

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Learn about
Beethoven's
secrets during
virtual series
page 10

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Generous community supports food drive

Syme Jago, organizer of the Community Food Drive for Newark Neighbours, had an overwhelmingly successful day Saturday at Phil's valu-mart, where shoppers dropped off food and money to help supply Thanksgiving dinner for locals in need. The drive was to continue Wednesday. For more see page 14. (Penny Coles)

Popular fish fries back at the Legion

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

A new drive-thru made its debut in Niagara-on-the-Lake last week, and it was so popular, it sold out 30 minutes early.

The long-awaited return of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 Thursday night fish fry saw scores of cars lined up on King Street waiting to pick up their dinner. Due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, it marked the first time since mid-March that NOTL families were able to enjoy the weekly tradition.

The pandemic also forced the Legion into a new way of doing things. Diners were limited to pickup orders only, and were asked to stay in their vehicles to be served.

It worked like a well-oiled machine. Visitors turned into the entrance, where they were greeted

by a volunteer who took their order. Two order slips were prepared: one to be put under their windshield wiper, another to be taken up to the kitchen by another volunteer who collected their payment. A team of six volunteers was manning the deep fryers upstairs and packing the orders.

As the cars wound around the back of the building, another team of volunteers brought the orders to the back door near the exit. There, Richie Meyer removed the slip under the windshield in exchange for a yummy fish and chips dinner. Smiles abounded.

Caroline and Bruce Cochrane, an armed forces veteran from Nova Scotia, were in line at 4:30 p.m. and among the first

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Palliative care raising funds to serve community

**Penny Coles
The Local**

Bonnie Bagnulo becomes animated and emotional as she talks with enthusiasm about her job of the last two years.

The executive director of Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care uses the word "joy" often as she describes the fulfillment she experiences while helping clients cope with life-limiting illnesses, end-of-life

issues, death and bereavement.

Those are journeys nobody should have to travel alone, not the clients who are ill or their loved ones who are caring for them, she says, her eyes lighting up when she talks of walking beside them, providing compassionate care along each step of their illness.

"Palliative care is an approach of care, involving services which can be spiritual, social and physical,"

she says.

She acknowledges hospice and palliative care can be awkward topics of discussion for some people, but Bagnulo welcomes every opportunity to share her conviction that helping people confront and manage those difficult stages of life — and death — is extremely gratifying.

In recent months, providing the services she so strongly believes in has been challenging, but she

and the palliative care volunteers have found ways to overcome those challenges as best they can, realizing the need for in the community is as great or greater than ever.

They can provide care to clients in long-term care homes with the use of iPads donated by the Niagara Community Foundation, although in some cases they have to rely on staff to help. They can communicate by phone, through window or

porch visits, and now, with recent changes in regulations, during outdoor visits.

Each of the three homes in NOTL have different rules, so volunteers have learned to adapt, says Bagnulo.

Some of those clients have family living hours away, and few or no visitors, so even virtual visits become extremely important, she says.

Last year, the NOTL palliative care service, with

about 40 volunteers, served more than 160 clients with nearly 1,800 visits.

While their client list in long-term care is down about 20 to 25 per cent, community visits have increased. The homes have not been accepting new residents for months, forcing clients to stay at home longer than they might have otherwise, while some fam-

Continued on page 11



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Pickup-only dinners sold out before closing

Continued from page 1

to be served. “We couldn’t wait,” said Caroline. “We were waiting to hear the announcement and then we wanted to get down here.” They certainly felt the 10 minutes or so it took to get their fish and chips was worth it, and they were happy to support the Legion.

Maggie Griffiths was

another who was overjoyed with the return of the weekly tradition. She told The Local that she never misses a Thursday at the Legion. Though she admitted that since March she may have satisfied her hankering for fish and chips through other avenues, she said, “you have to support locals. If you don’t support locals, they won’t be there.”

With more than 30 cars in line at any one time, Legion first vice-president Maurice Pam was elated with the turnout.


“We were hoping to get this many,” he said. “As you know, a lot of Legions are suffering financially, and we’re fortunate to own our own building. A lot of Legions have to pay rent.”

He estimates that proceeds from the weekly



Legion volunteers Gary Bradham, Rhys Beak, Chris Toye, Andre Boland and Barbara Cole had to work quickly to fill orders for the Legion takeout meals Thursday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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Legion member Beth Black takes a parking lot order from Catherine Kelly.

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Niagara  Region

fish fry contributes about 70 per cent to the organization’s yearly budget. With the long layoff due to COVID-19, it was beginning to look like it might

become difficult to pay the bills.

Though the patio was set up on the front lawn, guests were not able to sit down on site to enjoy their

dinner.

“We can’t have people inside because of COVID,” he explained. “Even our members aren’t allowed to eat here. We decided it’s best to try this first. We’re going to have a meeting after this, and tweak it and see what we can do. We haven’t really heard any comments about eating here. We have heard that people are happy to be here, though.”

Legion member Cory Abt confirmed the sell-out the following day. With the cars backed up from their 410 King Street location almost all the way to the John Street intersection at times, the sell-out isn’t surprising.

It may not be able to boast about serving 99 billion like other drive-thrus, but judging by the turnout, it might not be long before the local branch of the Canadian Legion reaches its own significant milestone.



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Legion preparing for Decoration day, Remembrance ceremonies

Penny Coles
The Local

In Niagara-on-the-Lake cemeteries, gravesites of veterans are being marked with a fresh Canadian flag, part of the Royal Canadian Legion tradition leading up to Remembrance Day.

Once that work is completed, there is usually a small parade on Decoration Day, but that has been cancelled, says long-time Branch 124 member Marg Boldt.

As with all organizations, the local branch is having to make changes to the events it would customarily be holding this fall.

Boldt, this year's poppy chair, says, "our branch of the Royal Canadian Legion usually salutes the great sacrifice and service of local military veterans. Starting in mid-September, we mark the graves of veterans with a maple leaf and a Canadian flag, and end with our remembrance services honouring our fallen heroes. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we cannot hold many of our ceremonies in our usual way."

Instead, the Legion will provide an update of their ongoing memories project, in conjunction with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, says Boldt.

It will also introduce its new website.

The annual poppy campaign will start Oct. 30, with boxes of poppies available at participating businesses.

"It will be up to businesses whether they want to have them this year, and also up to our individual members to choose whether to take the poppy boxes out on the street," she says.

Remembrance services for seniors cannot take place, but the Legion is investigating ways to help seniors reflect on their past, says Boldt.

The annual veterans' dinner is cancelled for this year, but a special meal will be delivered to veterans in early November.

The biggest change, and the hardest decision to make, was to cancel the Nov. 11 parade to the Cenotaph, said Boldt, who feels she has come up with a sensible and safe alternative.

"The services at the

Cenotaph on Nov. 11 will not be held this year," says Boldt. Instead there will be an invitation-only service held at the Legion monument at 410 King St., which will be livestreamed online. There will be a few dignitaries invited, and there is lots of room there for people to spread out, she says.

"If we had tried to do it on Queen Street, people would have stopped by to watch, and we couldn't stop them. We don't want to be the cause of an outbreak of COVID."

There will be wreaths laid at each Cenotaph, on Queen Street and in Queenston, at sunset Nov. 10. The Legion is asking those who wish to offer a wreath to contact the branch before Nov. 2. A list of wreaths will be published in local papers, and on websites.

There will be a spot at each Cenotaph for all to leave their poppy on Nov. 11 as a personal act of remembrance.

"We will maintain as much planning flexibility as possible, and as circumstances change, so will our plans," says Boldt.

Heritage trail tree to come down by crane next week

Penny Coles
The Local

With town staff on track to remove a large dead tree on the heritage trail next week, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and councillors expressed disappointment the plan is to send a crane in to do the job.

Disero had asked interim operations director Kevin Turcotte to have one more look at alternatives before sending in the heavy equipment, and she said she was disappointed that hadn't happened.

"It's a really sensitive situation," she said, with residents concerned about the large number of trees that have come down to provide access for the crane. It also has to be a very costly way to remove it, she added.

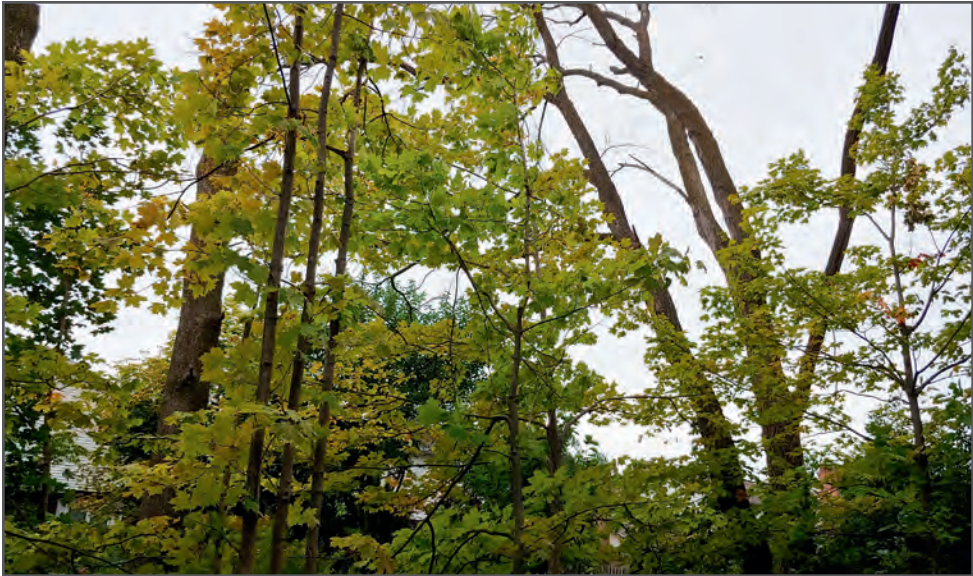
Turcotte called the situation both unique and dangerous, with the large tree overhanging extensively-landscaped private property, and told council he is anticipating the tree removal by crane will happen next week.

He also explained that the Town has a contract

with Pineridge Tree Service, and town staff rely on their expertise for the removal of large trees.

Disero also asked for, and received assurance that there will be no more trees removed for that purpose.

Coun. Allan Bisback, a member of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail committee, said the committee would be meeting soon and would discuss the width of the trail, which has also been a concern to residents, assuring the public, no decision has been made yet.



Residents have been angered by the number of trees that have had to come down to use a crane to remove one dead tree. (Tony Chisholm)

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

YOU'RE INVITED

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

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

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

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

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Topic: Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater, Stormwater, Transportation

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Niagara Region

Virgil skate park officially open



Community Centre coordinator Dan Maksenuk, Coun. Norm Arsenault, Coun. Allan Bisback, MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, VBA president Richard Wall, MP Tony Baldinelli and NOTL interim operations director Kevin Turcotte prepare to cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Virgil Skate Park last Friday. (Mike Balsom)

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

If you need proof that building a new skate park in Virgil was a great decision, look no further than the ribbon-cutting ceremony held there Friday afternoon.

As politicians, town staff and local business owners celebrated the official opening of the facility, a group of more than 30 enthusiasts of all ages had a difficult time stepping off their boards, scooters and BMX bikes to let the officials do their thing, a testament to them finally being able to practise their sport on a top-notch track in town.

With the group of mostly young school-aged children quietly rolling along around and behind him, acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte stepped to the microphone. He gave thanks to town council, the Virgil Business Association, town staff, the construction team from Propour Concrete Services and the designers from Canadian Ramp Company for their contributions to the 5,400 square foot facility.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero praised the skate park as just the latest addition to a bustling site. "Take a look around at this park," she urged.

"Not just what we're here to celebrate today. If it was not for the generous contributions of the Virgil Business Association and the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, we would not have this wonderful multi-generational park for many people to use."

Indeed, the skate park joins the splash pad, arenas, walking path, soccer fields, softball diamonds and basketball and pickleball courts to make for a recreational facility that offers all residents the opportunity to stay active.

MPP Wayne Gates spoke of the importance of the community offer-

ing facilities such as the skate park. "If you want to attract young people to Niagara-on-the-Lake," he said, "we've already attracted seniors, we know that, but we need to attract young families. They will look at the skate park and say 'Niagara-on-the-Lake gets it, they understand the importance of having a place for my kids to go and get some exercise.'"

Niagara Falls MP Tony Baldinelli was in town to recognize the 60th anniversary of Van Noort Florists. When owner Sharon Van Noort mentioned she needed to get over to the park to attend the opening, Baldinelli changed his plans and followed her.

Richard Wall of the Virgil Business Association was invited up to present a ceremonial \$150,000 cheque to represent the group's contribution toward the \$450,000 cost of the project.

Wall beamed as he looked around at the kids skating and riding, and reflected on more than a decade of planning that went into the skate park becoming a reality. He also made sure to mention former town councillor Dennis Dick, who passed away recently, as one of the visionaries involved since the start. Wall dedicated the grand opening in memory of Dick.

"This entire park here is a vision that the VBA has always had," Wall said. "The other vision of the VBA has always been family, and all ages. I think we've really created an all-ages sports park that's second to none in the area."

Though this year's Virgil Stampede was cancelled due to the novel coronavirus, Wall attributed the previous three years of the event, and the hundreds of volunteers involved in making it a success, as the reason the skate park finally came to fruition.

Wall was quick to state that there's more to

come in the evolution of the sports park in Virgil. "There's talk of an addition of a pump track (for BMX riders) around this facility, that will be contemplated. We're also looking at potentially enhancing the pavilion in the future, and beyond that, we are usually looking for projects. We probably won't have a definitive decision until some time next year about what the major project will be."

The skate park itself is impressive. As one approaches from the parking lot, the height of the bowl is the first thing that might elicit surprise. "I didn't realize the magnitude of the height, I was expecting it to be more ground level, and I didn't think it would be this big. I'm proud of it even more so than I anticipated," said Wall.

About the group of kids using the park, he said, "it's fabulous, seeing them here today. And I was here last Saturday and the park was full. The biggest pride I got was seeing all the age groups. We weren't intending this to be a teenage-only facility. We wanted it to appeal to a kindergarten right through to the university, adult demographic, and I think we succeeded. Hopefully one day my grandkids will get a chance to use it."

And as the ceremony wound up, a group of university-aged adults pulled up in a car, fetched their decks from the hatch and headed toward the park to join the boys and girls and at least one 31-year-old, Chris Doucette of Niagara Falls, to test their skills on the ramps and rails.

Wall and the other dignitaries who spoke, all of whom admitted they were outside of the demographic for whom the park was built, wisely made the decision to avoid stepping on a board, scooter or bike to test out the new track. Their ankles were likely thankful for their wise decision.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: SAFE TREE

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The Niagara Region is known for many things - quality wine, innovative culinary experiences and a quick retreat from the city. Each of these experiences that give Niagara its exceptional flair are nestled underneath a canopy of trees and natural wonders. The preservation of this magnificent urban forest is at the heart of what professional tree care company Safe Tree stands for. In their overarching approach to tree maintenance and plant health care, Safe Tree actively performs their services with both tree and property owner in mind.

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care services.

Ivan Fredette, *Team Leader and Certified Utility Arborist* at Safe Tree, knows that his team assesses each tree with longevity in mind, ensuring that plant health care is at the forefront of each diagnosis. "Plant health care helps to deal with any stressors, issues or pests that trees may have. At Safe Tree, we want to get the trees back to where they were and help preserve the wonderful heritage that they may hold." As Team Leader, Fredette strives to educate Safe Tree clients on how professional tree maintenance benefits not only the value of their property now, but for generations to come. "We strategically assess each tree and landscape we encounter to ensure that they are treated with a full scaled approach. It is easy to start from scratch, but to preserve

these ancient trees that contribute to our canopy, is truly amazing."

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to what species may be impacted by their removal, customers trust

The newest addition to the Safe Tree team, *Plant Healthcare Specialist* Kaitlyn Simpson, believes in creating a stronger greener urban forest for our community. "In Southern Ontario, urban forests are not only crucial for

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“ At Safe Tree, we are actively doing everything we can each day to protect and maintain the urban forest. ”

wildlife, but also for us as humans. At Safe Tree, we are actively doing everything we can everyday to protect and maintain the urban forest, and that is important to me both personally and professionally."

As municipalities expand and the economy continues to grow, Safe

me, Safe Tree hits every beneficial factor for the urban forest. From maintenance to plant health care to removal, we strategically look at the entire tree life cycle to ensure we are helping make the urban forest bigger and better and the future, much greener."



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EDITORIAL

Council meetings rack up hours — but are they too long?

Monday night, 61 people actually watched the livestreamed virtual committee of the whole meeting of council.

Not sure what that small number means, but it could reflect the public's disinterest in the lengthy, although important, discussions that are taking place as council makes its decisions on how best to represent the town.

One of the lengthier debates

Monday was about how to shorten council meetings. A new schedule needs to be set for 2021, and different options were being considered to make the meetings more efficient, including eliminating the two committee meetings each month, where most discussions take place, and replacing them with two council meetings. That would cut the number of monthly meetings from three to two, and

possibly reduce the length of the two remaining meetings.

The staff report also suggested councillors could do their homework before meetings, and streamline their questions, to save time.

Town staff are getting paid overtime to attend the meetings, it was pointed out, so reducing the hours would cut costs.

To indicate that possibly Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors spend

more time discussing issues than necessary, staff compiled some comparisons. One shows that since December, 2018, the start of this current term, NOTL councillors, and some staff, have spent almost 250 hours at council meetings. That may not seem like a lot to those who are neither on council nor observing their meetings, but in comparison, councillors for both larger and smaller municipalities spent half that amount of time, or even less. St. Catharines council has racked up 145 hours since December, 2018, with 12 councillors and a mayor sitting around the

table; Niagara Falls, just 123 hours; and Port Colborne, with a similar population to NOTL and the same number of councillors, only spent 150 hours discussing council issues.

Coun. Clare Cameron took umbrage over NOTL being compared to other municipalities that have a different political culture. NOTL has a high voter turnout and engaged citizens, and the goal is to encourage more public debate rather than less, she pointed out.

Which is true, and which earned most councillors' agreement. In the long run, a decision

was made to keep the meeting schedule as it is for the first six months of 2021, with one planning committee meeting, one general committee meeting, and one for council's final decisions. That will be reviewed half-way through the year.

Monday's discussion likely left all 61 viewers feeling very fortunate indeed that they are not elected officials, and possibly earning new respect for those who are.

Penny Coles
The Local

Ambassador program declared a success

Also discussed Monday was the Town's ambassador program, which relied on Shaw Guild volunteers to provide a friendly welcome to visitors during the pandemic.

Their goals included reminding people to wear masks — most did, or if not, once reminded, were happy to — and to talk about physical distancing.

Shaw Guild president Laurie Harley and communications

chair Cheryl Morris both told councillors the 35 guild volunteers enjoyed talking to people, answering questions about where to eat, where to park, the location of washrooms, and directions to various places. They suggested a kiosk on the main street to supply such information might be something to consider for the future — visitors especially liked the map the NOTL Chamber supplies, which the volunteers distributed.

The only hitch they came across was they decided to wear the T-shirts that were supplied backwards. The shirts were printed with Ambassador on the back, and it was helpful for visitors to see that before they stopped to talk.

The volunteers said they believe it's a program worth continuing, even post-COVID, including during shoulder seasons and on special event days, such as during the Icewine Festival.

LETTERS

Council decisions will send businesses looking elsewhere to invest

I used to be confident in the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake. The region is blessed with natural beauty, outstanding hospitality, world-class theatre and a vibrant wine industry. This confidence led our company to invest over \$5 million dollars in Niagara-on-the-Lake. But my confidence has been shaken by the failing actions of Town Council that make it clear that this Council is "Closed For Business".

Equity Wine Group have been an employer and taxpayer in the Niagara Region for ten years. We operate Creekside Estate Winery and Queenston Mile Vineyard. We've been proud to help the community prosper and grow. Naturally, we expected our elected Town Council to support us as we invested even more to expand our business. But we've been sorely mistaken.

Simple by-law amendments, that should have taken 90 days to approve, have dragged on for more than two years. Council

meetings have been marred by political posturing, fear mongering and outright lies. Our Queenston Mile application asked for nothing more than what other wineries are allowed to do today.

And in the end, Town Council chose to disregard facts and their own professional Planning Department's recommendations. This has forced us to file an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in an effort to get a fair hearing. But at what cost?

The Town Council will now need to hire outside lawyers and planners to argue against their own Planning Department. Niagara taxpayers will be stuck with significant bills and our business will incur further unwarranted and costly delays. The only winners will be a vocal minority who do not want to face new competition. This is not how a vibrant business community is built.

When you combine the growing list of local planning debacles with the fiasco of the proposed new noise by-law, the

town has taken aim at the industry that has helped define Niagara-on-the-Lake. The wine industry has received this destructive message loud and clear.

The wine industry, and industry in general, will take their business investment elsewhere. That will lead to fewer and lower paying jobs, less tourism, increased hotel room vacancies, fewer restaurant and arts patrons and trigger a negative spiral that will be difficult to reverse. This downward trend has already begun. If this continues, fewer people will want to move to this community because it will lack the vibrancy that has made it so appealing.

I want to believe again in a bright future for Niagara-on-the-Lake. But we need a new direction. And for that, we need a Town Council that makes better decisions.

Andrew Howard
President, Equity Wine Group

Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

The full week Sept. 24 to Sept. 30 of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website <https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca>. In Part II of my podcast, thanks to AstroButterfly, we get the entire month of September. Also on Part II, we take a look at Mars retrograde in Aries – the Hero's journey.

Thursday, Sept. 24: Yesterday's first quarter Moon in Capricorn continues today with the added bonus of retrograde Mars oppo-

site Mercury. It's a challenging day where clear thinking is absolutely necessary. Phil Hartman was born in Brantford, Ontario in 1948, and mastered imitating voices, including Bill Clinton, for Saturday Night Live, and Troy McClure for The Simpsons. Today would have been Phil Hartman's 72nd birthday, but tragically he was murdered by his wife before he reached 50.

Tuesday, Sept. 29: Today is the day Saturn turns direct on its way into Aquarius, having entered Capricorn in December, 2017. It's a time to tie up the loose ends, covered by Saturn in Capricorn, in your life. Today Mars in retro-

grade makes a harsh square aspect to Saturn. It's like driving with one foot on the accelerator, one foot on the brake. Going backwards! Sept. 29, 1954, was notable in at least two ways. First, the premiere of A Star is Born, starring Judy Garland, and secondly, Willie Mays' famous hand behind his shoulder catch in the first game of the 1954 World Series, while playing outfield for the Cleveland Indians. The game was tied, with two men on base, and he saved the runs.

And that's Auchterlonie on Astrology for this week.

Until next week, shine on!



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

In Love & Friendship, from 2016, Lady Susan Vernon is a stunningly beautiful widow.

She is elegant in every way, and possesses impeccable man-

ners, but beneath the facade is a seductive, scheming, manipulative opportunist seeking security for herself and her daughter. In every way, the film is elegant, and the viewer is mesmerized as Lady Susan achieves exactly what she wants.

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.

Two sides to trail discussion

I can't help but be reminded of the old adage that one man's trash is another man's treasure. I think the work done on the Upper Canada Heritage Rail Trail between King/John and Charlotte is beautiful and makes it so much easier to use for walking and running.

I hope that something similar can be done on the portion of the trail that runs from

Charlotte to East and West Line. I think that more local people would be encouraged to use that section of the trail for walking or running if the surface was similar to that installed on the portion of the trail completed earlier this summer.

Carol Felepchuk
NOTL

Ring those bells, please

NOTL trails are extremely popular during these beautiful sunny days to both walkers and bikers.

Sharing the trails is no problem, but the bikers need to learn how to use their bells when approaching walkers from behind. Even if walkers are hugging the edge of the trail, a warning that they are coming is so appreciated. At

any time a walker could step out in front of them unbeknownst to them a biker is fast approaching.

I would like to encourage the bike rental places to mention this to all potential customers.

Kathy Neufeld
Virgil



Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

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COMMENT

Students look to nature for playground entertainment



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Here's a wild one for you.

As an outdoor guide for the District School Board of Niagara, I was deployed out of the woods, and into a Niagara Falls elementary school to assist with the pandemic reopening.

I could write scores of articles about what I did, saw, and experienced during these past two weeks. I was on the front-line of the very situation that we've all been talking and hearing about. I promised myself I would be there for the kids and teachers in the best capacity I could, during a transitional time.

Although I was no longer socializing with oaks and maples, I felt welcomed and comfortable within an instant at this school. The staff and students made the building feel like home, with a seamless transition. I feel both spiritually and professionally fulfilled by these two weeks.

It seems my hours logged in the woods have stuck to me, and the woods follow me from time to time. I was curious to see how I could make the most of nature

within an urban schoolyard, and hopefully leave a lasting impression on some kids during the two weeks I had there.

While I was spray painting the lines that separate the cohorts of students out in the soccer field for recess, I noticed some divots in the ground. Some of the younger kids had taken to digging into the grass. There are no trees, sports toys, or games of tag going on. So, to the soil they go.

The little kids call me over to the chunk of soil and grass they've carved up. They pull it over. A few worms and a beetle larvae (grub) lie exposed on the dirt. Their curiosity is ramped up for such a simple but creative discovery. It made me happy to see this moment unfold.

While they gaze upon the closed playground and gym just yards away from where they play, the kids get inventive with their environment. It's probably been a long time since kids dug up bugs in the soccer field and found it fascinating.

"Mr. B, why does this worm have . . . legs?" asks an excited student.

"It's not a worm. It has those little legs and mouth parts because it's actually a baby beetle, basically."

A couple shrieks, a couple oohs and aws, and they learned something new.

As I wear a mask and walk

back toward the building for indoor duties, and I see some kids looking at these "super giant mosquitoes" on the side of the school portables. We've all seen them without knowing what they are. They show up in showers, corners of the barn, and on the cottage dock. These are totally harmless crane flies.

I tell the kids, "these flies aren't even related to mosquitoes. They just look like huge mosquitoes, but they're not, and they can't even hurt people. Look at how tall and skinny they are, like a crane. Mosquitoes can't even get this big, ever!"

If you Google crane fly, you'll be surprised how many times you've seen this harmless "super giant mosquito" in your own house.

I go outside to my van in the parking lot, remove the mask and sip some coffee on my break. The radio tells me how many COVID cases were reported in Ontario today, but my heart tells me to focus on what matters, the next generation. Heading back indoors once again, I see a giant praying mantis on the wall of the school. It's just out of reach. I could catch it and do the ultimate show-and-tell for these kids. I kind of have to.

Imagine me, masked up and leaping up and down the wall like a cat chasing a fly. Looks like Spiderman gone wrong. I

gently swept the five-inch insect off the wall, and from there, the praying mantis walked around on my hands and coffee cup while I showed it to all the kids at recess.

I must have showed 100 people, the praying mantis seemingly understanding its universal truth that it can be part of an important educational moment.

A few kids hover around when I visit their cohort. The praying mantis leaps off of my hands and then flies. Did you know they can fly? It's rarely witnessed, but they are more than capable.

The visually terrifying creature then landed on the face of a Grade 2 kid. He goes cross-eyed and bug-eyed at once — the look of surprise and uneasiness equally as pronounced. Within one second, he tried to swipe it but chickened out. I reached out and grabbed it in an instant. The boy then proceeded to run a few laps within his area, laughing and shrieking about the wildness of that experience.

Phew! He handled it like a champion.

I later saw the same kid talking to his vice-principal about the experience with that classic story-telling grin.

I'll never forget the visual of walking up the invisible hallways in the soccer field. I had helped spray paint these fields,

kids on my left and right leaning in to see the praying mantis with maximum interest, their toes up against the white lines.

As I walk between the rectangular cohorts, I notice a peculiar phenomenon. Only two of them have access to a tree.

It was a remarkable observation to see how much physical activity and curiosities centred around the one tree. It's a little tree, too. Kids would meet there and chat. They'd hang off the one or two little branches, fan the leaves, and make leaf or grass "hats." Let's remember, the closed playground and gym are

just yards away, out of reach, but not really.

My takeaway from this experience is that kids are truly meant to be with nature.

When they aren't allowed to play tag, they resort to ripping up grass and throwing it at their friends. I was really impressed with the creative approach.

The symbology is at the fingertips of the youth when they rip the grass up from the earth. Even when field trips and singing and playgrounds are denied, nature is always going to be there as an effervescent source, even during these strange times.



As Owen Bjorgan relaxes against a tree near downtown NOTL, he thinks about today's youth learning about nature as school playgrounds remain off limits to them. (Owen Bjorgan)

Region, mayors agree to join Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities



Ted Mouradian
Special to The Local

On Friday, Sept. 18, I was honoured to be a speaker at the signing ceremony where the Region and all 12 municipalities joined the Canadian Coalition of Inclusive Municipalities.

Dr. Liette Vasseur applauded the move. "As president of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, I am thrilled that the Niagara Region has joined this network, which includes cities, regional governments, and smaller communities across the country," said Vasseur. "Sadly, racism continues to plague communities across Canada. By joining our coa-

lition, Niagara Region and its communities are committing to join others in fighting racism and discrimination in all its forms. Living in Niagara, I am looking forward to seeing the accomplishments that the municipalities can make."

With this signing, there are now 83 municipalities across Canada who have joined the coalition.

Jim Bradley, regional chair, said, "Those of us who hold elected positions must strive to hold ourselves to a higher standard, not only recognizing privilege, but also strengthening our resolve to learn, listen and take action to build an inclusive and welcoming Niagara. This declaration is our shared commitment to work toward policies that eradicate racism and discrimination, and promote human rights and diversity."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

told The Local that signing the declaration is, to her, "significant on all levels. It is how we all should be living our lives, with tolerance, understanding and compassion."

To that end, the municipality has an inclusivity committee, with members working on a review of town policies. When completed, Disero said, the committee will be making recommendations to town council, a positive next step.

Among the other speakers at the regional signing was Rashmi Biswas, a member of the Gender Equity Task Force of Niagara. "We cannot talk about inequity without examining intersectionality. Not all women are mothers, married, heterosexual, or white," she said. "The pandemic has highlighted the social and economic inequities facing women in general, and women of colour in particular. Joining the coa-

lition demonstrates that Niagara Region recognizes the importance of inclusivity and is committed to addressing equity for the whole community."

Riley Zimak, director of the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, also spoke at the event. "On behalf of the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, we are very happy to see this day occur, where the ancestors of those who helped form this country, work with this community and continue to be the inclusive community we all love," said Zimak.

Although this is a fantastic step forward, and it's great to see every single mayor represented, I focused my remarks more on what we must do next than simply signing a piece of paper.

This is not just a black/white issue. It must be seen as more than that, as discrimina-

tion comes in all shapes, sizes, ethnicities, ages, genders and sexual orientations.

We often speak about how we need to stop discrimination of all kinds, but we seem to only be pointing to incidents between groups. There is also discrimination within groups that we need to address before we can solve this problem.

Ninety-eight per cent of all of humanity is made up of good, caring individuals who simply want to get along as they make their way through this journey called life. But, there is a small minority that creates problems for the rest of us, yes, the two per cent. These individuals are present in all groups in our society.

There are LGBTQ people who discriminate within our community. There are blacks who discriminate against blacks. There are religions who discriminate against other re-

ligions even within their own sect. Discrimination is prevalent in every single group, something we need to recognize and call out. And it is this two per cent that creates most of the issues within the groups that are the problem.

Remember that Bible quote that says we need to take the plank out of our eye before we try to take the sliver out of our neighbour's eye?

So, my challenge to those who are fighting to get a seat at the table, please don't stop others from getting their seat at the same table. Do some self-examination to see if you are part of the two per cent, or the 98 per cent.

Ted Mouradian is the president of the 2% Factor Inc. and creator of the Law of Cooperative Action. He is an author and professional speaker and can be reached at ted@the2percentfactor.com

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Niagara  Region

Annual run fundraiser essential ‘to keep momentum going’

Penny Coles
The Local

Stacey Ivanchuk was in Simcoe Park Sunday, as she has been for many years, to help Joan King celebrate the 40th annual Terry Fox Run, even though there were no crowds of people waiting to participate in the community event.

There were, however, many people who stopped by before or after their One Day, One Way walk, run or cycle, which was the COVID celebration of the milestone. Some dropped



Mike Berlis, a regular Terry Fox Run participant, completed his One Day, Your Way run Sunday. (Photo supplied)

off pledge sheets and money, and others picked up their participation stickers for completing their run.

In 2007, King’s first year organizing the local event, Ivanchuk, a St. Davids native, was there to help. Like King, she had read about the need for volunteers on the front page of the local newspaper, and had showed up to see what she could do. That day, she became the official photographer of the annual event, and most of the photos on the posters displayed in the bandshell Sunday were hers.

During her university years, and then working in Toronto, she had volunteered in Toronto for the Canadian Cancer Society in various capacities. “Cancer hits home for me, and I really just wanted to stay involved and do my part to help keep research funded.”

When she returned to NOTL for the run in 2007, she recalls King asking if anyone had a good camera. “I did, and became the de facto (and completely amateur) photographer for event day.”

She’s been doing that every year since, also actively fundraising and separately doing the run so she could be at Simcoe Park Sunday, where her heart is every Terry Fox Run day.

Her goal, as for all who participate, continues to be to help raise money for cancer

research. Ivanchuk has first-hand knowledge of how important that funding is, and a passion for seeing it continue.

As a 13-year-old, she lost her mother to glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. Her mom, Bunny Ivanchuk, was just 35 years old when she died in 1984.

Ivanchuk recalls that when her mother was going for treatment, there was a five-year-old named David Fossey, from Niagara Falls, undergoing treatment at the same time.

In many ways, Ivanchuk says, her mother accepted what was happening to her, but to see David endure what he did, at such a young age, really affected Bunny. “She was a lifelong supporter of St. Jude’s Children Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee (she was American) as well as Sick Kids. Of course, ours is just one story of the so many . . . I don’t think there is a single person who hasn’t been affected by cancer directly or indirectly.”

David died just two weeks before her mother, says Ivanchuk.

And that’s when she decided she wanted to be a doctor.

“I’d always loved science, and I thought I’d be an engineer or an architect,” she says, but instead, she earned her PhD in brain cancer biology.

After attending St. Michael



Stacey Ivanchuk found a photo of herself the first year she volunteered to help organizer Joan King, one of the few photos on display in the bandshell that she didn’t take. (Penny Coles)

Catholic Elementary School in NOTL, Ivanchuk moved to Mary Ward in Niagara Falls to complete her elementary school education — it was closer to their home in St. Davids.

From there she went to Denis Morris Catholic High School in St. Catharines before heading to Queen’s University.

“I grew up on fruit farm in St. Davids, and Niagara very much remains home to me, despite all my years in Toronto,” she says. She expected she would stay in Toronto to complete grad school and then return home, “but opportunities for work kept me here (in Toronto).”

After completing a Master of Science at Queen’s, with a focus on cancer genetics, she moved to the University of Toronto for her PhD, doing the lab work at the Hospital for Sick Children, where she joined the Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre.

“My PhD supervisor there is a paediatric neurosurgeon, with research interests into the biology of brain cancers, including glioblastoma multiforme. I was funded by a Terry Fox studentship from 1998 to 2002,” says Ivanchuk.

“A lot of us who go into science and research have a personal story,” she adds.

The field is very competitive, and money to fund it hard to come by, so she was extremely proud to be supported by the Terry Fox Foundation for four years as she completed her PhD.

“That’s the key,” she says. “The foundation is very good about supporting students though their PhD process.”

Foundation grants help in the development of young individuals who go on to become innovative cancer researchers, “the people who will come up with the breakthroughs,” she explains.

In the early days, the foundation would raise money and let the National Cancer Institute of Canada distribute it, but then took ownership of that arm and began deciding how the funds raised by the foundation are distributed,” Ivanchuk says.

“All cancer fundraising agencies do great work to support research, clinical trials and patient support. The Terry Fox Foundation partners with other granting agencies to lever-

age its dollars with matches, so the money goes further,” she explains. Those collaborative grants are important, she adds. “No one can do it alone, and TFF recognizes strength in numbers.”

“This is personal for the Fox family,” says Ivanchuk. “It is still so real for them. They focus on what matters. I have huge admiration for the Fox Foundation.”

Thanks to them, over the past 40 years, new, better treatments are constantly being discovered, she says. Although success in treating glioblastoma has not been so successful to date, there have been major advances in other cancers, where methods of early diagnosis have been much improved, resulting in better outcomes.

funding is so important. We’re still doing the research, but we have to keep the funding going.”

She also stresses the importance of patience, and believing in the strength and power of scientific inquiry. “So many people much more clever than me are finding new pathways to interrogate, new ways to stop cancer cells in their tracks and new ways to make the patient experience better.”

Ivanchuk is obviously passionate about the possibilities research presents. “I just love science,” she admits, “the purity of research, the tough questions that need to be answered, and the smart people who are finding those answers. It can be tough to get kids interested in science, but it’s so important. I’d



Paula, Danielle and Dave Lepp headed to Simcoe Park Sunday morning to complete, as Lepp says, “the 2020 COVID run.” (Photo supplied)

In order to continue that momentum, “we still have to concentrate on raising funds,” she says.

Ivanchuk, who is now working for a biotech company developing cell therapies for Parkinson’s Disease, says she’d love to get back to work in a lab, but there is never enough funding.

“It’s tough to keep talent in the lab in a meaningful way. It takes money,” she says. “Not everyone has that opportunity.”

Money is really critical to continuing advances. “We’re playing the long game, and that’s why these events are so important,” she says, gesturing to the small group of people gathered in Simcoe Park. “Labs that were closed during COVID are slowly reopening, and now, more than ever, that

especially like to see more girls in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).”

However, she adds, she can see changes coming, especially with the appointment of Gelareh Zadeh as the first female chair of neurosurgery at the University of Toronto, and the first female neurosurgery chair in all of Canada.

“The future is in good hands. The kids of today will help us get across some of these challenging boundaries. They’ll be the ones that find the breakthroughs. We have to keep the fundraising momentum going for them.”

Last year the Terry Fox Foundation distributed \$29.7 million in cash grants for cancer research, with 47 research projects and 435 researchers received funding.

We acknowledge the support of the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario.

Canada

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Niagara-on-the-Lake Launches Tourism Recovery Grant

Applications are open for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tourism Recovery Grant, created in collaboration with FedDev Ontario and delivered in partnership with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, Winery Operators, and the Niagara Region.

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

- Eligible projects will be granted a minimum of \$4,000 & up to a maximum of \$20,000
- Minimum 20% matched funds by the recipient required
- Project costs incurred from June 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020
- Businesses must be located in Niagara-on-the-Lake
- In operation on or before January 31, 2020
- Business must demonstrate a reduction in revenues comparable to last year due to COVID-19
- Any project costs already funded with Federal relief dollars are not eligible
- Recipient must obtain all necessary permits and abide by all municipal and provincial laws
- Recipient must be able to pay for eligible expenses up front and be reimbursed
- Recipient acknowledges this grant is considered income to their business and agrees to keep accurate records
- Recipient acknowledges their name and grant amount will be public information, displayed on the Town's website and/or social media platforms, and possibly used in the Ministry's success stories or public announcements
- Project activities are new to the business and must be related to tourism-focused adaption of COVID-19 protocols or practices, sustaining or growing revenue generation and ensuring long-term stability

Online applications will be accepted until October 15, 2020. For more information, visit notl.com/feddev-grant. To begin your application, visit notl.com/feddev-apply.

Less than a month until new garbage rules kick in

Penny Coles
The Local

Changes are coming to garbage pickup, beginning Oct. 19, when a new regional contract takes effect.

That is the date that curbside garbage bag collection changes to every other week, with a two-bag or can limit. The green bin and blue and grey boxes will continue to be picked up weekly.

Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa says he's seen the beginnings of the regional education campaign, and expects it to ramp up in the next couple of weeks, hopefully avoiding any confusion residents might have.

"The message is getting out there, but it will take some time," he says.

There will be a four-item limit for large household items per week, for single family homes and apartments with six units or less.

Appliances and scrap metal will no longer be collected at the curb. These items can be taken to a Niagara Region drop-off depot.

Diapers and waste resulting from a medical condition will be collected weekly, but residents have to register online for that service.

The contract has been divided between two companies. Miller Waste Systems will be handling collection in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, and Welland. Miller is based in NOTL on Townline Road.

GFL Environmental, the company with the contract for the other municipalities, is moving into the St. Catharines Glendale Avenue space used by Emterra, which had the previous regional garbage contract.

There is a Collection Schedule app available through the Google Play

Store or Apple App Store, to be downloaded on your phone to remind you of collection day. If you want to know how to dispose of a particular item, it will also tell you that, says Zalepa.

"I've downloaded it on my phone, and I think it's a really useful tool."

There are two messages that are key for residents to remember, he says. One is that we need to divert more recyclables and compostable material from garbage bags, and this collection change is designed to accomplish that goal and reduce our environmental impact.

"Climate change is real, and it's upon us. This is going to help."

The other important factor is that we can still put out the same amount of garbage, only the timing of bag or can collection has changed, to encourage residents to do a better job of diversion.

For those who are al-

ready doing that, "the change will be minimal," he says, and for those who aren't, encouraging them to do more is a positive step.

The Region made the switch to every other week for garbage bags to increase diversion and preserve landfill space for waste that can't be recycled or composted, but not without extensive public consultation.

Waste audit results, much-discussed at NOTL council meetings and others across the region last

fall, showed that 64 per cent of what Niagara residents place in the garbage can be recycled or composted.

To the concern that illegal dumping will increase due to the change in collection, regional research says similar municipalities that have switched to every-other-week garbage collection haven't seen an increase in dumping, as residents have properly sorted and recycled their waste.

The Region provides waste disposal options for

many illegally dumped materials, including furniture and appliances containing CFCs. Tires, electronics, household hazardous waste, scrap metal, appliances without CFCs, and residential leaf and yard waste (branches and leaves) are accepted free at drop-off depots.

For more information visit niagararegion.ca/waste or call 905-356-4141.

For information about the garbage collection app, go to niagararegion.ca/waste/collection/schedule/default.aspx.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community.

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

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

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Beethoven mysteries solved in At Home series Sunday

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

You can tell a lot about a person by looking at their hair. In Ludwig van Beethoven's case, it took 171 years for his hair to reveal some of the truths about, and to dispel some of the myths surrounding the man.

In 1827, as Beethoven lay dying, a young musician named Ferdinand Hiller came to pay his respects to the great composer. Hiller snipped a lock of Beethoven's hair as a keepsake, as was customary at the time. Somehow over the years, the lock of hair found its way to Nazi-occupied Denmark, where it was given to a local doctor, Kay Fremming, who was involved in the effort to help save hundreds of Jews during the Second World War.

Fremming's daughter eventually consigned it for sale at Sotheby's, listed as lot 33 at auction, in a 10.5 x 9.5 centimeter oval frame. It was purchased in 1994, and a few years later the lock of hair underwent a series of complex forensic tests in the U.S., in the hope of finding the probable causes of the composer's chronically bad health, his deafness, and his death.

This Sunday, Sept. 27, Music Niagara presents *Beethoven's Hair* as part of the non-profit organization's 2020 At Home Concert Series. It weaves together music from Beethoven and other composers through the years, played by Elina Kelebeev on piano and Music Niagara artistic director Atis Bankas on violin, with readings based on the book *Beethoven's Hair: An Extraordinary Historical Odyssey and a Scientific Mystery Solved*, by Russell Martin.

Old friends and colleagues Guy Bannerman and Jamie Mainprize jumped at the chance to work together on the project. Filmed at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, the two vastly ex-

perienced actors, dressed in period costume, take turns narrating the story with their dulcet tones.

Mainprize remembers Bankas first coming up with the idea more than 10 years ago. "He thought it would be good to shorten the book somehow," he explains, "to provide a script, so that a reader could do it and some music could be done. He didn't have the time, so he asked me to do it, and the script reading is my abridgement of the book."

Both Bannerman's wife, Marian, and Mainprize's wife, Virginia, have been actively involved in Music Niagara as volunteers and board members. Both actors say that they love and respect the quality and importance of the festival here in NOTL, and have helped out whenever they could. But their association with Music Niagara is not the only thing that has brought them together.

Bannerman and Mainprize first collaborated in 1959, when they were both working with the revived Straw Hat Players in Peterborough and Port Carling. "When we met," says Bannerman, "I was a young boy and Jamie was, of course, incredibly old to me (he was 23). Now of course, we've ended up being essentially the same age."

Mainprize tells the story of a mongrel dog who appeared in a play there that year. The dog, whom the company named Happy, was borrowed from the pound. They both agree that Happy was a sweet, but homely mutt. When the production wrapped, the young Bannerman was afraid of what would happen to the dog if he were to be returned to the pound. Mainprize gave the dog to a friend in Youngstown who had a farm, and Bannerman sadly assumed that Happy would probably be put down. When the two reunited in NOTL, Mainprize gave Bannerman a sketch his friend had made

of the dog, which he still has today, proving that his fears were unfounded.

Mainprize moved on to a career that focused mostly on movies, appearing in such films as *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, *Cocktail* and *Shadowhunter*. Along the way, he also became a teacher and ran an educational publishing business. Bannerman, meanwhile, has been a member of the Shaw Festival ensemble for about 30 years. He moved to town in 1993, a year after Mainprize.

Forty years after their first meeting, the two came together once again at the Shaw Festival as cast members of the 1999 production of *Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca*, directed by Christopher Newton. Now, with another 21 years gone by, they have been enjoying their sessions collaborating on this week's production, though they never appear on screen together for *Beethoven's Hair*.

It is clear both Bannerman and Mainprize have learned much while delving into the route taken by this very personal historical artifact. Speaking of its link to the Second World War, Mainprize says "it's really more a study of incredible heroism in the face of terrible persecution, than it is a study of Beethoven's music or life."

"The book goes into considerable medical detail," adds Mainprize, "to examine the cause of his death, among other things. I just expunged (the medical information), as it doesn't fit in with a musical, dramatic presentation."

But Bannerman adds that the secrets upon which that lock of hair shed light are revealed. "There are three important facts that are revealed in one paragraph by the writer," he says, "and they are the most significant."

Beethoven's Hair will premiere on musicniagara.ca this Sunday at 4 p.m. Go to the WATCH LIVE section of their website to see it.



Guy Bannerman and Jamie Mainprize work together again on the recording for *Beethoven's Hair*, one of the Music Niagara At Home series.

Bikes, boards, scooters welcome



The official opening of the Virgil skate park was a good indication it is attracting a variety of ages, skills levels and ways to have fun. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Atis Bankas prepares Guy Bannerman for his role as narrator at the NOTL Museum recording. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Pedal Pushers ride for Healing Cycle

Continued from page 1

ilies have chosen to keep their loved ones at home to care for them, Bagnulo explains.

In her mind, that's the best place for them.

"If I could keep a family member at home, with really good palliative care, I would," she says. Dying at home, surrounded by loved ones, with good palliative care in place, "is the best experience you could possibly have."

Bagnulo is a bereavement specialist, has worked in a funeral home, had her own business, and has earned a certificate in thanatology, the study of death and loss.

She began studying death, dying and bereavement in 2002, after losing her brother. They were very close, and she was devastated by the loss. "I didn't know how I was going to function. When you lose someone, you lose a piece of yourself. It turned around for me when I realized he had left a piece of himself with me. As I went through that grief journey, I realized he didn't leave me, he was a part of me."

Other family deaths followed, sending her looking for information on how to deal with grief, and then she became passionate about using what she had learned to help others.

She couldn't be happier about landing the job with the NOTL palliative care service, taking over from Terry Mactaggart when she retired two years ago.

Crediting Mactaggart for the extensive work she did to build the local service, Bagnulo says, "she did this job for 22 years, and I hope to be able to do it for another 20."

Thanks to Mactaggart, she adds, "when clients reach out for help, we have the resources, and I can't wait to offer them."

She would love to have enough volunteers to visit with every single person in long-term care, she says. They may not all be palliative, but they are all dealing with health issues, and would benefit from a visit. "We should have enough volunteers to visit with everyone in this community in long-term care, and everyone looking for or needing support. This should not be a go-it-alone journey. We want to be there for them."

She talks about helping deal with "anticipatory grief," the mourning that occurs when a client or

family is expecting a death; about providing equipment that helps with both physical and mental aspects of life-threatening illnesses, relieving some of the stress on a caregiver; the ever-important counselling; and follow-up care for family members for up to a year after their loved one's death.

"Doctors, nurses, PSWs, they're all irreplaceable, all helping with different needs," she says. "And we're an important piece of that puzzle, helping clients emotionally and physically."

But the work of the palliative care service requires funding, and Bagnulo is looking forward to the annual Healing Cycle, which the local service is joining for its eighth year.

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

The NOTL group has a team they call the Pedal Pushers, which is pledging to ride 10 kilometres along the Niagara Parkway Recreational Trail, "allowing for social distancing, and keeping our team and community safe," says Bagnulo.

By donating to the team, "you are enabling our efforts to keep supporting our clients, who may be your neighbours or friends, at their very important time of life."

The team has raised \$90,000 over the years, and hope to raise another \$10,000 this year, she says.

The Pedal Pushers are challenging businesses and individuals in the community to form their own small teams, to help raise funds for the palliative care service.

If you are interested in forming a cycling team, in donating to the Pedal Pushers or in providing sponsorship, visit www.notlpc.com or email notlpc@bellnet.ca. Cheques can be mailed to NOTL Community Palliative Care Service, P.O. BOX 130, NOTL L0S 1J0.

The Healing Cycle Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting hospices and palliative care units across Ontario, raising funds through the annual Healing Cycle Ride, now in its 16th year.

Over the past 15 years, The Healing Cycle Foundation has raised more than \$3 million dollars for Ontario hospices and palliative care units.



Bonnie Bagnulo will be one of the Pedal Pushers trying to raise \$10,000 for palliative care. (Penny Coles)

IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME!

You'll Fall Head Over Heels For These Autumn Trends

Submitted by
Creek Road Paints

Autumn is a season that brings about cozier colours, inspiration from nature in our decorating, and a bounty of change – which is exactly what seems to be trending this fall season.

We are seeing more of Vintage, salute to the 70's era of Flair finding its way into a lot of newly designed spaces. With a more relaxed aesthetic, which coincides with the season, seeing more eclectic mixes of textured fabrics, organic materials and exotic woods.

Inspiration from nature, with deeper, moodier colours for those comforting spaces are dominant this season – infusing organic elements throughout your décor – like wood, stone, greenery etc. Even style your planter boxes with vegetables and herbs, like cabbages, gourds and more, for a slightly modern take on a classic seasonal arrangement.

More and more this season we are seeing people updating their bathrooms, creating fabulous spaces, without them looking too fussy. Stone tiles

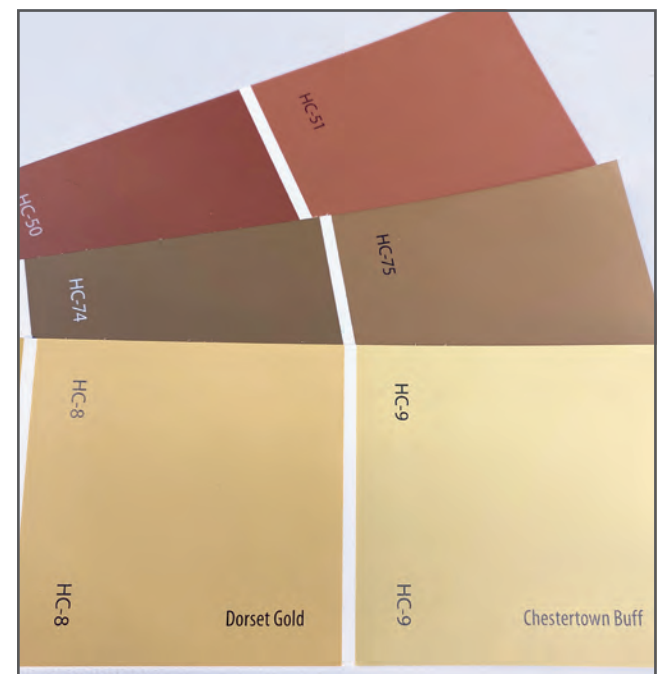
with metallic elements are a current trend, and are giving a bit of subtle glam to those updated spaces.

Brass is also making a comeback this year, as we are seeing a more industrial, tarnished take on the element, giving a less polished look. Brass and matte black bathroom fixtures are becoming increasingly popular as we move away from the previous-

ly popularized nickel finishes, which gave a more polished look, as opposed to a more refined, industrial look.

For Moore colour tips and trends for this coming season, visit the Colour Experts at Creek Road Paints in Virgil, for all your design and décor needs.

Always something Moore from Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore #StaySafeNOTL.



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SCHOOLS

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COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Golf tournament supports local children

Royal Oak is once again hosting its annual golf tournament at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club on Oct. 7, albeit a modified version to be COVID friendly this year.

Individuals or groups can sign up to play with tee times, the same great prizes to be won and complimentary refreshments. In addition, this year players will receive a goody bag with lots of extra treats from the school's generous sponsors.

This fundraiser is more important than ever this year, as the school is growing quickly to accept many more children in our community who benefit from a small school and classroom environment.

Many families are finding that new challenges have emerged with their existing schools, as children with learning or behavioural differences are slipping further through the cracks.

Royal Oak has doubled its specialty teaching resources this year, and is always committed to small class sizes at all grades, the largest class having 14 children this year and always capped at 15.

This allows us to provide additional support to the children who need it – including any social or behavioural support. It also allows for individualized learning programs to ensure kids who are excelling continue to be challenged

and deeply engaged, and extra support for those who require additional one-on-one teaching guidance.

The school continues to be dedicated to ensuring all children in the community can access the school, independent of their financial background, offering full and partial bursaries to families who require the extra support during this particularly challenging time.

All proceeds from the golf tournament will be used to provide additional bursaries to our community's children, so please come out and play, sponsor a hole or make a donation. You can email admin@royaloakschool.ca or call 905-328-9592 for more information.



Shane Johnson, Christine McIsaac, Michele McIsaac and John McIsaac will be playing in the annual Royal Oak golf tournament, a fundraiser that helps support students. (Photos supplied)



Michael Kamatovic and Max Yerich in the Grade 1/2 class, with plexiglass dividers on their desks.

Teachers take learning outside

Royal Oak's staff and parent volunteers spent the summer preparing the new expanded space on the second floor of the old hospital site.

They have created a learning environment that both supports collaborative and progressive learning methods, as well as the safest, healthiest environment during the COVID era.

Indoors, desks have been framed with plexiglass

barriers to allow students to safely continue to work together in groups

In addition, Royal Oak is taking advantage of the beautiful weather we've been blessed with this month to have as much learning outdoors as possible.

Thanks to the generosity of the Hawley family, picnic tables have been set up for each classroom to use for outdoor learning.



Sienna Rey and Elizabeth Yerich are learning math outdoors.



Ben Farrer is outside on a picnic table, studying the phase changes of water.



Combined in-class and virtual learning

Royal Oak launched the school year two weeks ago with synchronous in-class and at-home virtual learning, so that all families can choose which learning delivery method works best for them this year.

Five children are choosing to start the school with exclusively virtual, at-home learning, where they are able to participate real-time in the in-person classroom, thanks to the great digital technology installed this summer.

Large-screen TVs, camera and a suite of Google Classroom tools allow the at-home learners to listen to and participate in live class discussions.

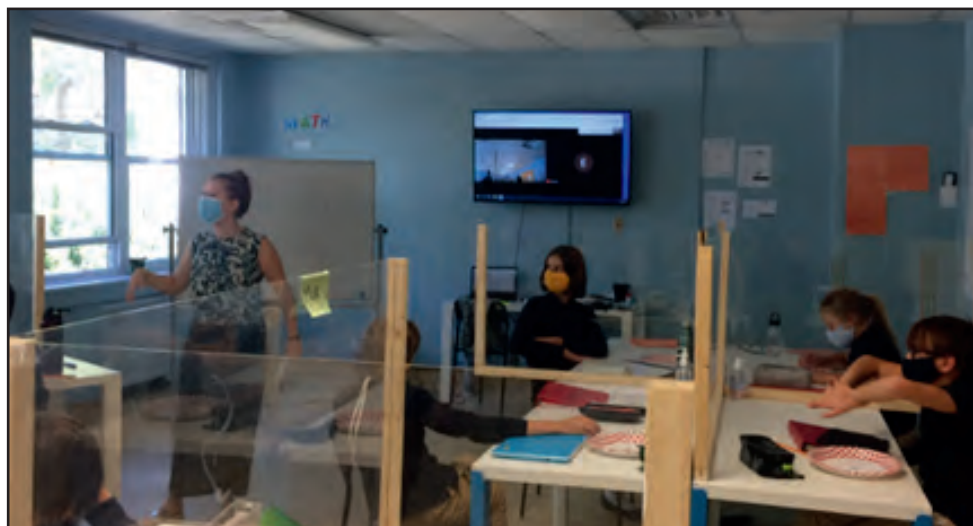
An additional four chil-

dren have opted to do a combination of in-class and at-home learning this year.

Children and families are given the opportunity

to ebb and flow between in-class and at-home virtual learning to support their families' changing needs this year, and instruction

focuses on helping students gain and practise independent work skills, so they may easily learn from home and school environments.



A student combines at-home learning and joining in classroom lessons with the help of a camera and big-screen TV.

Community loses local wine industry pioneer

Penny Coles
The Local

In a town known for its pioneers in the Canadian wine industry, Joseph Pohorly was a legend.

He passed away peacefully Sept. 12, at the age of 88.

Known most recently locally as the founder of Joseph's Estate Wines on Niagara Stone Road, Pohorly had been in the wine industry since 1979, when he started Newark Wines, which he sold in 1983 to Hillebrand Estate Wines. It was there he made Hillebrand's first icewine.

After Hillebrand (now Trius) he went into partnership to start the Colonel Butler Inn, which he ran for 10 years, and then sold to go back to his real passion of wine-making, opening Joseph's Estate Wines in 1996, which he has since sold.

He also established Joseph's Natural Products after receiving his PhD in environmental engineering in 2002. He was the recipient of several awards for his work, including the Christopher Newton Award for Extraordinary Vision in Business, and the Niagara Agricultural

Lifetime Achievement Award for his many achievements in 2018.

Those who knew him speak to his intelligence, his perseverance, and dedication to excellence.

Kathy Reid, the winemaker at Joseph's, has been working at the winery since the day it opened, and knew him even before that, when she worked in a lab at another winery. When he opened his own winery, he hired her as the assistant winemaker.

"He loved to socialize, to meet people. And he was great to work for. We were a

team, and we worked hard. We all got along well and worked well together. He always loved to be challenged," she says, mentioning his study of grapeseed oil, which led to the opening of Joseph's Natural Products.

"He had an engineer's mind. The more complicated a project was, the more pleasure he got out of it. Although he accomplished so much in his life, he was first and foremost an engineer and a winemaker."

Known as an outstanding member of St. Davids Lions, he had been helping out at the

service club for years, before he finally decided to join in 2014, says St. Davids Lion Al Snider.

Even before becoming a member, he worked on various community projects, such as the Centennial Pavilion at the Lions Park, which he designed and funded.

He also helped by applying for grants to fund projects for the Lions, including renovating and expanding the club hall, and was generous with donations himself.

"When we did expand, it



Joseph Pohorly

Continued on page 14

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Pohorly great Lions supporter

Continued from page 13

was his drawings and design we followed, and he was always there, overseeing the work. He wanted to make sure it was done right,” says Snider. “He was very knowledgeable, and he had a lot of common sense. He came to every board meeting. He was very dedicated to the Lions and to the community.”

He was also “a good guy,” says Snider. “He was very personable, liked to joke around,

and he was generous, with his time, and with wine for special events. Any fundraiser in the region, any Lions event, even for other clubs, he was always willing to help out. If you asked Joe for a donation, you always got more than you asked for.”

As an expression of sympathy, in lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the St. Davids Lions Club. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

LOCAL HAPPENINGS





THE LION BURGER RETURNS

Friday, September 25th

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

Time is 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.
St. Davids Lions Park Pavilion

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ANDY WARHOL – A RIVERBRINK ART MUSEUM VIRTUAL DISCUSSION

September 24 @ 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Join us for a virtual discussion via Zoom of Art critic Blake Gopnik’s biography of one of the most influential artists: Andy Warhol. Please visit: www.riverbrink.org/events for more information. Email manager@riverbrink.org for the zoom link.

MINECRAFT CLUB MINI GAMES

September 25 & 29 @ 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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

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

September 30 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

VIRTUAL WAR OF 1812 TRIVIA NIGHT

October 6 @ 8 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Join us for a virtual War of 1812 Trivia Night on (Brock’s Birthday)! All participants will be sent a Zoom link for the evening, which will include 4 rounds of Trivia, prizes and more! Hosted by Friends of Fort George

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo!

Prices starting at \$20.

Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.

Call Karen 905-641-5335

or email: classified@notllocal.com

Generosity abounds



Saturday’s food drive, which was to continue with pickups throughout the community Wednesday, Sept. 23, should supply Newark Neighbours with enough food to fill Thanksgiving dinner baskets, maybe with some left over for Christmas. Nine tables were piled with food collected at Phil’s valu-mart Saturday, and dropped off at Cornerstone Church, where volunteers Suzanne Vaillant, Ellen Williams, Cindy Grant, Ingrid Regier, and Pat Hicks sorted it. John Wiens of the NOTL Golf Club (centre) also took part in the collection, having members drop off food at the club house. Williams and Hicks helped Armando Pena, who spent the day driving between the two locations, unload. (Photos by Penny Coles)

LOCAL WORSHIP



CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, September 27th

10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP GATHERING

Speaker:
Kevin Bayne

Message:
Help!

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays. There will be no in-person church service.

www.ccchurch.ca

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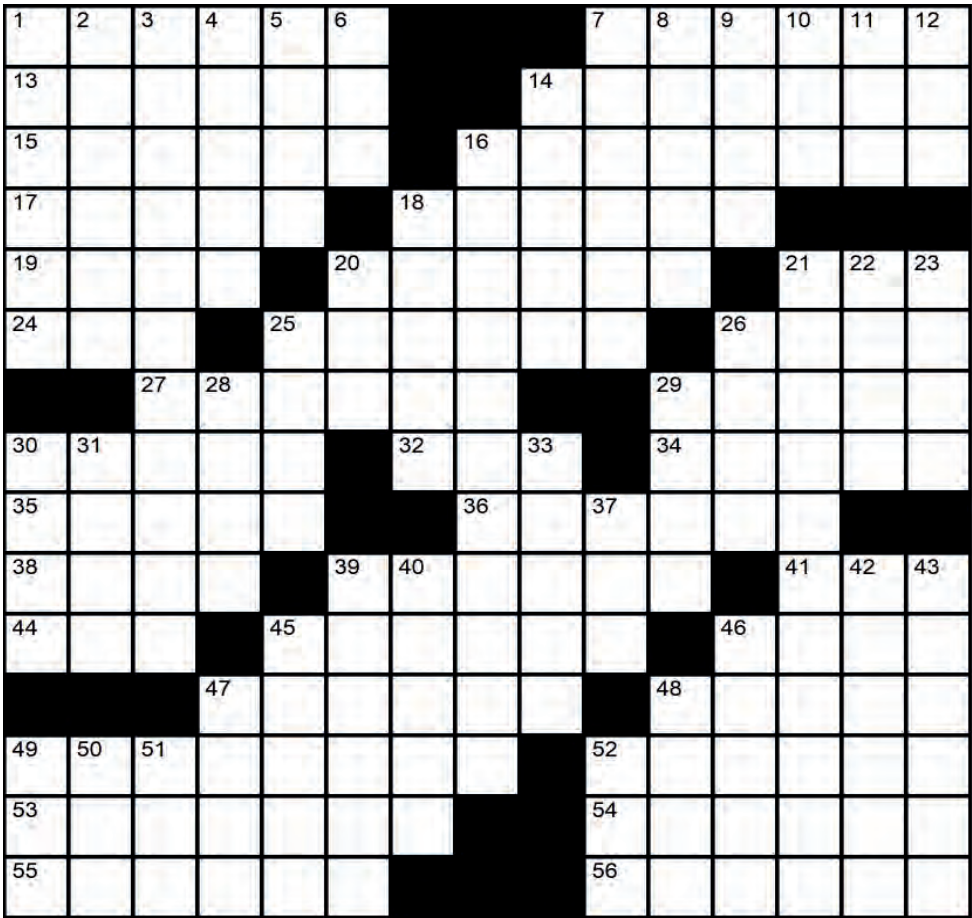
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- Across:**

1 Habitual practice

7 National park in Tennessee

13 Punctual

14 Self-destruction

15 In this place

16 University of California campus site

17 In broad daylight

18 Does puzzles like this one

19 Consults

20 Shaped

21 Dram

24 "The Last Ship" channel

25 Reimburse

26 King Cole's fiddlers, for example

27 Kind of couch

29 Fine-grained rock

30 Steam

32 Admiration

34 Buffalo Bill and Iron Eyes

35 President who wrote "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever"

36 Seasoned

38 Father

39 For the nonce

41 Vase

44 Social group
- 45 Experimental kind of pig, maybe

46 Your largest joint

47 "Hogan's Heroes" actor --- Klemperer

48 Sudden attacks

49 Notorious White House intern

52 Ventilate

53 Pistil parts

54 What Hepburn called Tracy

55 Agree

56 Became taut
- 20 Gangster's foe

21 ET radios nun about groups of workers

22 Smooth-talking

23 Lear's Pobble lost them

25 They don't go off

26 Norse thunder god

28 Domesticated

29 Surface gunk

30 Deepest part

31 "Nurse Jackie" lead --- Falco

33 Consumer, in a diner

37 "--- With Mussolini" (Zeffirelli movie)

39 Puckers

40 Where many participants get cold feet?

42 Lower

43 Wrote code within code

45 Aladdin's factotum

46 Member of a Myanmar ethnic group

47 Lean and muscular

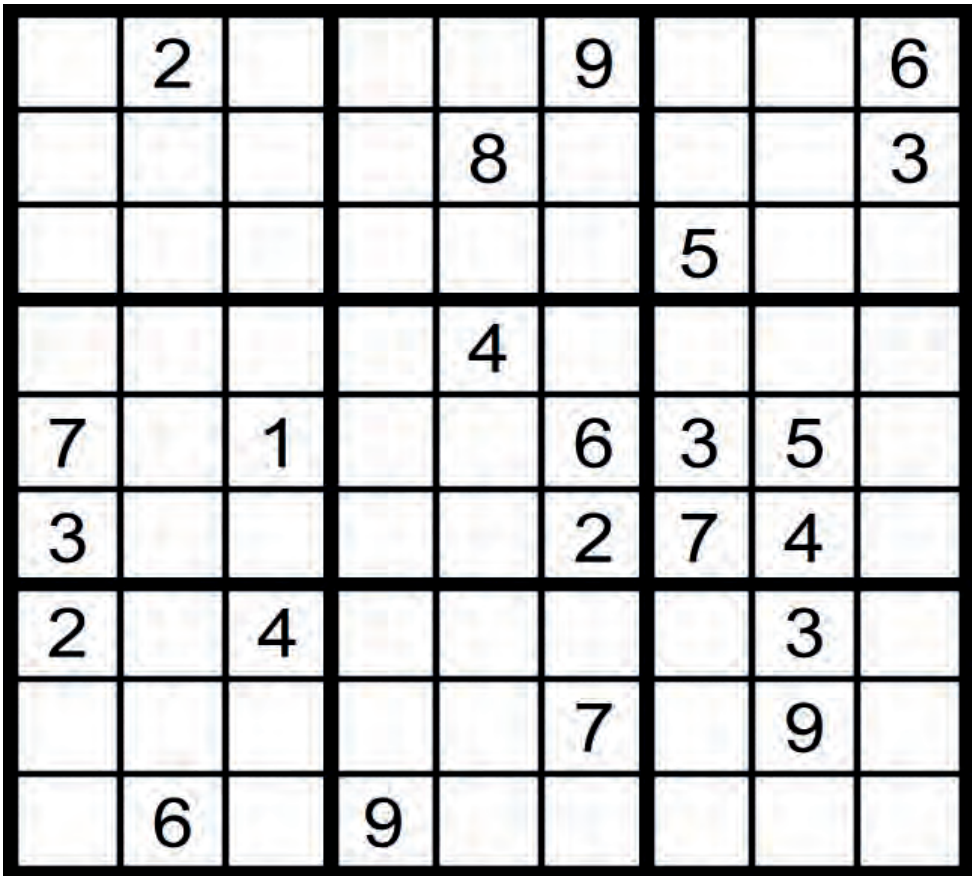
48 Ready for harvest

49 Official go-betweens

50 "Little" '60s singer

51 "One --- or Another" (hit Blondie song)

52 Bermuda time, initially



OBITUARY



GALLOWAY, DAVE—Passed away unexpectedly at the St. Catharines General Hospital on Saturday, September 19, 2020 at the age of 70. Beloved husband of Alison Hepburn for 21 years. Much loved son of Betty Galloway. Dearly loved dad of Emma (Matt) Brejak, Katie Galloway, Megan (Tro) Zetlian and Dave Seymour. Cherished GP of Talisker, Clementine, Miles, Jonathan and Penelope. Loving brother of Lorie (Lambert) Wybenga and Dan (Wendy) Galloway. Brother-in-law of Suzanne (Don) Hepburn. Cherished son-in-law of David and Diane Hepburn. Dave will be remembered by his students and colleagues at Lawrence Park Collegiate Institute. Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Dave's Life will take place at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.

In memory of Dave, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by his family.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



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Corner of Niven Road and Hwy 55 near the Shoppers Drug Mart plaza.

Black Herschel wallet with red and white stripes inside.

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YARD SALES

BARN SALE

Saturday, September 26th
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Furniture, books, miscellaneous

All proceeds from the Barn Sale will go towards the Children's Wish Foundation

1171 McNab Rd., NOTL

The barn is located up a long driveway.

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Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from September 17, 2020

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

Across: 1 Custom, 7 Shiloh, 13 On time, 14 Suicide, 15 Herein, 16 Berkeley, 17 Over, 18 Solves, 19 Sees, 20 Formed, 21 Tot, 24 TNT, 25 Derray, 26 Tho, 27 Studio, 29 Shale, 30 Be mad, 32 Ave, 34 Codys, 35 Adams, 36 Mature, 38 Sire, 39 Pro tem, 41 Um, 44 Set, 45 Guinea, 46 Kraie, 47 Werner, 48 Raids, 49 Lewinsky, 52 Air out, 53 Ovaries, 54 Spence, 55 Say yes, 56 Tensed.

Down: 1 Co-host, 2 Uneven, 3 Street-smart, 4 Tiers, 5 Omit, 6 Men, 7 Survey, 8 Hiked, 9 Ices, 10 Li'l, 11 Ode, 12 Hey, 14 Selma, 16 Borrow money, 18 Sofia, 20 Fed, 21 Trade unions, 22 Oily, 23 Toes, 25 Duds, 26 Thor, 28 Tame, 29 Scum, 30 Bass, 31 Eddie, 33 Eater, 37 Tea, 39 Purses, 40 Pinks, 42 Reduce, 43 Nested, 45 Genie, 46 Karen, 47 Wiry, 48 Pipe, 49 L Os, 50 Eva, 51 Way, 52 A S T.

Reopening schools safely matters to everyone

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

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



Visit ontario.ca/ReopeningSchools
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LOCAL SPORTS



Chris Weier helped the Orangeville Northmen of the Ontario Junior A Lacrosse League win in their August, 2019 playoff run. (Photo supplied)

NOTLer Chris Weier drafted to Toronto Rock of NLL

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

Niagara-on-the-Lake native Chris Weier has been selected by the Toronto Rock in the fourth round of last week's National Lacrosse League draft.

When training camp is eventually allowed to start, the Brock University sports management student will be one of six new defencemen who will be vying for a spot on the 2020-2021 Rock roster.

Weier says he had been talking to a couple of other teams ahead of the draft, including Halifax, Rochester and Colorado. He is elated to have been selected by the Rock, though, a team that plays its home games just down the QEW from his NOTL home.

Choosing Weier was a no-brainer for the Rock. In 2019, after his hometown Niagara Thunderhawks were eliminated from the Junior B playoffs, Weier was asked to join the Orangeville Northmen of the Ontario Junior A Lacrosse League (OJALL) for their playoff run. Weier became a key member of the Northmen defence as they rolled on to win the 2019 Minto Cup last August over the Victoria Shamrocks.

The head coach of that Canadian championship team was Bruce Codd, who also happens to be an assistant coach for the Toronto Rock. Weier says that gives him a bit more of a comfort level when he eventually gets the chance to try to work his way onto the team.

There are other reasons why Toronto is right for Weier. "I know the coaches, there's a couple guys from St. Catharines, and it's nice this year with everything going on, with COVID," he says. "If anything happens, it will be nice to be close to home, and not have to travel much."

Toronto head coach Matt Sawyer, like Codd an Orangeville native, says the organization was excited to have the opportunity to draft Weier. In an email, Sawyer calls Chris

"a smart defender with high upside who makes the right decisions in transition. We really like the fact that Chris has shown an ability to improve each year of his junior career and we expect that to continue at the next level."

That ability to improve and to be coachable was a key trait for his former Thunderhawks coach Randy Chrysler.

"Give me 25 Chris Weiers," says Chrysler. "I've never seen a young man at his age so humble, so willing to work. He does what he's told, he's always like a sponge. He doesn't say much, but he leads with his actions on the floor."

Chrysler, for one, thinks Weier won't have any problem cracking the pro team's line-up. "He better be a starter, or I'm going to go there and yell at them," he jokes. "Their style, their transition, that's right up his alley. The kid is not your 215-pound, 6-foot-3 kid, but his lacrosse IQ is like a cagey veteran. He reads the plays before they happen."

Other than his stint with Orangeville, Weier has played all of his lacrosse, both field and box, here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He credits his parents, Rob and Kathy, for their support in helping him get to the point where he is able to pursue his professional lacrosse dream. He also gives a nod to his past NOTL coaches Kevin Buis and Andy Boldt for their help in his development.

The Crossroads Public School graduate also represented Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in three trips to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association's lacrosse championships, helping the team to second, third and fourth place finishes.

Holy Cross coach Corey Quinn shares Chrysler's sentiments. "I always knew (Chris) had the talent, just often I didn't see other people seeing his talent," says Quinn. "He was always a quiet leader on the team. You could call him the stone-faced assassin. Never showed any emotion. You told him to

do something, he'd just go do it."

"Stone-faced" is an accurate assessment, as Weier rarely changed his tone of voice or got too excited during a telephone interview for The Local. Every question was answered with an even keel, in a no-nonsense manner. The only emotion he showed was a bit of a chuckle upon hearing what some of his past coaches have said about him.

While studying at Brock, Weier has also been an important member of the Badgers. Brock coach Tim Luey credits the "6-foot-2, 185 pound shut-down defender" as a huge factor in the team, posting the lowest goals against total in the Canadian University Field Lacrosse Association last season.

"Chris is a defensive stalwart who just doesn't make mistakes," says Luey. "He's so consistent and makes very smart decisions. He's the type of player a casual fan may not notice, but if you just watched him for just 10 minutes, you'd be impressed."

Weier knows it won't be easy to earn a spot on Toronto's roster. The Rock traded away future draft picks to acquire superstar defenders Jason Noble and Mitch de Snoo, and also drafted three other defencemen, one ahead of Weier.

"With the acquisitions they had," he says, "it'll be tough for anybody coming in as a first-year player. But you never know, throughout the summer, working hard, getting your stick in your hands, who knows? Injuries or something, who knows what could happen."

While waiting to hear whether or not Toronto Rock will be allowed to hold a training camp later this year, Weier says he will continue trying to put on a bit more muscle, while concentrating on his studies at Brock. And if the Badgers are allowed to have a truncated sports season later this school year, that should give him a chance to get that stick in his hands to prepare for his move to the pro ranks.