loss for Preds

Mike Balsom
The Local

Though the Niagara Predators began their 2022-2023 Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League season with a 2-1 loss Sunday to their rivals the St. George Ravens, coach Kevin Taylor doesn't see a cause for concern.

"There's nothing to be upset about," Taylor said Monday evening. "It was a good first game. Sure, there was some sloppy play, but overall the guys competed. When they made mistakes, they listened to the corrections. They're eager to listen and learn. And the majority of everyone who watched the game said we should have won."

There were a lot of scoring opportunities for Niagara during the afternoon tilt at the South Dumfries Community Centre. But Ravens goaltender Luca Del Rizzo kept shutting the door with spectacular stops.

"He made some key saves," Taylor said. "We had enough chances, but he kept them in the game."

With St. George's Jacob Shuker in the box for interference, the Predators had an early opportunity four

minutes into the first period, but a turnover at centre ice led to an even better opportunity for the Ravens Reece Furtado. He skated in on two Predators defenders and slipped the puck past Niagara goaltender Ryan Santini to open the scoring shorthanded.

Forward Leo Savin tied it up for the Preds with just two minutes left in that period. He received a backhanded pass just inside the blue-line from teammate Riley Ellis and deposited the puck in the corner above Del Rizzo's blocker.

The second period was scoreless, with the Ravens outshooting Niagara 14-9, forcing Santini, who was named the game's first star for his 51 saves, to come up with some big stops of his own. The Predators squandered three power play opportunities during that frame as well.

Midway through the third period the Predators had a fast break on Del Rizzo that ended in a scrum in front of the net. Punches were exchanged briefly between Furtado and Predators captain Max Bredin.

It took quite a while for the officials to sort out the situation, but when they did,

Bredin was assessed two minutes for unsportsman-like conduct, St. George's Simon O'Taki served a two-minute bench minor, and Riley Ellis, who seemed to have been pushed into Del Rizzo, was handed a five minute penalty for charging.

That left the Ravens with a four-on-three advantage. Furtado potted his second goal of the afternoon with about nine minutes left in the game.

The Predators mounted a number of challenges in those last nine minutes, including yet another fruitless power play, but Del Rizzo continued to come up big between the pipes.

"Our power play struggled," Taylor admitted. "We lost on special teams. It's something that we have to work on. But we've only had one practice on it."

In fact, Taylor had only had the chance to have his Sunday lineup together for a couple of practices before travelling to St. George. And just like last year, the team's first in Niagara, they are beginning the season with a short bench, having dressed only eight forwards, five defencemen and three goalies.

Russian players Askar Almanbetov, Georgi Kodzaev, and returning 6'3" forward Georgi Kholmovsky have yet to arrive in Canada. As well, Michael Santini was scratched from Sunday's lineup.

"When I got the guys together for our pre-game speech," Taylor laughed, "I realized I hadn't even given them a warm-up routine yet. We're kind of playing catch-up. I'm still learning about some of these guys. And we still have some players coming in, hopefully this week."

The head coach adds that playing junior hockey will take some adjustment for many of the younger players on the Predators. The team boarded the bus for the trip to St. George at 11:30 a.m. for the 3 p.m. start time of



Russian-born Leo Savin, a 16-year-old forward, signed his contract earlier this summer with the Niagara Predators. Savin netted the team's first and only goal of the game in their season opener, a 2-1 road loss to the St. George Ravens. (Photo supplied)

the game. They didn't get back on the bus for the ride back home until 5:30 p.m.

"Guys that play their first junior game," he said, "don't realize exactly how long the game is. It's a long day. And a long time in the arena. It can be mind-numbing, it's easy to lose focus."

Of the Russian-born Savin, the 16-year-old forward who scored the lone Niagara goal, Taylor couldn't say enough.

"He's worked really hard in practice," he said. "There are certain guys I know I can count on. If he sticks to

what he's good at, he'll score all the time. It's nice that he got that goal because I know he's been working hard. He's been a big surprise for us since coming down for a skate from Vaughan. He really wants to be here."

The Predators host the Northumberland Stars this Friday night in their first home game at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. It will be Northumberland's first game of the GMHL season.

"We have lots of talent on this team," said Taylor. "It will be interesting to be on the bigger ice on Friday, so

we can use our speed. There's a lot of upside to this team. We have some players still to come in. Once these players come in we'll be a definite contender for the top spot in our (South) division."

Game time Friday night is 7:30 p.m. Local rock band Bitter Pill, featuring defenceman Dawson Walker's father, will be playing the pre-game and intermission music live in the arena.

General admission is \$10, students and seniors are admitted for \$8, and children under 12 years old get in for \$5.

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Flagging graves



Marilyn and James Russell from Toronto are in NOTL for a month, replacing flags and tidying up the Negro Burial Ground on Mississagua Street. James will be continuing his research into the graves and who might be buried there, and will be visiting the NOTL Museum and the NOTL Public Library to study newspapers from the 1950s and '60s. A fundraising steering committee has been set up to collect donations for the project that will eventually see gravestones underneath the ground dug up, graves identified, and stones restored. For more information or to donate visit negroburialgroundnotl.org or email negroburialgroundnotl@gmail.com.

Local

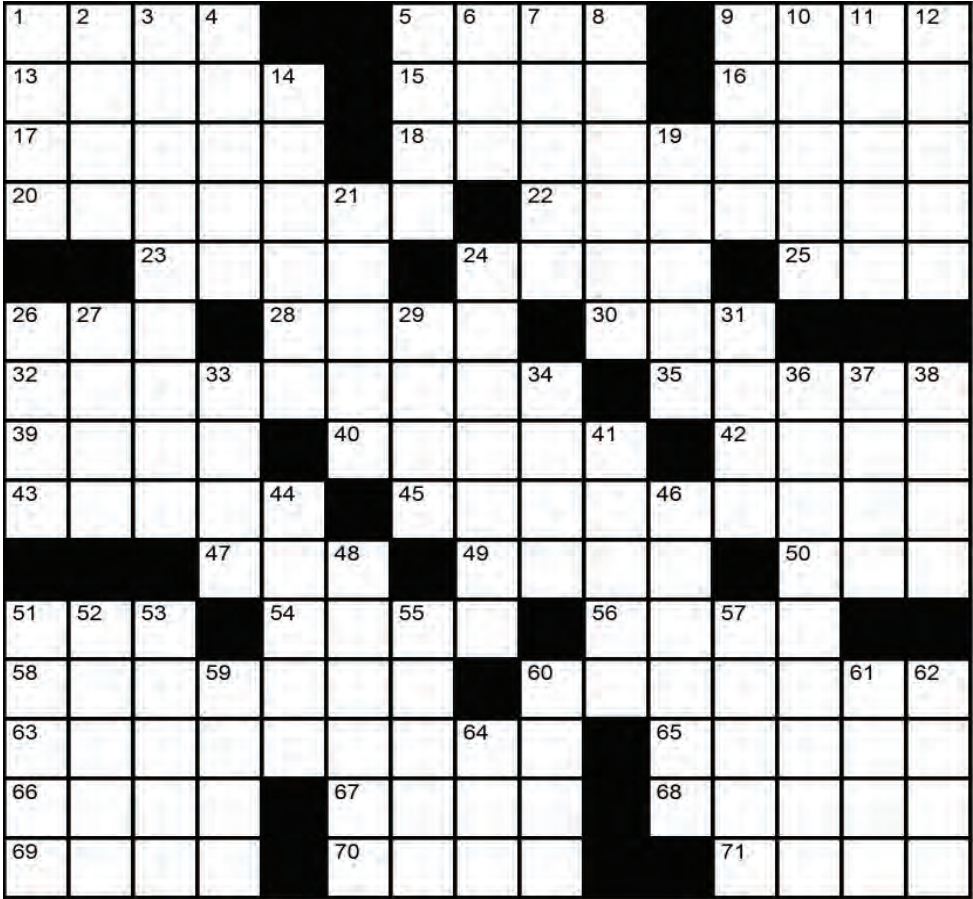
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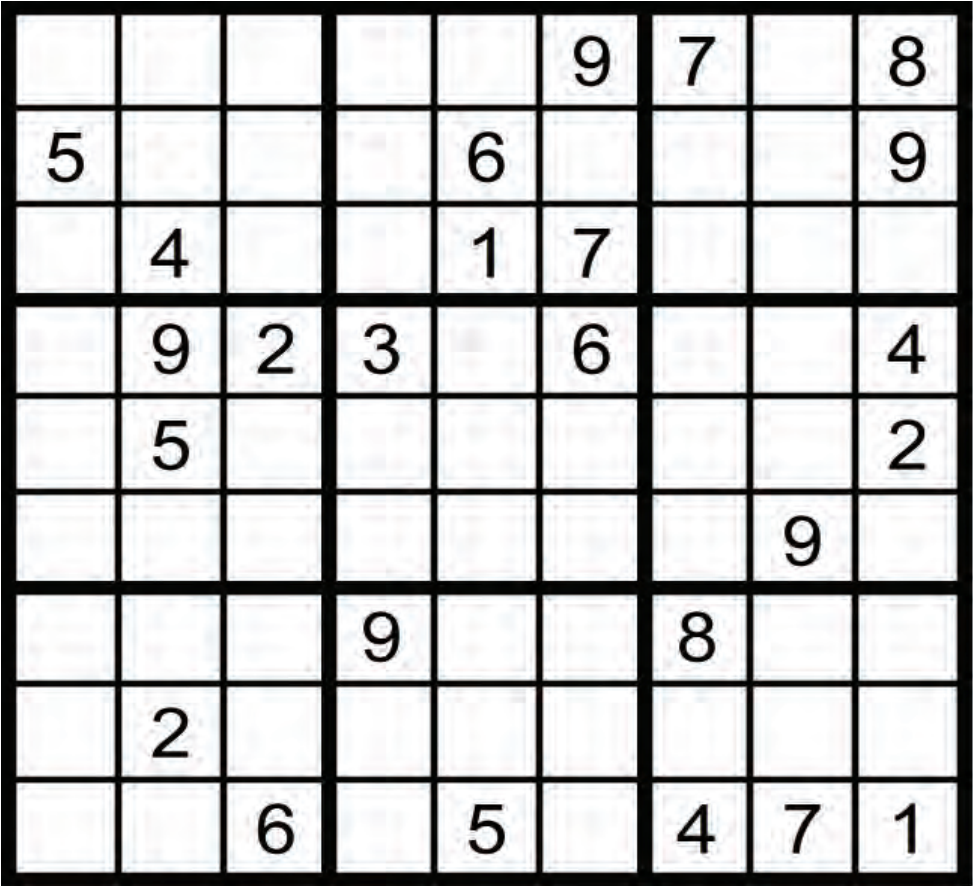
CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



- Across:**

 - 1 Maker whose cars go up and down
 - 5 Unfortunately
 - 9 Old Indian coin
 - 13 Individualist
 - 15 --- Marlene
 - 16 Turns
 - 17 Weighty
 - 18 Thought transference
 - 20 San ---, California
 - 22 Correction
 - 23 4th largest Great Lake
 - 24 With regard to
 - 25 Place
 - 26 Contains Jets and Texans
 - 28 Composure
 - 30 Small cell
 - 32 Paces
 - 35 Common subjects in life classes
 - 39 Zits
 - 40 Delhi wraps?
 - 42 S M S
 - 43 Additional clause
 - 45 Financial holdings
 - 47 Doze
 - 49 Calf meat
 - 50 Tennis player's org.
 - 51 Drop in value
- Down:**

 - 1 "Quantum of Solace" actress --- Kurylenko
 - 2 Ripped
 - 3 Very soon
 - 4 Cut
 - 5 Either a male or a female voice
 - 6 Recline
 - 7 Filmmaker Woody ---
 - 8 Jagged mountain range
 - 9 Turkish rulers
 - 10 Asleep
 - 11 Long narrow jacket with a high collar
 - 12 So far
 - 14 Ancient artifacts
 - 19 Song of praise
 - 21 E.g. venison, beef, pork etc.
 - 24 Better
 - 26 A long way off
 - 27 An ellipse has two
 - 29 Spring
 - 31 Not manual (Abbr.)
 - 33 Person between 12 and 20
 - 34 Father
 - 36 Dominican-American fashion designer Oscar ---
 - 37 Way out
 - 38 Cease
 - 41 Not fresh
 - 44 Assesses
 - 46 Online attacks
 - 48 Pockmarked
 - 51 Nibble
 - 52 Moses' brother
 - 53 Easy putt
 - 55 Bizet's priestess in "The Pearl Fishers"
 - 57 Start of a divine appeal
 - 59 Perspective
 - 60 E.g. Oolong, Darjeeling
 - 61 Now Thailand
 - 62 Sawbucks
 - 64 Long-running Ted Danson show
- 54 Small pool lining slab
 - 56 Burrow
 - 58 Unworldliness
 - 60 Storm
 - 63 Truce
 - 65 Ace golfer --- Els
 - 66 Amount
 - 67 "Born Free" lioness
 - 68 Lucifer
 - 69 Was completely certain
 - 70 Raised platform
 - 71 Thanksgiving dish



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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Otis, 5 Alias, 9 Anna, 13 Loner, 15 Lili, 16 Goes, 17 Grave, 18 Telepathy, 20 Anselmo, 22 Erasme, 23 Ere, 24 In re, 25 Put, 26 A F C, 28 Calm, 30 AAA, 32 Footsteps, 35 Nudes, 39 Acne, 40 Satis, 42 Text, 43 Rider, 45 Portfolio, 47 Nap, 49 Veal, 50 A T P, 51 Sag, 54 Tile, 56 Lat, 58 Naivete, 60 Tempest, 63 Armistice, 65 Ernie, 66 Come, 67 Elsa, 68 Satan, 69 Knew, 70 Dais, 71 Yams.

Down: 1 Olga, 2 Torn, 3 In a second, 4 Sever, 5 Alto, 6 Lie, 7 Allen, 8 Sierra, 9 Agas, 10 Not up, 11 Nehru, 12 As yet, 14 Relics, 19 Paeen, 21 Meats, 24 Improve, 26 Afar, 27 Foci, 29 Leap, 31 Auto, 33 Teen, 34 Sire, 36 De la Renta, 37 Exit, 38 Stop, 41 Stale, 44 Rates, 46 Flames, 48 Pitted, 51 Snack, 52 Aaron, 53 Glimme, 55 Leila, 57 I pray, 59 View, 60 Teas, 61 Siam, 62 Tens, 64 C S I.

Badminton group looking for more players

Penny Coles
The Local

As they rally a shuttlecock across the net, a group of women who play badminton at the community centre regularly move quickly, break a sweat, and can look pretty fearsome. But it's quickly obvious by the laughter that while they are there to compete, they are also out to have a good time. The ladies' badminton group rents two courts a week, Wednesday and Friday afternoons, for two hours, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. However, their numbers have dwindled since

COVID shut them down — not all the regulars have returned, and they are hoping to attract new players. It's not a club, they don't have members — it's a drop-in, pay to play group of mostly retired women, says Diane Walker, who is looking after the bookings and rental. Most of the regulars have a similar story — they hadn't played badminton since their school days, but something about the sport, usually a friend or acquaintance telling them how much fun it is, convinced them to give it a try. It's great exercise, says Walk-

er, and although it helps to have had some experience with a racquet sport, it's not essential, and the regulars love teaching as much as they love playing. There are always a couple of extra racquets, so newcomers are welcome to come and try it before investing in their own equipment, says Walker. It's considered the fastest racquet sport, and it's easy to see why when you watch — the shuttlecock isn't supposed to touch the ground, and players have to move quickly to keep it in the air. "It's not quite the gentle sport you might think it is from

watching kids play," Walker says. "But it's also very social." "It's fast," she adds, "but don't be frightened by it. We have mixed abilities here for sure. And whether you smash it over the net or tip it over gently, they all count." The women also like to have time to sit out between matches, which is one reason why it would be helpful to have more players. Walker explains they don't always have enough players to require two courts — the women like to have some time on the sidelines to socialize, rather than playing all out for two hours.

The cost to play varies by the number of women who show up, she says — typically it's \$5. In order to keep the two courts reserved for badminton, as they hope for more members in the future, they have to pay for them, whether they use them or not. There were only eight women out last Friday, and they would love to return to their pre-pandemic of at least 12 to 14 regulars. Lil Bergen is one of the regulars. She's been coming out for about the last six years, and before that, hadn't played since

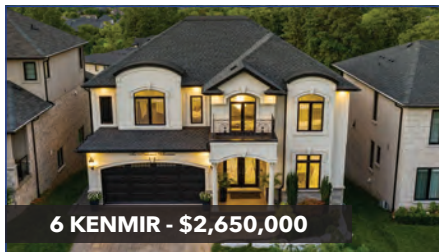
high school. "It's a great way to keep in shape. It gets your cardio up. And I love it. I look forward to Wednesdays and Fridays." It's a sport they can play all year round, and do, although some take the summer off and resume in the fall. Ana Moisa is the newest in the group, and she too hadn't played since she was a kid. She moves quickly on the court, and loves the exercise, although she still works and can only play on Fridays. Jayne Tayler has been playing the longest. She remembers when they were in the old community centre 23 years ago, and she was one of the youngest, encouraged to come out by those she called "the elders." She used to play with the women during the day, and couples at night, four times a week. She admits to being competitive, and is the one on the court who makes the play look easy, says Moisa, the one who "smacks it in," while others look graceful, gently tipping it in over the top. "There is a place here for everybody," says Walker, "and everyone is welcome. Come out and try it. We all like to help others." For more information call Walker at 905-468-0638 or email dianewalker4232@gmail.com.



Getting exercise and having fun on the courts last Friday were (left, front) Linda Coholan, Irene Murray, Diane Walker and Mija Farrell, and (right, front) Heather Higgins, Lil Bergen, Jayne Tayler and Ana Moisa. (Penny Coles)

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