



A great afternoon at Shaw Festival

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Sarah Kaufman and Sean Simpson show off a plaque that details the expansion and improvements coming to the museum, a \$10 million project. (Penny Coles)

Museum moving forward on long-awaited project

Penny Coles
The Local

A \$10 million expansion of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is expected to “usher in a new era for one of the region’s most beloved cultural institutions,” and will enhance its ability to “showcase the rich history and vibrant culture of Niagara-on-the-Lake while providing an even more engaging experience for visitors of all ages.”

It’s been a long time in coming. Managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman first spoke to councillors in 2019, saying that the museum, founded in 1875 and housing one of the finest

collections of early Canadian artifacts and archives in the most historic town in Canada, had outgrown its space.

She was asking for town support in applying for grants, and spoke of a fundraising component, necessary in order to obtain the grants expected to help fund the expansion.

But COVID intervened, and that was put on hold, until this week, when Kaufman announced plans to move forward.

The museum “has been a cornerstone of our community for over a century, preserving and celebrating the unique heritage of our historic

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Flu, COVID vaccines coming to pharmacies near you

Penny Coles
The Local

We’re heading into what is typically the fall season for flu, and COVID, but both seem to be doing the rounds a little early.

Dr. Iram Ahmed, a member of the Niagara North Family Health Team, told The Local she is already seeing patients with influenza, respiratory cases and COVID, which

weren’t expected quite so soon.

“I’m certainly starting to see unwell people in my office. It’s safe to say it’s started,” she says, including COVID. Watch for fatigue, muscle aches and pains, sore throat, coughs and fevers, “the typical symptoms we’ve seen in the past.”

Her message to prevent illness and stop its spread is one we’ve heard before, she says: “it’s a multi-layer

approach,” which includes getting up-to-date on flu shots and the COVID vaccine as soon as they are available.

That should be soon — they are approved by Health Canada, and are expected to be distributed as previously, to pharmacies, possibly family doctors’ offices, and through public health clinics. “I don’t anticipate they’re going to re-invent the wheel — it will be the usual

distribution.”

“We’re all waiting for more information,” she added, but the expectation is they will be distributed in the first few weeks of October.

Also, she says, the usual precautions still apply: wash your hands often, don’t touch your face, “and stay home from work or school if you’re sick, to get rest and get better and so you don’t spread it to others.” The last layer,

she adds: “if you have to go out to places that are crowded, wear a mask.”

And these are good reminders to pass on to children, she says. “These are all part of our arsenal of protecting ourselves.”

The new COVID vaccine, updated to cover new variants, is approved for children over six months old.

If the flu shot is available earlier, “get the flu shot when it’s available,”

and it’s also safe to get both at the same time.

Ahmed encourages those over the age of 60, have cardiac disease or are immunocompromised, to see their doctors ahead of time to have a plan in place should they get sick.

There are two treatments for COVID, she explains, Paxlovid and Remdesivir, for high-risk patients, but they need to

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St. Michael students learn meaning of Orange Shirt Day

Truth and Reconciliation in the spotlight at school

Mike Balsom
The Local

Truth and Reconciliation is much more than a one-day event at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School in Virgil, says principal Emma Fera-Massi.

“As Christians,” she tells The Local, “reconciliation is a sacrament that we engage in regularly. Understanding what this word means on Orange Shirt Day and throughout the year is an important part of our Catholic faith.”

St. Michael students in all grades are participating in a week full of activities and exercises designed to cultivate that understanding as September 30 approaches.

As at many schools across the country, Phyllis Webstad’s story is at the centre of many of those learning activities.

Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem’c Xgat’tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band) in Western Canada, is the founder and ambas-

sador of the Orange Shirt Society.

Taken from her family at the age of six, Phyllis was sent to the St. Joseph’s Mission Residential School, where she was stripped of her beloved orange shirt and made to feel that she didn’t matter. Her own healing journey, begun at age 27, has been a focal point of Orange Shirt Day.

On Friday afternoon, the primary students at St. Michael will be watching *Every Child Matters: Residential School Survivor Phyllis Webstad*. Following the video, they will be creating a giant ‘T-shirt’ out of poster board and writing on it how each student should feel at school. Then they will be cutting out feather shapes, tinting them and attaching them to the ‘T-shirt’.

In other classes, songs, books and videos will be used to help students reflect on what reconciliation means to them, while some will be creating dot art projects following the style used by Canada’s Metis peoples.

The Niagara Catholic

District School Board’s website says the board acknowledges the importance of recognizing Orange Shirt Day in schools and other sites. “This grassroots day sheds important light on the

tragedy of the residential school system in Canada and has been adopted by the federal government as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation,”

says the site. “This part of Canadian history is not a proud one,” Fera-Massi adds, “but it is one that must be remembered and discussed.”



St. Michael Catholic Elementary students are participating in Truth and Reconciliation activities all week long, including Akeen Fletcher, Paul Suarez, Gemma Fratangelo, Luke Fratangelo, Angelina Lavalle and Natalie Simpson. (Mike Balsom)

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at town hall

Local Staff

Saturday, Sept. 30 is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a day to reflect on Canada’s historical past regarding the residential school system,

educate ourselves on how this legacy continues to affect Indigenous Peoples and offer support to the many families and communities that have been affected.

In a news release this week the town says it is

hosting a flag-raising ceremony outside the town hall on Four Mile Creek Road, on Friday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m., with a performance by the Strong Water Singers.

That will be followed by a reflective walk around the Virgil Sports Park track to reflect on the tragic history of residential schools and help to ensure this legacy is not forgotten.

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- Stay Hydrated: Remember to drink plenty of water, especially during hot summer days, to keep your eyes well-hydrated and comfortable.
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Injured deer ends up on York Road porch

Penny Coles
The Local

Pat Bailey-Behrend loves animals. At one time, she and her husband ran a business called Compassion for Pets, and on her York Road front porch is a statue of St. Francis of Assisi, considered the patron saint of animals.

She believes it was no coincidence that a badly injured deer, likely hit by a vehicle as it tried to cross York Road, found its way to her porch about 7 a.m. one day last week.

“It seemed like he came to me for help,” she said.

There is a 14-acre property across the street, she explained, where there used to be a lot of deer that would occasionally cross the road. “We once had a whole herd of them grazing on our front lawn.”

But maybe because there is more traffic, or it’s travelling faster, she doesn’t see as many deer on the road as she used to. “We hardly ever see them anymore.”

There is a sign warning of deer crossing closer to St. Da-

vids — she lives near the unopened portion of Concession 1, and there is nothing at her end.

This particular morning she was ready to leave for work, she said, when her neighbour called out to her to tell her about the deer as she was walking from the back of her house around to the front. The neighbour said the animal had crossed his lawn to her porch, where it lay down.

Bailey-Behrend desperately wanted to do something to help the deer, which was still alive, she told The Local, but her neighbour said he had already tried the humane society, which was not able to send anybody, so he had called the police.

When the police arrived, they made some calls, more police came to her home, and they said they would remove the animal for her — he did not survive his injuries, she said.

“They put him in a body bag, and used the wagon of a little tractor to carry him to their cruiser, where they put him in the back seat.”



The statue of St. Francis of Assisi is to the left of the deer, and the angel statue was knocked over but not broken. (Supplied)

“It was so sad, one of the saddest experiences of my life. I really wanted to help, but I couldn’t.”

She knew the deer was suffering — he was bleeding on

her porch, one eye was badly damaged, as was a leg and a shoulder.

He had managed to lie down on her porch, which has several small statues on it, and

only knocked over one — an angel, which lay at his feet, but didn’t break.

“He had obviously been in pain, so at least I could be grateful that he was no longer

suffering, no longer in pain.”

“I would like to remind drivers to please slow down and be on the look-out for deer, and for all wildlife,” said Bailey-Behrend.



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Nurse practitioner vital for those without local doctors

Penny Coles
The Local

A quest to have the province approve and fund a nurse practitioner in Niagara-on-the-Lake continues, but so far with no result.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor has been advocating for more than a year to have a nurse practitioner replaced. There was one available in town to see people who were not patients of the Niagara North Family Health Team, but she went on maternity leave, didn't return and was not replaced.

The family health team has two nurse practitioners, but they can only see rostered patients.

There are many people in town without doctors, or if they have them, they may be in Toronto or Markham or Oakville, O'Connor says. "Some people who have come to town recently have maintained their family doctor, if it's within driving distance."

Others have found doctors in St. Catharines or Niagara Falls, "but a larger number

don't have any doctor at all, and are going to walk-in clinics when needed, which isn't ideal, depending on your state of health."

She says there could be as many as 8,000 residents looking for a local doctor.

A nurse practitioner would be able to see them and visitors to town, and would be the best scenario for those waiting for doctors, she says.

MPP Wayne Gates has been lobbying the province for a nurse practitioner on behalf of NOTL. He's written two letters to Sylvia Jones, the minister of health, is about to write another with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, and was hoping to speak during question period this week to ask why a nurse practitioner hasn't been approved.

In his latest letter, dated Sept. 15, he says, "For years, Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council and residents have advocated for the introduction of nurse practitioner services to expand the depth of care available. They have long expressed their concern about primary

care shortages and its effect on Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"With a significant primary care shortage, and lack of access to emergency hospital services, Niagara-on-the-Lake needs support to obtain nurse practitioner services. Sadly, they have not been able to secure these services to date. It is my sincere hope that the Ministry will collaborate with Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council and my office to help Niagara-on-the-Lake secure permanent nurse practitioner walk-in clinic services."

O'Connor, Zalepa and Gates are all frustrated that it hasn't happened yet.

"We're getting all the right signs this is going to happen," says Zalepa. "I don't understand the impediment. We're hearing the right things, that the funding is in place. It seems like it's going to happen, and then nothing happens."

"There is some action," says O'Connor. "It's getting visibility. The ministry has funded it before. We're just hoping at this point to get to the right conclusion, soon."



Dr. Iram Ahmed, a physician with the Niagara North Family Health Team. (Supplied)

We've learned what to do — now we just have to remember to do it

Continued from page 1

be taken soon after a patient becomes ill — Paxlovid within the first five days of symptoms, and Remdesivir within seven days.

"If you have an upcoming appointment with your doctor, this is something you might want to bring up, to ensure these treatments are given in a timely manner."

Rapid tests should also be easily available at phar-

macies and grocery stores, and it's a good idea to pick some up and have them at home, she added.

Family doctor-approved tips and information to help prevent illness and stay healthy is available at stayhealthyontario.ca — it's a good resource for us, says Amhed.

Also, with so many people in Ontario without doctors, there is information available online for caring for sick children at [take-caring-for-a-child-with-respiratory-illness.](http://ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/actions-parents-can-</p>
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For teens or adults, visit ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/respiratory-infections/tips-for-teens-adults-with-colds-flu-covid-19.pdf.

At the moment there are no clinics in Niagara-on-the-Lake for those without a family health team doctor, but there are urgent care centres in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines. Alternately, call 811 to speak with a nurse, available 24 hours a day.

Former regional CAO amalgamation speech didn't happen

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

Former Niagara Region chief administrative officer Harry Schlange says he is very disappointed that a presentation he was scheduled to make to last week's regional council meeting was removed from the evening's agenda.

Registered to speak as a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, Schlange was set to deliver a strategy he hoped council would consider — one that he believes would result in the regional government saving \$250 million over 10 years if it were to amalgamate to a one-city, single-tier entity with one mayor and 16 full-time councillors.

Schlange retired from his most recent role in Niagara as the CAO of the Town of Grimsby late last year. He was also previously the head administrator of Fort Erie. Outside of the region, he was CAO with the City of Brampton, with departures having been surrounded by controversy.

At the beginning of Thursday's meeting, when

council was tasked with adopting the agenda, a point of order was brought forward by Lincoln Coun. Rob Foster, who said the presentation was out of line and was not relevant to the agenda item it was in response to — a second quarter financial update for 2023.

Foster said the presentation “fails to meet the basic criteria required for council,” which is that delegates need to provide information that is “relevant to the item in question.”

He said Schlange's presentation had nothing to do with the financial update staff was providing to council.

Chair Jim Bradley agreed and allowed the presentation to be deleted from the agenda. A vote was not taken by council.

In an interview Friday, Schlange said he believes the plan he put together is relevant to the staff report.

“I actually felt because I did such a financial analysis, it was something they might want to consider,” he told The Local.

Schlange said the region is “not interested in listening to different views” and that the government is “more worried

about process than progress.”

Schlange had brought an entourage of about 25 people with him to the meeting, whom he described as “retired people” who “care about the future” of Niagara.

He also called them “people who never go to council.”

Schlange said he has no intention of asking to be put on an agenda directly addressing amalgamation, saying “apathy” has set in. Instead, Schlange will work with local business and community leaders who may want to hear his plan, he said.

Schlange was one of 16 individuals registered to speak on multiple topics on the meeting agenda, all of whom were limited to five minutes when it came to delivering their remarks.

He said he would have been able to squeeze his presentation into that tight allotment.

“I rehearsed it all week to make sure I could do it in only five minutes,” he said, adding he is also displeased that two other delegates registered to speak to a report about declaring intimate partner violence as an epidemic were given the chance to take the podium even though they

requested to speak after the deadline to do so.

Daryl Barnhart, executive officer with chair Bradley's office, said council “regularly allows delegation requests submitted after the deadline to proceed, provided the content directly relates to something on the agenda.”

He reiterated Foster's point of order about the subject matter of Schlange's presentation.

“To be absolutely clear, there was not an issue with the timing of Mr. Schlange's submission,” said Barnhart, adding “it was the content that council decided was not applicable to the agenda before them.”

While challenging the relevance of the presentation, Foster didn't name Schlange and called him a “lobbyist.”

In an interview Friday, Foster told The Local that he referred to Schlange as this because he was “trying to influence legislation in some form or another,” and that he should have identified himself as someone who is lobbying.

Schlange takes exception to Foster referring to him as a lobbyist. The region approved its Lobbyist Registry bylaw last April.

Lobbyist activity is described by the region as “any

substantive form of communication, including a formal meeting, email, letter, phone call or meaningful dialogue or exchange that materially advances a matter that is defined as lobbying, whether in a formal or an informal setting.”

The region also says on its website that if “you are an individual who is paid or represents a business or financial interest and are communicating with a public officer holder with the goal of trying to influence any legislative action including development, introduction, passage, defeat, amendment or repeal of a by-law, motion, resolution or the outcome of a decision on any matter before Council or a Committee of Council, or Councillor or staff member acting under delegated authority,” then you are required to register your activity with the Lobbyist Registry.

Schlange said he does not fall into this category.

“I did this on my own. It was a lot of work, and I'm not being paid by anyone,” he said.

In a statement Friday, Bradley said regional council wants to hear from all members of the public, “but we also have to practise fair agenda management to facilitate a good meeting.”

He agreed with Coun.

Foster and said all delegations must directly relate to a matter that is on the agenda.

After carefully reviewing the materials which accompanied Mr. Schlange's delegation request, Bradley ruled in favour of Coun. Foster's point of order and said he “agreed that the delegate's content was not related to the Q2 financial update, and was on a separate topic.”

Bradley also told The Local that “over the last several days many councillors had raised concerns” with him regarding the “applicability of Mr. Schlange's presentation, and suggested that it was not the appropriate venue for it to proceed.”

Delegation submissions are “routinely declined for this same reason” and regional council must “treat all members of the public equally,” said Bradley.

As a “professional courtesy,” Schlange was informed of council's concerns before the meeting and received advice that his content would be “more appropriately received at a future meeting where his presentation would be more on topic,” added the regional chair. “As we move forward, I expect there will be ample and more appropriate opportunities for members of the public to weigh in on the topic of governance.”

More recreational programs coming for youth

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

It took just two months after members of Niagara-on-the-Lake council publicly said the municipality wasn't providing enough programming for youth and young families for that to change.

During last week's committee-of-the-whole meeting, parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte, joined by recently-hired recreation co-ordinator Emily Kujbida, provided an update on strides being made to create new opportunities for youth.

Starting next month, two new programs will be offered by the town for the fall schedule.

The first is Mini, Mighty, and Major Movers, designed to enhance sensory motor and organizational skills, such as walking, jumping, running, and climbing, Kujbida explained in the pair's presentation.

This will be run in two four-week sessions with no more than 10 kids at a time, Saturday mornings at the community centre.

Try-It NOTL will be offered Friday nights, also at the community centre, geared more toward youth and teens.

Ping-pong, badminton, pickleball, cards and games are some of the activities it will include in an effort to “fill the gaps” of what's missing locally, said Kujbida, who has only been in the new recreation co-ordinator position for three months.

These two programs will be pilots ahead of decisions being made next year on what the schedule will look like. The town will be able to “expand and modify” these programs based on feedback, she told council.

On PA days, normal activities such as recreational skates at the arena will be available, but so will new babysitting courses.

The town is also going to expand aquatics certification courses for aspiring lifeguards to take a dive into.

Turcotte said staff are aware that more needs to be offered for young families, pointing out that there are about 930 students within all four elementary schools in town. “When people say there are no kids in Niagara-on-the-Lake, I think that proves them wrong.”

Partnerships with schools, churches and places like Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre are also being explored.

Fielding a question from Coun. Adriana Vizzari about potential partnerships with minor sports organizations,

Turcotte said the town is in “constant communication” with them, especially during the ongoing process of putting together a parks and recreation master plan.

Coun. Nick Ruller said in late July that there was a “clear absence of any children's programming” in town.

He said the town's day camps are not what needs to be addressed, but offerings for an hour or two at a time for young families, at places such as the community centre, need to be expanded.

During last week's committee-of-the-whole meeting, he told the staff presenters “it's great to see what you've been able to put together,” and that he appreciates the “targeted approach” being used.

Ruller also asked that when staff returns to council with a report about its summer camps later this year that it also include information about how many residents and non-residents were registered.

“If that's the will of this council, we'd be happy to do that,” said Turcotte.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita thanked staff for “responding so quickly” and presenting last week's update only about two months after councillors raised concerns when discussing the town's master plan, saying more should be included about programming for families.



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EDITORIAL

Get ready to roll up your sleeves

Amidst some confusion about when to update COVID vaccinations, where they will be available and for what age groups, we are getting close to the time when we can take action, if we choose.

Health Canada has approved the vaccine, and we're being told it should be available in the next few weeks.

There is some new information coming out — for example Health Canada is saying it would be best to have it at least six months after having been vaccinated, or after having COVID,

for it to be most effective.

We're hearing anecdotally that numbers of cases are already creeping up, and doctors are confirming that.

We may be suffering from vaccine fatigue, we may be sick of hearing or talking about COVID, but we still have a responsibility to ourselves and our community to try to stay healthy and prevent spreading it, and that means getting vaccinated.

Not much has changed in the workplace, so staying home if we're sick may prevent

our family members, friends or neighbours from having to miss work as well, some of them without sick pay.

This comes along just as the flu and respiratory virus season is beginning, and we're gathering indoors more often — all the more reason to be vaccinated, and to stay home when sick.

As before, the new vaccine is aimed at protecting us from new variants, and if we do become ill, we should be less so than if we have not been vaccinated.

The same is true for the flu.

Every year the vaccine is formulated to protect us against new variants, and in addition, if we do get the flu, it should have less of an impact on us.

It's difficult to feel the same sense of urgency we once did.

So much has changed since we first began to learn about COVID, how glued to the news we were, and how important the vaccine, once approved, would be in allowing some lifting of the restrictions that had such a huge impact on our lives.

Hopefully the majority of Canadians will fall into a rou-

tine of vaccinations, similar to the annual flu shot, and there will be no reason for the same level of anger against health-care experts and governments encouraging us to get those shots. There will continue to be people who don't see the need to protect themselves and those around them, and there will be others who roll up their sleeves every fall for flu shots and who will think nothing of getting two shots instead of one.

There is no doubt that our lives have been changed since 2020, when COVID arrived

on our shores. We've lost loved ones, we've seen the horror stories of what was occurring in long-term care homes and trust there have been improvements made to protect the most vulnerable, we likely still keep hand sanitizers in our vehicles, and many of us think twice about going out if we're sick.

This is the new normal, and a trip to the nearest pharmacy once vaccines are available is little enough to ask to preserve it.

Penny Coles
The Local

Tour guide learns from experience of being guided



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Following nearly two weeks straight of guiding people through our ecosystems and trails in southern Ontario, something special occurred to me. I guide, but I have also been guided many times. Now that I have been at this for more than six years, it got me thinking about how a guide is a significant medium of not just knowledge, but a tangible experience.

I am sure many of you have been guided in some aspect or within a certain attraction. It could be a long hike, a short hike, or perhaps a camp or canoe experience. Maybe you were led through a historical ruin, a culturally significant

town, or a winery.

Anyone can walk you on a path of familiarity or expertise, but the style of guiding is diverse. I would venture to say that a specific fashion of knowledge dispersal, storytelling and personality are equally important.

I would love to share a wild and entertaining story of an individual who once guided me during a segment of filming *Hidden Corners: East Andes Ecuador*.

I feel obliged to mention Mauricio from Ecuador.

When my pal Pablo and I were instructed to "look for our guide, Mauricio" in a remote jungle village, we were curiously humoured by the fact that we had no idea how old he was, what he looked like or where in the village to find him. To get there, Pablo and I rode in the back of a pickup truck, where cattle feces was sloshing around on the floorboards by our feet and backpacks.

When we arrived at the vil-

lage, we were instructed to camp on the rooftop of a government-owned building. While up there, we avoided dangling live wires and shooed away ravenous street dogs from our rooftop camp. It was surreal. In the meantime, we watched as men and women from the village milled about the muddy streets. We would randomly call out "Mauricio!?" from the rooftop, with a clueless and butchered accent. Finally and by chance, a young man (or an older teenager) responded. We had found him.

Over the next three days of jungle-clad volcano trekking, Mauricio barely spoke a word. Like many Ecuadorians, he was quiet. Yet he was powerful.

He never tired, tended to a blister or complained about a thing. His stamina was unmatched, and his lungs weren't affected by the altitude. He casually informed Pablo and I that he led this trek 30 times a year or so. As an eager biologist creating a nature documentary, I had about a thousand questions and curiosities for him, but I could barely get a word out of the guy.

Instead of feeling blockaded and limited by the experience, I had the epiphany that not only his job, but his role as a guide, was to not get us lost and killed. This is not the highest category of urgency when I guide in the developed world of southern Ontario, and I had to take a mo-

ment to realize that his services were not only different, but of immense value. He enabled us to reach the summit, and reach into a friendship that was budding beneath the quietness.

The trail was not discernible, and the dense jungle wilderness could have swallowed anyone whole on a good day. Getting lost could have been easy, and a fresh steaming pile of "caca de puma" (puma feces) showed us that we weren't alone.

His role wasn't to be Bill Nye the Science Guy; he was there to help us survive and return with a memorable experience.

I have had many guides since then — ones who walked more than talked, and ones who talked more than walked. Some have hit me with enough knowledge to make my brain swell, and others ensured I was safe and healthy without saying a word. At the end of the day, all of them were of immense value as people and professionals.

Next time you embark on an ecotourism outing, or perhaps a



Owen Bjorgan and Pablo Segresser on the summit of Mt. Sumaco in Ecuador, 2016. Their guide, Mauricio, was shy and took the photo versus wanting to be a part of it, but Bjorgan says they will always have immense respect and admiration for him and what he did for them. (Supplied)

local brewery tour, I encourage you to remember that a guide is a person and a personality all in one. We come in many shapes and sizes, like any job or any

passion. I will be sending this article to Mauricio (with translation), and I hope he knows how valued and memorable he was to me.

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View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Peter Sellers was a genius, and no matter how silly the plot, or ridiculous the charac-

ters, he had the skills to create timeless comedy. *The Party* (Prime, 1968) is worth revisiting; you will love it.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go

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

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

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Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Last week, Ben was in Dietsch Park, near The Village.

COMMENT

Local LETTERS Why does town allow inappropriate planning requests?

I'm wondering what is happening to our town that encourages people to apply to build projects which are totally contrary to the zoning, the by-laws, and basic land-use principles.

There are currently four applications in the town for approvals to build incompatible projects which are almost twice as high as the bylaws permit and located in areas without suitable zoning. Furthermore,

all of them have flat roofs, probably because a traditional sloped roof would make the buildings more than twice as high as any building in town.

Historically new buildings had to comply not only with the zoning and the bylaws but also had to be compatible with the other neighbouring buildings. Architectural design used to always require consideration of contextualism, meaning the buildings should be similar in

style, size, roof shape and materials to the existing adjacent buildings.

All four of these proposed projects are surrounded by one- and two-storey single-family dwellings and are totally unsympathetic in size, style, roof shape, materials and design.

So, what has happened in Niagara-on-the-Lake that these aberrations are being considered by the planning department when they don't

comply with the town's zoning and bylaws. Why are they even being considered? Why do the citizens have to remind the town that its role is to ensure that all new developments are consistent with the rules and regulations which have served us so well in the past?

I believe that its responsibility should include upholding the bylaws and immediately rejecting unsuitable projects, because by extending the

decision-making process, these undesirable buildings gain more credibility. Even Rainer Hummel waited 20 years before submitting for the approval of his totally incompatible building which looks like any other commercial building in any other downtown, in any other city, anywhere. Does he believe that the people in decision-making capacities don't understand the reasons why this is one of the prettiest,

most unique and most livable towns in the country? Is it possibly true that the town is not inclined to enforce the rules, bylaws and zoning of Niagara-on-the-Lake? Is the town going to ignore the experts on its own committees? Will the community's wishes and the town's bylaws be acknowledged and followed?

Wayne Murray
NOTL

Local LETTERS Punitive taxes are unjust fines that look like fees

One of the historically significant policies of a capricious government is the willingness to use taxation punitively. It is not a good sign when a government

threatens to tax people who don't do what they are told. A punitive tax is just a way to administer an unjust fine.

Everyone experiences it, say, when you purchase any-

thing frowned upon, from gas to intoxicants, from real estate to sugar or meat. Opposing a tax is a more difficult thing to articulate than opposing fines applied so as

to look more like innocent little fees.

Fines are intended to change behaviour, and a fee is something we pay to play.

A government that can no longer tell the difference between taxes and fines (or erases the necessary distinction) indicates an authoritative attitude and contempt

for the people — such as that we read about in pre-revolutionary France.

Jesse Lepp
NOTL

Local LETTERS Joan King says thanks for the support

A beautiful sunny day and enthusiastic participants all came together in Simcoe park on Sunday Sept. 17 to honour our Canadian hero and fulfill his dream of a world free of cancer. Forty-three years ago Terry inspired us to continue his Marathon of Hope. The Terry Fox Run is not just about raising money for cancer research but also about supporting those who are dealing with cancer, and remembering people like Mike Vriens who lost the fight.

Thank you for the promotion and meaningful coverage of the

event and important stories leading up to the actual run day. Huge thanks to Jacob Graham for the video capturing special moments.

We were honoured to have Juliet Dunn lead us in warm ups.

Lucas Pillitteri led us in prayer acknowledging the land on which we live. Leo and Sophia Pillitteri so proudly waved the Canadian flag as Juliet Dunn sang the national anthem.

Joe Pillitteri shared his passion and dedication to the run as he set a goal of raising \$1 million as Team Pillsy by 2025.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

brought greetings from the town and started the 100 bikers, walkers, and runners on the five-kilometre route.

Participants enjoyed fresh Niagara fruit generously donated by Walkers Fruit Market and Maureen McSween of Quiet Acres.

Special thanks to Peter Gill for providing 12 cases of water.

Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who register the participants, marshal along the route, sell shirts, give out certificates and set up the photo display. We couldn't do it with-

out you. So grateful to have the students from the local schools collecting donations at the arena and both Your Independent grocery stores.

Terry Fox said if every Canadian gave \$1 they would be part of the Marathon of Hope. Andrew Niven, director of marketing at Konzelmann Winery, was instrumental in getting the following wineries on board to support the Terry Fox Foundation from Sept. 11 to 17 by asking anyone who made a purchase to donate \$1. Once again the spirit of giving continues in

our community thanks to Andrew and the following wineries: Konzelmann, Pillitteri, Riverview, Ironwood, Jackson Triggs, Chateau des Charmes, Marynsen, DeSimone, Palatine, Trius, Gretzky, Peller, Lakeview, Shiny and Queenston.

Our theme this year was 'Dear Terry'.

My message would be to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to meet so many amazing people who want to make a difference in our world. It is a joy and a privilege to be a Terry Foxer.

Terry, you are the symbol of inspiration, perseverance and the power of what one person can do. You have left an incomparable legacy as both an athlete and a champion for cancer research.

Our Niagara-on-the-Lake community should take pride in their generous support since 1991, raising over \$1,300,000.

So grateful to be a part of this wonderful community.

With much appreciation,

Joan King
NOTL

Camping at Presqu'ile and Sandbanks on Lake Ontario's north shore

David Gilchrist
The Local

It had been after a night of scattered thunderstorms and several days of extreme heat that we woke to finish packing and hook up our Armadillo Backpack trailer. Fortunately, as the morning progressed the skies brightened and the drive on the QEW was good, but we opted for the 407 as far as Whitby before transferring onto the 401 to

the Trenton area, where we excited heading to Prince Edward County.

This area of Ontario is a lovely location for several reasons. The Bay of Quinte, wineries, the Loyalist Highway, quaint towns and villages with the varied working farms and their quilt-patterned barns, are joined by some excellent provincial parks.

This year we were able to visit two parks that provide camp-

ing opportunities — Presqu'ile in Prince Edward County and Sandbanks in Northumberland County. Both are very popular. We had visited Presqu'ile earlier in the summer but wanted to return in September to the area to visit Sandbanks while on our way further east in Ontario.

We had been to Sandbanks many years ago when our two boys were young. My primary memory of that trip was digging a trench around our campsite to capture much running water during a heavy rainfall. Ah, the memories! This time, after setting up on our campsite, we drove to the area of West Bay to see the famous dunes the park is known for. The West Bay sandbar is the world's largest freshwater bay mouth barrier dune system. This naturally occurring feature stretches for eight kilometres, forming a barrier between Lake Ontario and West Bay. It sure is a lot of sand!

The West Bay site has a lovely beach with a shallow wading area that, as the signs warn,

drops off rapidly. We skirted the one side of the dunes and walked the Dune Trail to get a feeling for this area. The trail takes you through a section of mixed vegetation that includes trees and varieties of grasses and bushes which can grow in the sandy soil. You go up and down and there are some stretches of boardwalk which make the walking easier. The afternoon had been quite warm and we waded through the waters of West Bay before deciding to change into our swimsuits and take a refreshing dip in the deeper waters.

There are other trails that are deemed easy to walk and a lot of folks could bicycle around the park quite easily. Other attractions are the sections of beautiful sandy beaches for camper and day use.

Presqu'ile Provincial Park, located close to the town of Brighton, is also quite pleasant to visit. It is known as a site for bird migration and nesting activities along its shoreline. With-

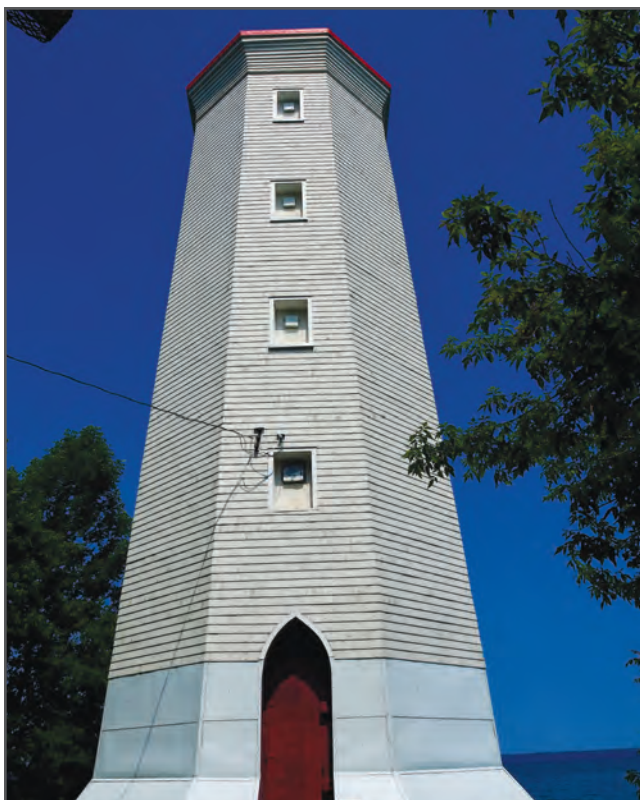
in the park boundaries, 338 bird species with 130 breeding species have been recorded.

Another especially interesting feature, located at Presqu'ile, is its lighthouse. On the eastern side of the peninsula it retains a certain amount of character despite the fact that its cupola, at the top, has been removed. There is some talk of having a new one put in place in the future. The lighthouse has guarded the waters off Presqu'ile since about 1840, and at one point, a foghorn and associated building was also in place, sounding every six seconds when fog enveloped the area. An excellent interpretive

centre is located near the light.

An historical note is recorded on a plaque near the light telling the story of the loss of the schooner Speedy in 1804. It was carrying important people from York who were to take part in the trial of a man charged with murder. The vessel was last spotted off Presqu'ile before disappearing. It has never been located.

Along the shoreline of the park leading to the lighthouse there are areas to pull off, set up some chairs and enjoy a relaxing time close to the water's edge. And the 3.5-kilometre sandy beach is an attractive feature enjoyed by park visitors.



The Presqu'ile lighthouse has stood on the eastern point since 1840. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



Along the Lake Ontario shoreline are areas to enjoy the view.

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Local
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Accommodation tax funding projects still up in the air

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

The big question facing Niagara-on-the-Lake's municipal accommodation tax committee is going to take some time to answer, members decided at their first meeting.

Held last Wednesday, there was some business to take care of — housekeeping items such as electing its chair and vice-chair, while also sharing ideas about what its mandate should be and what types of projects it should fund.

Coun. Sandra O'Connor was named chair of the committee and former town councillor Norm Arsenault will serve as vice-chair.

After a lengthy discussion about whether the committee's mandate should focus on projects related only to tourism, or also focus on projects that don't directly relate to tourism but do play a role in the industry, such as infrastructure and new parking facilities, Coun. Tim Balasiuk suggested that the next meeting be held in the format of a workshop to get everyone on the same page about what the focus of the committee's work will be.

Resident member Brian Trnka agreed and said that coming up with a plan is like "boiling the ocean," referring to the many

moving parts involving tourism in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We need to define really what the focus is," he said.

Arsenault also believes there needs to be collaboration with the town's tourism strategy committee, which has been tasked with coming up with a long-term plan on how to prioritize, implement and measure ways to improve the local tourism experience by creating a broader range of visitors and more diverse options to draw people to the town of about 20,000 people.

"Many of the projects will be driven by the tourism strategy," said Arsenault, adding that "new infrastructure," should be getting the most attention.

Andrew Niven, chair of the tourism strategy committee, who also sits on the MAT committee, said there needs to be more information in the mandate if "specifically tourism" will be targeted or also "general infrastructure for the town."

The MAT committee members will be discussing their mandate as the tourism committee meets to discuss the future of tourism in town, including how much it should grow, where, and what kind of tourism the town wants to attract.

In 2017, the Ontario government issued the Transient Accommodation Regulation, which provides provisions for municipalities across Ontario

to implement an accommodation tax if they choose to do so.

Last June, town council approved a MAT bylaw, resulting in this new tax of two per cent applying only to accommodation establishments with five or more rooms and for bookings made on or after July 1, 2022.

Starting in January, short-term rentals with less than five rooms will also have to pay the tax.

Accommodation providers will see the tax rise to three per cent in 2024, and four per cent in 2025.

In August of 2021, council passed a motion to implement the tax within the 2022 budget for tourism projects and to place any revenues generated into a special reserve for tourism promotion, town capital infrastructure and tourism initiatives.

But all the funds don't go to the municipality.

Through the town's bylaw, Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, a subsidiary of the local chamber of commerce, has been designated as the benefitting Destination Marketing Organization, and will receive half the revenue.

In 2022, total MAT revenue, before being split in half between the town and the chamber's marketing organization, was \$452,149, said Kyle Freeborn, the town's treasurer and director of corporate services, in a presentation to the committee.

In the first two quarters of

this year, the tax has generated another \$285,460.

O'Connor pointed out that provincial legislation saying how the funds are to be used isn't limited to just tourism-related ventures — even though that's what the town has initially zeroed in on with the tax.

"We do have an opportunity to refine that," said O'Connor.

Three projects are already on the town's radar when it comes to putting MAT revenue to use — the first being \$500,000 in capital improvements over five years to the museum.

There were also discussions about funding enhancements to Queen Street during the 2023 budget process, but that was deferred when staff recommended using MAT revenue to cover the project.

In April, council voted to



Sandra O'Connor is the chair of the municipal accommodation tax committee. (File photo)

consider using the accommodation tax to pay for a shuttle service between Fort George and the heritage district.

Balasiuk's motion to run the next meeting as an informational workshop was supported by the committee.

Region considering bylaw for protection against hate, intolerance

Kris Dube
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

Niagara-on-the-Lake Regional Coun. Andrea Kaiser says she has first-hand experience of an issue regional council is in the process of addressing — the damaging impacts of hate and intolerance directed at elected officials.

During Thursday's regional council meeting, a motion recently brought forward by Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop to keep elected officials safe from bullying and harassment from the public was debated by politicians from across Niagara.

After presentations from six speakers, regional council unanimously approved directing staff to author a report to look at the potential creation of a program to educate the public on the benefits of equity, diversity and inclusion. Staff are also to look at the damaging impacts of hate and intolerance, as well as whether council should consider the creation of a residents' or citizens code of conduct to guide individuals engaging elected officials, or attending meetings of regional council and its committees, including advisory committees.

Kaiser, elected to her first term on regional council last November, was a Liberal candidate in the 2019 and 2021 elections, running in the Niagara Falls riding, which also covers Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie.

She spoke about a specific incident in the most recent contest while she was on the campaign trail — one she told council and staff that she has "never spoken publicly about."

When she was by herself in the riding, she said someone drove their vehicle onto a side-

walk near her and began bullying and harassing her.

"At that moment, I did not feel safe," said Kaiser, adding she was "very scared" during the incident.

She thanked Coun. Redekop for bringing the motion forward, and said she hopes it is a step in creating "more safety to those serving the community."

The motion also requests that Niagara Regional Police take a more "assertive approach" when responding to complaints of threats of violence, intimidation, and bullying of elected officials in Niagara.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa added a friendly amendment that the motion ask police to offer training to its officers when it comes to complaints from politicians, and that they update their protocols on the subject.

He said it would be a "much more useful motion" if it were "more specific" about the role of the police in handling cases.

Without knowing what staff is going to be recommending in a report at a future date, Redekop said he is hopeful that if a policy is implemented, it will result in people from different demographics, such as minorities, coming forward as

candidates in future elections.

"We'll never change the makeup of our council" if steps aren't taken, he said.

"We can benefit from their view of the world, the diversity they can bring," added Redekop.

Speaking to the role of police, Port Colborne Mayor Bill Steele, former chair of the NRP services board and current member of that board, said police are already "trained in things such as this," and suggested that it be considered that representatives from the NRP provide an update to the region about things being done currently on this subject.

Through the approval of the motion, regional council is also asking the province be requested to "develop legislation and/or policies to protect elected officials from violence, threats of violence, intimidation, abuse and bullying by other individuals."

A copy of the resolution will also be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all municipalities in Niagara, all Niagara members of provincial parliament, members of parliament and top brass at the NRP.



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Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa asked regional staff to clarify the role of police and any policies they might have to protect politicians from hate and bullying. (Screenshot)

Amen Corner concept familiar to Jamaican farmworkers

Jane Andres
The Local

By generously providing tickets to a theatre performance, Shaw Festival once again showed their appreciation to the migrant farmworkers in our community.

When the lights dimmed at the Festival Theatre before Sunday's production of *The Amen Corner*, Pragna Desai, outreach director, announced from the stage that it would be an unforgettable night. She was referring to the restructuring of the play into a reading due to illness of two of the lead actors. But it's the bond of friendships made this day between Festival cast members and neighbours on the farms that will live on in the community's memory.

The evolving drama of *The Amen Corner* was familiar to many who grew up in Jamaica where churches can be found on almost any corner. The Caribbean audience members leaned into the voices of the characters on stage, totally engrossed as the story unfolded.

With Jeremiah Sparks leading the choir on the keys, many in the audience found themselves surrounded by the deep rumble of men

singing quietly along to their favourite hymns. The performance ended with a standing ovation.

Following the production, Shaw Festival had also arranged for the cast to meet their migrant neighbours and enjoy a jerk chicken dinner together on the VIP terrace, provided by Caribbean Eatery.

Sparks set up a keyboard and along with other Shaw musicians was soon leading the crowd with reggae and soul favourites.

Jenni Burke danced her way through the crowd, pumping the air with a bubble-maker, a little nod to her captivating performance in *Gypsy*.

J.J. Gerber and Alana Bridgewater cleared the dance floor with their energetic version of *Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)*, with everyone singing along.

The camaraderie of a shared heritage was the highlight of the season for our friends on the farms.

It was an afternoon with many of us discovering unexpected connections. Shaw actors who had previously performed at Niagara's Workers Welcome concerts under the direction of Karen Burke and the Toronto Mass Choir were



Gabe Williams (left), an employee of Reimer Farms, will be performing with the Shaw Gospel Choir at the BMO stage on Sunday Oct. 1. Jeremiah Sparks and Alana Bridgewater are Shaw ensemble members, Yvonne Gordon has been an employee of Kai Wiens farms for 20 years, and Jenna Burke Cowan is a musician and daughter of Karen Burke, conductor of Toronto Mass Choir. (Jane Andres)

now sharing a different stage.

It brought back to mind a conversation from 2018 when Tim Carroll and the Shaw Festival had invited farmworkers to see a play based on C.S. Lewis' *The Magician's Nephew*.

The men had been in awe during the performance, many experiencing the magic unfold on stage for the first time.

Later, after the crowd had dispersed, three of us

stood under the lamplight on the street corner. Before we crossed, two of the actors playing the characters of Digory and Polly sped by on bicycles before disappearing down the darkened street.

The two men at my side were astonished to see the lead actors on bicycles. They had expected they would be driving home in fancy cars or a limo.

I explained that actors shared some of the same challenges in the sense that they are always on the move,

searching for the next opportunity, and very few positions are permanent in their line of work. Many actors rely on bicycles as a dependable form of transportation as car ownership is a formidable expense when working in larger cities.

They are far from loved ones, depending on their co-workers to create that sense of family. I have heard comments repeatedly from actors in recent years that Tim Carroll and the management at Shaw Festival have created one of the most supportive theatre

companies in North America for actors, both seasoned and new to the profession.

Whether actor or audience member, there beats in the heart of everyone the desire for human connection — it's part of our very design. So is the need to express the beauty of that connection and have the ability to participate in that experience through the arts.

We are grateful to Shaw Festival for making this possible to so many.

Can I get an Amen?

Info kiosks around town funded by Trillium grant

Mike Balsom
The Local

The town has installed digital information kiosks at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre and in the lobby of both the Meridian Credit Union Arena and the Centennial Arena.

Community engagement and communications co-ordinator Marah Minor says the boards will function as information centres with event notifications, urgent alerts, town advertising, rec-

reational programming information, tourism information (including the town's ShopNOTL website) and much more.

The units are customized with way-finding software to assist residents and visitors to find programming and amenities within the facilities. At the arena, they will feature details such as arena and change room information, while the Community Centre hub will feature room details.

Once the accessible

boards are fully set up, they will function with touch screen and menu options. Each is cloud-based and can be easily and quickly updated remotely by town staff.

A 2022 Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund grant of \$107,300 was acquired by the town in 2022. The grant fully covered the cost of the three permanent boards and one other portable board, located at the town administration building.



Two of the information kiosks are in the arenas. (Mike Balsom)



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Expansion will offer more space, accessibility to all

Continued from page 1

town. This renovation and expansion project represents a significant investment in the preservation and presentation of our local history, art and culture for generations to come, says a recent news release.

Amy Klassen, the museum's director of marketing and financing, recently took *The Local* on a tour of the existing facility, ex-

plaining the changes to be made, which will provide more exhibition space; modernized facilities, including accessibility for all with an elevator; updated climate control, which is important to properly preserve artifacts; meeting space for special events; a larger gift shop area and a larger research room.

Starting at the entrance, the new welcoming centre will be straight ahead, where the gift shop

is now, Klassen says, and to the left will be an expanded gift shop.

To the right will be the expanded research room for members of the public.

The biggest change will be a new addition to the existing space, which will be two floors, 6,225 square feet and built on to Memorial Hall. It will be the home of temporary exhibits, and will allow the museum to host travelling

exhibits, explains Klassen.

It will also have a basement, which will connect to a new basement to be constructed under Memorial Hall, providing additional storage space.

The Link, the newest existing part of the museum, will continue to have a permanent exhibit — but something different, since it hasn't been changed in years.

"We'll be reaching out to the community to see

what stories they would like to see told," she says.

It already has storage and mechanicals in its basement, and will have a second storey to connect the existing portions and the addition to the museum, says Klassen, with an elevator to provide access to the second storey.

The existing exhibit space in Memorial Hall is now used for meetings and events — the cases are moveable — but it is

small and awkward, she says. After the expansion it will be set up for events, including kids' programs.

Originally, Klassen explained, the expansion was intended to be complete by 2025. Accessibility is a huge part of the work to be done, and the province has set accessibility compliance by 2025.

However, with the delay caused by the pan-

Continued on page 11



Amy Klassen indicates where the welcome desk will be in the expanded museum, straight ahead as you come in the front door. To the left will be a larger gift shop. (Photos by Penny Coles)



The Link, the newest part of the museum, will have a new permanent exhibit and a second storey.



The addition to Memorial Hall as it will appear on the outside. (Supplied)



The addition to Memorial Hall inside — this rendering shows the connection to the new meeting space that will be created inside Memorial Hall. (Supplied)

2023

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Sean Simpson to lead \$5 million fundraising campaign

Penny Coles
The Local

Sean Simpson, no stranger to leading large fundraising efforts or community service, is heading the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's \$5 million capital campaign for the revitalization and expansion of the museum.

The request came at a good time for him, he told The Local, and he is looking forward to not only raising money for the expansion, but at the same time helping bring more awareness to an important asset to the community.

It will be his first capital campaign, he says.

During his time as board chair of United Way, both before and after the pandemic, and having led their fundraising campaign, he was also charged with helping people in Niagara better understand the United Way and increase awareness of what it does and how it works.

That experience was not dissimilar to what he hopes to do for the museum — raise its profile in the community while helping to move forward on the expansion project, “which has to be completed for the sustainability of the museum and its prominence in town. The improvements are important, but so is bringing awareness to its importance to the town in sharing the stories of the community for years and years to come.”

“Raising the profile of the museum,” he added, “is something we all want. It still seems to be a hidden gem. It makes sense to me to help put it on the map for the town, alongside the hospitality industry, the wineries and the great restaurants.”

The target of \$5 million “is lofty,” he agrees, but it’s a goal that is necessary to get the matching grants needed to move forward with the project.

And to reach it, “we need to find people who understand the importance of the museum and the many stories it can tell.”

A museum news release says Simpson is “known for his unwavering commitment to the well-being of the community, and his deep-rooted connection to Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

In taking on a leadership role with the museum's Building History – Strengthening Community Campaign, Simpson “will be joining an amazing group of dedicated volunteers who have already done so much for the museum's future. This ambitious endeavour will usher in a new era for one of the region's most beloved cultural institutions and will enhance our ability to showcase the rich history and vibrant culture of Niagara-on-the-Lake while providing an even more engaging experience for visitors of all ages.”

Simpson said “it has been an incredible journey serving the wonderful community of Niagara-on-the-Lake,” and he is grateful for the trust and support of valued customers and the dedication of the exceptional team at Simpson's Pharmasave.

“I look forward to continuing to serve this beautiful town through the museum's campaign. Our town has such a rich and vibrant history, this project will enrich our ability to share the story of our heritage with our children and those that follow them.”

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Sarah Kaufman and Sean Simpson are excited to finally see the expansion project get underway. (Photos by Penny Coles)

Meeting space ‘will bring community to museum’

Continued from page 10

demic, it will likely be 2026, she says.

Volunteer and board secretary Ted Rumble explains why he believes this expansion is so important.

Like many others, Rumble's interest in history is what drew him to NOTL 25 years ago, and to the museum.

He is best known around town as the finder of 200-year-old ordinance boundary stones — to date, 19 of the 37 stones have been found, the number one stone just recently. Used to mark the boundary between town land and military reserves, the stones are some of the oldest historical artifacts in the Old Town.

Rumble's interest started with his home's proximity to OBS 23 at the corner of Simcoe and Prideaux, which was intact, until broken by a town snowplow. Rumble says he used the research

room on his quest to find more of the stones, but his connection to the museum goes back further than that.

He is also program coordinator for the very popular Famous & Infamous.

Sitting in the exhibition space in Memorial Hall, he outlines the reasons he believes the expansion is essential, the first of which is the need for what he calls presentation space, which is available in Memorial Hall, but requires moving exhibitions, setting up and taking away after events, provides a poor audio and visual experience, is crowded, “and is definitely not ideal.”

“The new presentation space will be state-of-the-art,” will open up the museum to the public for receptions, and to him, “is the most exciting part of the expansion. It will allow us to bring the community into the museum, into a far better space.”

The extra exhibition space is also important, he says. “It will allow us to share a lot more of our story, and we can also accept travelling exhibits from other museums.”

Accessibility is high on his list for the need for expansion. “This is an old building. We would like it to be accessible to everybody, including people who are disabled in any way.”

Having used the research space himself, he knows how small, cluttered and awkward it can be, and that as small as it is, members of the public are occasionally asked to leave the room so it can be used for meeting space.

“People come to research all kinds of things — their family, their home, local history. The expansion will offer them a proper space.”

Finally, he says, “we need space to store more artifacts. Additional space will allow us to store more, and to show more.”



Ted Rumble, with volunteer Tom Smith doing some digital transcribing for the museum from documents written in the late 1890s and early 1900s, shows off the crowded research room.

Becoming involved in the museum, he says, “has been a wonderful experience for me. There is a great group of people here, with different responsibilities and involved in different programs.”

People who come to town as visitors tend to be

people who are interested in history and the heritage of NOTL, he says. “Our heritage is a huge draw. People are fascinated with our past and how we preserve our heritage.”

The expansion, he says, will draw more awareness and more visi-

tors to the museum. “The museum is a great illuminator for people who are newcomers to town and to visitors. NOTL is fertile ground for a museum like ours.”

And having more of it, “is very exciting, and will be fun for all of us.”

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New heritage plaques reflect 'today's sensibilities'

Sharon Burns
The Local

Those involved with the Ontario Heritage Trust plaque Program take poet Maya Angelou's words to heart: "when you know better, do better."

The Trust acknowledges that many of the plaques are exclusionary in their interpretation and include outdated terminology related to culture, race and gender, and is making efforts to change that.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony this week, two plaques in Old Town were replaced with plaques that better represent today's sensibilities, using words such as 'freedom seekers' in place of the now-outdated term 'slaves'.

The Lord Mayor and councillors, town employees, members of Friends of the Forgotten, community members and a representative from Ontario's Heritage Program Committee were in attendance for the unveiling.

"These heritage plaques honour the resilience and perseverance of Black communities in the face of hardship, and they celebrate the success of Black settlers and freedom seekers who have contributed to the fabric of the province," said town CAO Marnie Cluckie.

The plaque at the cemetery on Mississagua Street now refers to it as the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground, although its name hasn't officially been changed.

"We want to be sure that individuals coming by aren't offended by anything that might be up there," said George Webber, Chair of Friends of the Forgotten, a



The top photo shows the ribbon-cutting of the Solomon Moseby story plaque at Rye Park; the bottom photo is at the cemetery now referred to on the plaque as the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground. (Photos by Sharon Burns)

local group intent on raising funds to help restore the cemetery. "We want to be sure that the hearts and minds of individuals who visit the site are impacted by the fact that freedom seekers lived, worked

and died here. We recognize and accept that as part of our historical reality."

After a short ceremony at the cemetery, the group moved over to Rye Street Park for the unveiling of the

Solomon Moseby plaque. The Solomon Moseby Affair of 1837 celebrates freedom seeker Moseby, who escaped his enslaver and settled in Niagara-on-the-Lake. However, his freedom was threat-

ened when his enslaver arrived with an arrest warrant and extradition papers.

Moseby was detained in a jail located at the Rye Street Park when over 200 Black community protesters ob-

structed Moseby's removal. Two Black residents, Herbert Holmes and Jacob Green, were killed. Moseby escaped, fled to England and later returned to live in Niagara.

If Moseby's enslaver had been successful, states the plaque, all African Canadians were vulnerable to extradition and re-enslavement. This incident helped to establish Canadian extradition and refugee policies that are still used today.

Rick Hall, chair of the Heritage Program Committee for the Ontario Heritage Trust, explained the process of changing heritage plaques. "Well, it's not something that you do in a day. The topic has to be approved, and it has to be thoroughly researched."

"It's partially terminology, but it's also the story that's being told," Hall said. "These days we want a story to be told from a number of diverse viewpoints. In the past, the story tended to be told just from one particular viewpoint when there were lots of realities involved in whatever the event at hand was, and those realities weren't captured."

"There's a number of plaques that we want to replace that were put up decades ago, where now we look at the narrative and it's not really appropriate for this day and age," Hall said.

The double-sided plaques tell the story in both English and French. They cost, on average, \$15,000. Hall explained that this cost has been funded by the Province of Ontario and the Heritage Trust, but that they are now trying to share the costs through sponsorships and community groups.

Friends of the Forgotten outline next step for cemetery

Sharon Burns
The Local

With the unveiling of the new plaque explaining the history of what was formerly the Negro Burial Ground, now referred to on the plaque as the Niagara Baptist Church Burial Ground, Friends of the Forgotten is moving into high gear to raise funds for the next steps in "memorializing the burial grounds that are in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake," said group member John Gallant.

The Stage 1 archaeological assessment, commissioned by the town and paid for by money raised by the Friends fundraising committee, has been completed, and council has given the committee the go-ahead to raise \$60,000 for the Stage 2 and 3 assessments.

Stage 1, which was conducted by Archaeological Research Associates, in-

cludes information about the geography and history of the area, the archaeological potential of the site, and strategies to proceed to Stage 2.

It is considered, says CAO Marnie Cluckie, that the next two stages will be conducted together, but can't move forward until the money is raised to fund them. She also spoke of a Stage 4, which once it is known what is below the ground, would refer to mitigation of impact preservation strategies, and would involve public consultation. That would include reaching out to see if there are any family members still living who might be related to those buried in the cemetery.

The next two stages, she explained to The Local, "will help inform our next steps in terms of how we move forward." Although ground-penetrating radar gave some indication what

might be below the ground, "it's not conclusive. We don't know what's under the ground."

The Bereavement Authority of Ontario, the province and the town will all be involved in next steps to ensure legislation is followed, "and to be very cautious and very respectful given the sacred nature of the burial site," said Cluckie.

According to George Webber, chair of Friends of the Forgotten, "the Stage 2 assessment will include test pit surveys to identify archaeological features and document archaeological materials. Stage 3 will map and recover any headstones and confirm the location of all interments."

Friends of the Forgotten wants to raise these funds in the next two months so the town can issue a tender for recognized archaeological firms to bid on the project. "Once these assessments

have been done, plans and timing can be established for the most rewarding part of the project," said Webber, who hopes the work can begin early next spring.

"We need help from both large and individual donors," said Webber. "We would like organizations, foundations and interested community members to become official sponsors for this important historical work by donating \$5,000 for the assessments. We also encourage any and all residents to lend their support with whatever they can afford."

Donations can be made through the Friends of the Forgotten website, friends-of-the-forgotten.ca. All funds raised are automatically directed to the town specifically for this project. Town representatives will issue tax receipts for any amounts over \$25.

(With files from Penny Coles.)



George Webber, chair of the Friends of the Forgotten fundraising committee, hopes to raise \$60,000 to pay for the next two archaeological stages at the Mississagua Street cemetery. (Sharon Burns)

Crossroads students run for loved ones lost

Penny Coles
The Local

Crossroads students ran for Terry Fox throughout the school day Friday, different

grades taking to the track at different times.

The day finished up with Grades 1, 4 and 8 outside at the end of the day, with \$1,000 raised just that day,

totally \$2,450 for the run, said principal Kate Fish.

Grade 8 students did the majority of the work organizing the day-long event, including writing the an-

nouncements to encourage students to participate and to donate, decorating, providing a playlist for students as they ran, walked or danced.

As with all school Ter-

ry Fox Runs, students were given a label to say who they were running for.

Tessa Davis, waving her pompom and stopping for a hug from her principal, told The Local she was running for her sister Claire, and her mother Christine.

Tessa explained her mother had skin cancer but is fine now. She never knew her sister Claire, who died at the age of just two months old, of a childhood cancer.

Claire, Tessa said, would have been 13 today.

Two Grade 8 friends jogging together stopped to talk to The Local, all smiles from being outside on such a beautiful afternoon and enjoying the activities.

Naomi Coles quickly lost her smile when asked who

she was running for. "My grandpa," she said, dissolving into tears. He had died of cancer recently, she said. "He was an amazing grandpa, just amazing. He loved us all so much," she said, wiping the tears from her eyes. "I really miss him."

Her friend Alanna Kroeker hugged her and started to cry with her, saying she was sorry for Naomi's loss.

Alanna said she was running for a number of people in her family who had died of cancer.

"Some of them I never had a chance to meet, because of their passing."

She acknowledged that because of the many loved ones lost to cancer, "this run is an important thing to do."



Tessa Davis stops for a hug with Crossroads principal Kate Fish. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Ryder Rempel travels around the track with his friend Dylan Dietsch, both in Grade 8.

Small but mighty, Royal Oak raises \$1,000 for Terry Fox Run

Mike Balsom
The Local

Since 2017, Royal Oak Community School has participated in its own Terry Fox Run to raise money for cancer research and the Terry Fox Foundation.

"Every year, staff, students and the Royal Oak family community come together at Memorial Park to run, walk and challenge themselves to raise money for this very worthy cause," says head of school Julia Murray. "This year our small but mighty school raised over \$1,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation through fundraising donations from friends and family members."

The students participated in a multi-school meet and greet with Fred Fox, Terry's brother, in the spring and a kick-off assembly at the beginning of September to jumpstart their fundraising efforts.

Middle school students organized the events and led a group presentation about Terry Fox and his legacy at the beginning of the Royal Oak run. They also organized break stations with Terry Fox trivia, fitness challenges and an estimation station where students guessed the amount of money the school raised in its efforts.

Murray added that the run was followed by a well-deserved popsicle and a chance to play in the park.

Donations are still being accepted online. Visit schools.terryfox.ca/38727 to help out.



Royal Oak middle school students Wes Ridesic and Sienna Rey wrote speeches, spoke to their fellow students about Terry Fox and led the run. (Photos supplied)



Primary students Scarlett Hermoza, Frankie Aubin-Clemmer, Hannah Ridesic and Simon Aubin-Clemmer.



Royal Oak primary and middle school students Evan Kibbee, Josiah Schriefer, Aspen Ziraldo and Jack Finley.



The Grade 1, 4 and 8 students make their way around the track for Crossroads' Terry Fox Run.

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Red Roof Retreat bees are flourishing

Sharon Burns
The Local

Last Thursday was honey extraction time at Red Roof Retreat's Concession 6 site.

For the past two years, Red Roof has been home to a colony of honeybees, thanks to Niagara Beeway's Host a Hive program, and the sponsorship of NOTL residents Lauren and Vaughn Goettler.

Host a Hive is an innovative program designed to lessen the stress on one individual bee farm by spreading the hives throughout the Niagara region. This allows bees to forage in multiple locations, reducing the risk of chemical poisoning due to pesticides, thereby strengthening colonies.

Niagara Beeway also collects data from its hives, which will help them map out the safest pollinator-friendly locations for the future.

As it turns out, Red Roof Retreat is a good site for bee-hives. "Niagara is the best place, maybe even in the world, for honeybees because of our moisture, because of the lakes, because of our predominantly agricultural area," said George Scott, president of Niagara Beeway and fourth generation beekeeper.

In front of an audience of Red Roof clients and staff, Scott and his beekeeping apprentice, Jolene Karanfilis, removed frames from the hive, scraped the wax off of the cells, and placed the frames into a manual honey extractor. They took turns spinning the extractor, often with help from Red Roof clients and staff, and soon enough, had honey flowing from a valve and into a double filter before collecting at the bottom of a large pail.

As Sandra Ozkur filled small cups for tastings, she explained that she and

George started the Host a Hive program two years ago as an initiative to get honey bees to survive in the area. "George had an apiary of 100 hives and lost them all in one year, which is a phenomenon happening throughout the region and the country," she said.

They came up with a novel idea for this region. "Let's ask people who have land, usually an acre to 10 acres, that's not sprayed with pesticides, to host hives on their property and give a little safe haven to these honey bees," said Ozkur, a photographer who also is the communication manager of Niagara Beeway.

This year Niagara Beeway placed 40 hives throughout the Niagara region. "We're collecting data to see how well they're doing in certain areas, how they're proliferating, even in the cities," she said.

Farmers and urban users are releasing more pest control products than ever. "It's no longer safe for bees and we're not even getting 11 months out of our queen. We're replacing our queens and we're trying to adjust to it," said Scott.

Ozkur added that smoke from this summer's forest fires also affected the health of queens in a colony, which are expensive to replace.

Niagara Beeway used to purchase bees from Ukraine. "They are without our income now," she said. "We're not able to buy from them because they've shut down all the transportation" out of Ukraine. "It's not just affecting Niagara, it's affecting the world as far as Ukraine. What we do here in Canada is very important."

Host a Hive participants "don't have to do anything," explained Ozkur. "Our beekeepers go around throughout the season, servicing the hives, checking on the bees, making sure everything is healthy with them. Now we're at the fun time where we get to do the honey harvesting."

"Our Host a Hive participants have been great because they have literally suited up and came out with us to learn and go 'mano a mano' with the bees," said Karanfilis, whose job includes catching swarms, which can occur when an old queen leaves with about two-thirds of the workforce to find a new location. "I also service and inspect the hives. This is the time of season where we also move into equipment assembly, getting ready for next year."

Education is at the forefront of each harvest. "We want more knowledge about what's going on with our bees in terms of the connection to nature," said Ozkur. "If the bees can't pollinate plants, we don't have flowers and vegetables."

Frank Racioppo, president of Queenston Quarry Reclamation Company, has offered his site to house the bees during winter. "The bees don't have to travel back to Wainfleet for overwintering," said Ozkur. "That way we can monitor Niagaron-the-Lake bees, as opposed to other regions, to see how well they survive the winter."

Steffanie Bjorgan, founder of Red Roof Retreat, explained that they keep the colony "in the back 40, which we just call our green space. It's near water and wildflowers, and it's far away enough from all the sprays from the vineyards around us."

Wonder, a Red Roof horse, and two mini horses have their habitat near the hives. Clients often visit the horses and have never been bothered by bees. "We all live copacetically," said Bjorgan.



George Scott of Niagara Beeway is pleased with the bees and bee hives at Red Roof Retreat. (Sandra Ozkur)



George Scott checks out the hives at Red Roof. (Sandra Ozkur)



The bees discover flowers at Red Roof. (Sandra Ozkur)



George Scott shows Red Roof client Josh and staff member Christa Rawsthorne how honey is made. (Sharon Burns)



'And we have honey' at Red Roof Retreat. (Sandra Ozkur)





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Miniature house at Pet Valu to raise money for NOTL Cats

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents Cindy Carter and Linda McDermid are using their hobby, creating intricately detailed miniature dioramas largely out of repurposed materials, to help the NOTL Cats rescue operation.

The Front Porch, a quaint model of the facade of a green clapboard house with a red door and two bicycles on kickstands out front, is up for silent auction at the Pet Valu store in Virgil.

“We thought this was a great place to have the auction to support the cats, and to maybe drive business into the Pet Valu store,” Carter told The Local Tuesday.

Carter worked on The Front Porch with her friend McDermid to create the three-dimensional scene with the purpose of assisting NOTL Cats with all funds raised.

Port Colborne native Carter has been making miniatures for more than 60 years. Her Old Town home has a 264-square-foot room devoted to displaying her creations.

These aren't your run-of-the-mill doll houses. The main floor room is stuffed with whimsical



Store clerk Carrie Toews and Cindy Carter beside The Front Porch at the Pet Valu store on Niagara Stone Road. It is there for a silent auction until Saturday to benefit NOTL Cats. There will be another item for the month of October. (Mike Balsom)

scenes from real life and fantasy, many with tiny mice and other animals taking the place of humans, some having baths,

others reading books and waiting for Santa Claus. “I actually ran out of room a long time ago,” Carter laughs, “and Laura

is pretty much in the same boat. But we love our hobby, and we needed an outlet to keep making new creations. We have hun-

dreds of ideas.”

The Front Porch has garnered some attention from its spot next to the cash register at the Niag-

ara Stone Road location. Store clerk Carrie Toews says many customers have asked questions about it, and a number of bids have accumulated on the attached silent auction sheet.

Perhaps that's partly because the scene could be something taken directly from any number of properties in NOTL, though Carter says it wasn't actually modelled after a specific home.

Carter and McDermid have been meeting weekly for many years, supporting each other's endeavours and collaborating. Carter is a master at repurposing old thimbles, pieces of styrofoam, and those little plastic spacers that keep your pizza from sticking to the top of the box. McDermid, says Carter, is a wizard with a paint brush.

The pair is planning to bring in a new item to Pet Valu for auction during the month of October.

“It's a travel trailer,” she says. “And inside it is a woman doing a seance. Our next one after that is a winery, complete with a wine barrel and little mice having fun and getting into trouble.”

The silent auction closes this Saturday, Sept. 30.

Greaves Jam helping Newark Neighbours



Greaves Jam employees have started a food drive for Newark Neighbours food bank to help people with Thanksgiving dinner. Katherine Babela, a Newark Neighbours volunteer, Angela Redekopp, owner of Greaves, and Genevieve Lawrence, also a food bank volunteer, are helping to put together more than 80 hampers for Thanksgiving, ensuring there are preserves and cranberry sauce donated by Greaves in every hamper. (Matt French)

Pedal Pushers raise \$58,000 for palliative care

Penny Coles
The Local

Ben Buholtz was at one point receiving palliative care for a life-threatening stroke.

The well-liked Rotarian was close to end-of-life care, but miraculously recovered, and on Saturday morning, he led the Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care members and supporters on their fundraising cycling and walk-

ing event through the Old Town to raise money for the new Compassionate Community program named in his honour. His wife, Jodey Porter, who lost her sight in 2021 — six months before his stroke — was by his side, with a group of friends surrounding them.

Ben's Compassionate Community will offer support for patients with a life-limiting illness, such as stroke, where clients

need short-term care, providing whatever they need on their road to recovery explained NOTL palliative care CEO Bonnie Bagnulo.

The local palliative care service created a small team to participate in the first Healing Cycle fundraiser about 10 years ago, she said, taking a group of five cyclists to Mississauga to participate in a ride that would see 100 per cent of funds raised by hospice care teams stay in their own

community.

But during the COVID-19 pandemic, the ride was instead held in each team's community, or could be a virtual event, cyclists having the option to ride alone and raise money for their local palliative care service.

It worked out so well, Bagnulo explained to a small crowd gathered at the former hospital parking lot, they decided to repeat that format, cy-

cling through the streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake and drawing more participants and raising larger sums of money.

This year Ron Kassis, chair of the Healing Cycle Foundation and run, was in NOTL to ride the 25-kilometre route with local Pedal Pushers. He explained that the foundation also raises money for palliative care through the Healing Cycle ride, and a portion of those funds go to local

hospice organizations who participate.

He was also there to present Bagnulo with a trophy for having the team that raised the most amount of money — \$58,000 and counting for this year, with donations still coming in.

Aiding in their fundraising efforts was local Rainer Hummel, who agreed to match up to \$25,000 in donations. His matching donation helped last year's team raise \$60,000.



The 25-kilometre Pedal Pushers gather at the start of their route, which was a loop from the parking lot of the former hospital and back. Santa (aka Tim Taylor, in red) has been part of the fundraising efforts from the beginning of the Pedal Pushers, and always raises the most money. Bonnie Bagnulo of palliative care calls him "the gift that keeps on giving." (Photos by Penny Coles)



NOTL Community Palliative Care Service director Bonnie Bagnulo with Ron Kassis, chair of the Healing Cycle Foundation and run. He was in NOTL to ride the 25-kilometre route, give Bagnulo a trophy for the team raising the most amount of money, and hand out grab bags to participants.



Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, palliative care board chair Dr. Jennifer Frendo, executive director Bonnie Bagnulo and Ron Kassis clap for the annual fundraising success of the Pedal Pushers.



Jodey Porter and Ben Buholtz of Ben's Compassionate Care, a new program for those suffering or recovering from a stroke or serious illness. This year's fundraising efforts will support the program.



The group of cyclists taking the 10-kilometre route.



The event leaves the parking lot, led by Ben Buholtz and those who planned to walk the five-kilometre route, followed by the cyclists.

Preds' Josh Frena scores first goal on home ice

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake native Josh Frena's first Junior A hockey goal was more than just a goal.

It was a picture-perfect shot by the 21-year-old, playing in only his second game for his hometown Niagara Predators.

With the score tied 2-2 in the third period, defenceman Logan Baillie fed the puck to Thomas McGrath up the left side at centre ice. The big forward tipped it ahead to Frena, who was skating toward the visiting St. George Ravens' de-

fensive zone.

Frena accelerated down the left wing toward the St. George net, with teammate Nicholas Nicoletti accompanying him on the right side in a two-on-one attack. The 6'5" forward moved in on goalie Justin Sheets and flicked a quick wrist shot on the short side, top shelf past the helpless netminder.

It put the Preds ahead for good and cemented the team's first victory of their 2023-2024 Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League season.

"You can just see the pure joy and excitement in his face as he goes to give fist bumps to

his teammates," said play-by-play announcer Nathan Whale during the team's livestream broadcast.

Frena was still buzzing in the locker room following the 5-2 win.

"It was awesome," Frena told The Local after the game, a massive smile on his face. "My first junior goal. It was pretty sweet."

Frena gave credit to McGrath for making a nice play to get him the puck.

"I just picked it up and I saw daylight," he said. "I looked over at Nick and I saw him covering the pass. I took the shot, I saw his (Sheets') blocker go up and watched it go in the net. It was pretty awesome."

What made it even more rewarding for Frena was that he was able to pick up his first GMHL goal in front of a home crowd, including his mom Tracey. And it was in the same arena where he grew up playing in the NOTL Wolves minor hockey system.

"I was pretty proud," Tracey says. "I was so happy for him. Josh lives and breathes hockey. It was great for him to get that first goal so early in the season, to get that off his back. He was pretty pumped."

Josh had been away from the game since the pandemic hit. At the time he was a member of the Wolves under-18 (midget) team, whose season was cut short by COVID-19. Having been concentrating on his education at Niagara College since then, hockey was put to the side for three years.

"He was one of those who was so impacted by COVID," Tracey says. "He was in Grade 12 (at Eden High School), there was no graduation, no prom, they never got to finish their hockey season. He had a good team, his last year of midget, and it was done. And there were no sports at all."

Exposed to the Predators by his older brother Michael, who was the team's play-by-play announcer for their first two years in NOTL, Josh got the itch to get back onto the ice.

"He told me he thought he could probably play at that level," explains Tracey. "Then, I never thought of it for a long time until one day this summer he was packing his hockey bag to go and try out for the Predators."

She had watched her youngest child grow stronger over the summer, and saw his confidence increase as well. When he got word that he had made the team she said he came home beaming with happiness.

The extended family, including aunts, uncles and cousins, was at the Meridian Credit Union Arena for the team's season opener on Sept 15. But Tracey was the only Frena able to witness Josh's first goal live last Friday.

"I taped it (the livestream)

and stuck in our family group chat," she laughs.

Josh told The Local three weeks ago that he hopes this season with the Preds helps him further his hockey career, either at a U.S. college or professionally in Europe. It's a dream Tracey and her husband Mike fully support.

"I would love that for him," she says. "That's his passion, and you always want to see your kids do what they're passionate about. If this could open doors for him, that would be great. He's still young, he has plenty of future ahead of him."

Predators' head coach Kevin Taylor was also pleased with

Josh's goal.

"He picked the short side, it was a nice shot," Taylor said Friday. "It was good to see him get his first goal!"

Taylor was pleased with the entire team's performance overall, though they gave up the first goal to the Ravens just 31 seconds into the game, and were down 2-1 heading into the third period, when they scored four unanswered goals.

Besides Frena, Nicoletti had a goal and an assist for the Preds, while Isaac Locker had a pair of goals and an assist and Reese Bisci added the team's fifth marker. Niagara goalie Zane Clausen stopped 47 shots

for his first win of the season.

The Preds were scheduled to travel to Windsor to face the Aces last Saturday, but that team announced it was folding due to its lack of success in recruiting a sufficient number of junior capable players, according to the team's Instagram account.

The schedule for the rest of the GMHL's South Division is currently being revamped to make up for the games lost due to that decision.

Next up for the Predators is a visit from the 0-4 Toronto Flyers this Friday, Sept. 29 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



NOTL's Josh Frena shown here trying out for the Preds earned a spot on the team, and scored his first goal in front of a home crowd Friday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Forward Nicholas Nicoletti scored the team's fourth goal on this shot in the third period.



Forward Nolan Wyers fights off St. George defender Anthony Zakhary to get the shot off at goalie Justin Sheets.



Predators' goalie Zane Clausen picked up the win against St. George.

Local HAPPENINGS



The Provincial Service Officer will be visiting the Thorold Legion, Branch 17, on **November 2, 3, and 4**

Any Veteran wishing an appointment with the Provincial Service Officer, should contact Branch 124, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Legion Office at **(905) 468-2353**.

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Prices starting at \$25. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Joy 416-817-0920 or email: joy@notllocal.com

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10:00 a.m.

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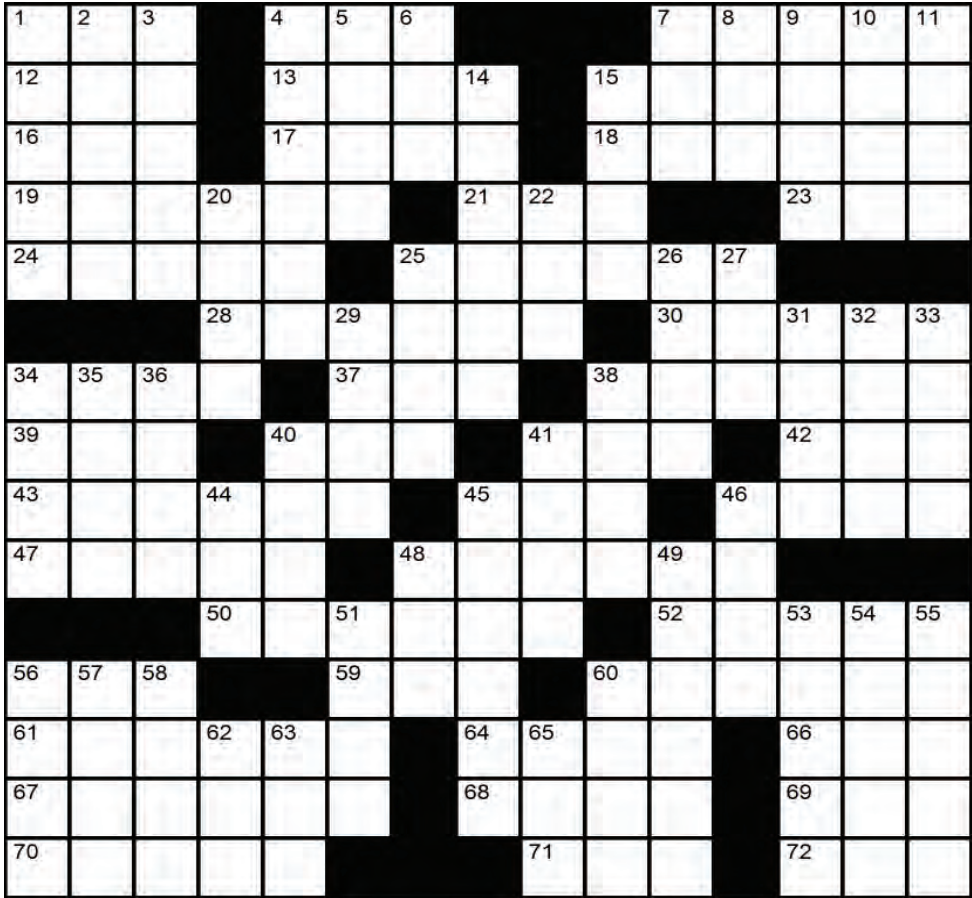
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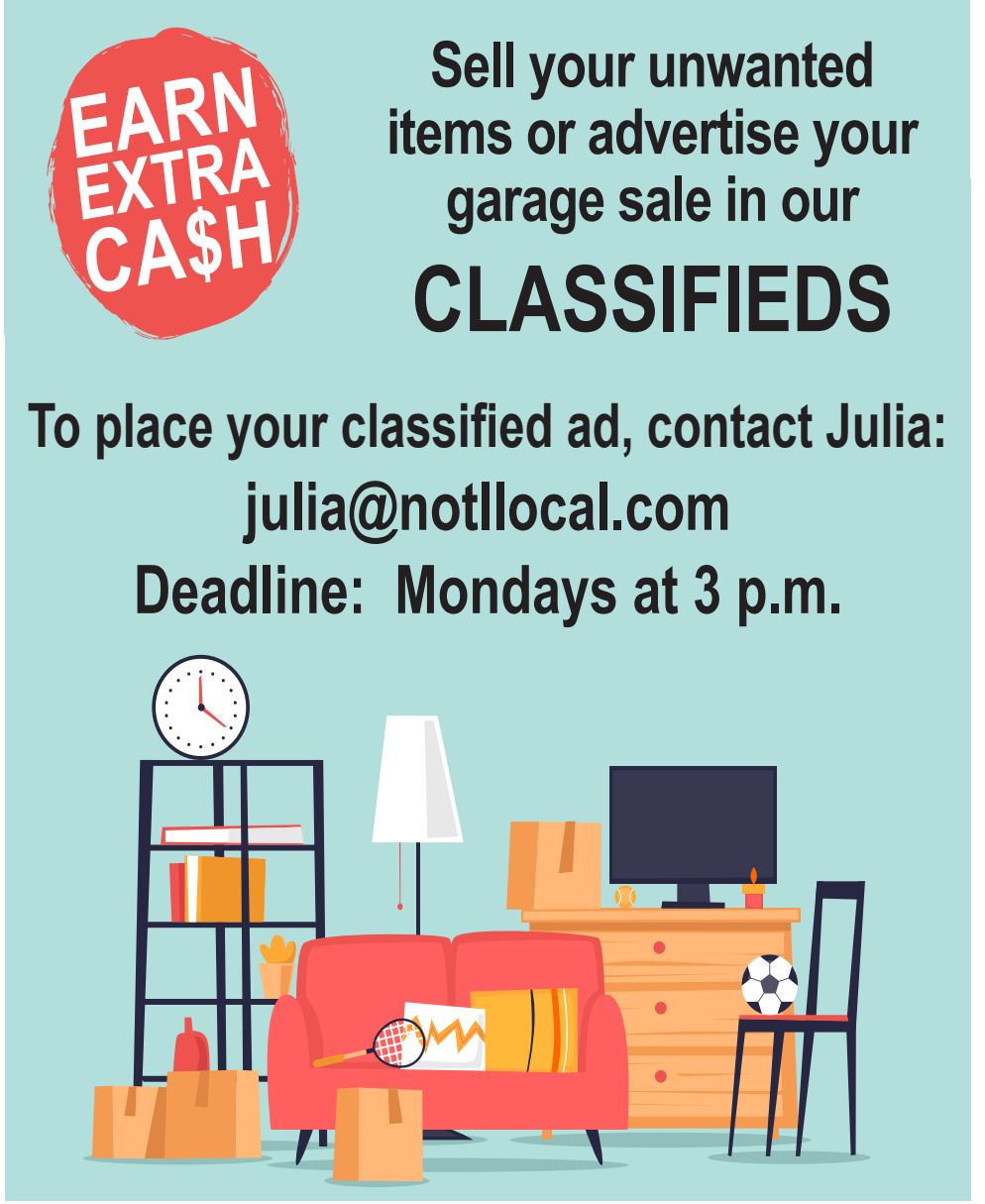
- Across:**
- 1 Cited as cause of 2003 Iraq war
 - 4 Lawyers' grp.
 - 7 Chef's seasonings
 - 12 Weeding implement
 - 13 Molten rock
 - 15 Deceive
 - 16 Letters after business names
 - 17 Colorist
 - 18 Merkel or Lansbury
 - 19 Inaction
 - 21 S N L network
 - 23 Stage
 - 24 Enter
 - 25 Boil
 - 28 Indicate
 - 30 Happening
 - 34 Jekyll's alter ego
 - 37 Cereal grain
 - 38 Outcry
 - 39 The Emirates
 - 40 Ft. divisions
 - 41 Hit
 - 42 NASDAQ debut
 - 43 Vino selection
 - 45 Heated argument
 - 46 Ran off
 - 47 Detect
 - 48 Ship
 - 50 Some music storage media
 - 52 Tars
 - 56 Retains a reservoir
 - 59 Admiration
 - 60 Canadian capital
 - 61 In the slightest
 - 64 Levee
 - 66 "Before Abraham was, ---" (Jesus)
 - 67 Farm fertilizer
 - 68 Yesteryear
 - 69 Chest bone
 - 70 Ooze
 - 71 Theater for some vets, briefly
 - 72 Double helix molecule (Abbr.)
- Down:**
- 1 Egg beater
 - 2 Spanish card game
 - 3 Rot
 - 4 Type of Venetian type
 - 5 Howls at the moon
 - 6 Hail
 - 7 --- Solo (Harrison Ford character)
 - 8 Heart test
 - 9 Careen
 - 10 Vitriol
 - 11 Catch
 - 14 "Arrested Development" star Will ---
 - 15 Sensitivity
 - 20 Team
 - 22 Social gathering
 - 25 In order
 - 26 Aid
 - 27 "The Locomotion" singer Little ---
 - 29 Forbidden activity
 - 31 Track legend --- Zatopek
 - 32 Informal negative
 - 33 Stepped
 - 34 Centers
 - 35 Connecticut university
 - 36 College head
 - 38 Intimidates
 - 40 Chilled
 - 41 Top banana
 - 44 White House defense advisory grp.
 - 45 Medicament
 - 46 Tire problem
 - 48 Promise
 - 49 Regard
 - 51 Speed
 - 53 Scottish land proprietor
 - 54 Clemens' pen name
 - 55 Rio de Janeiro dance
 - 56 Hemispherical roof
 - 57 Lizzie Borden took ---, ...
 - 58 Restaurant card
 - 60 Southern soup ingredient
 - 62 Chum
 - 63 Wrath
 - 65 Distant but within sight

NOTICES

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040
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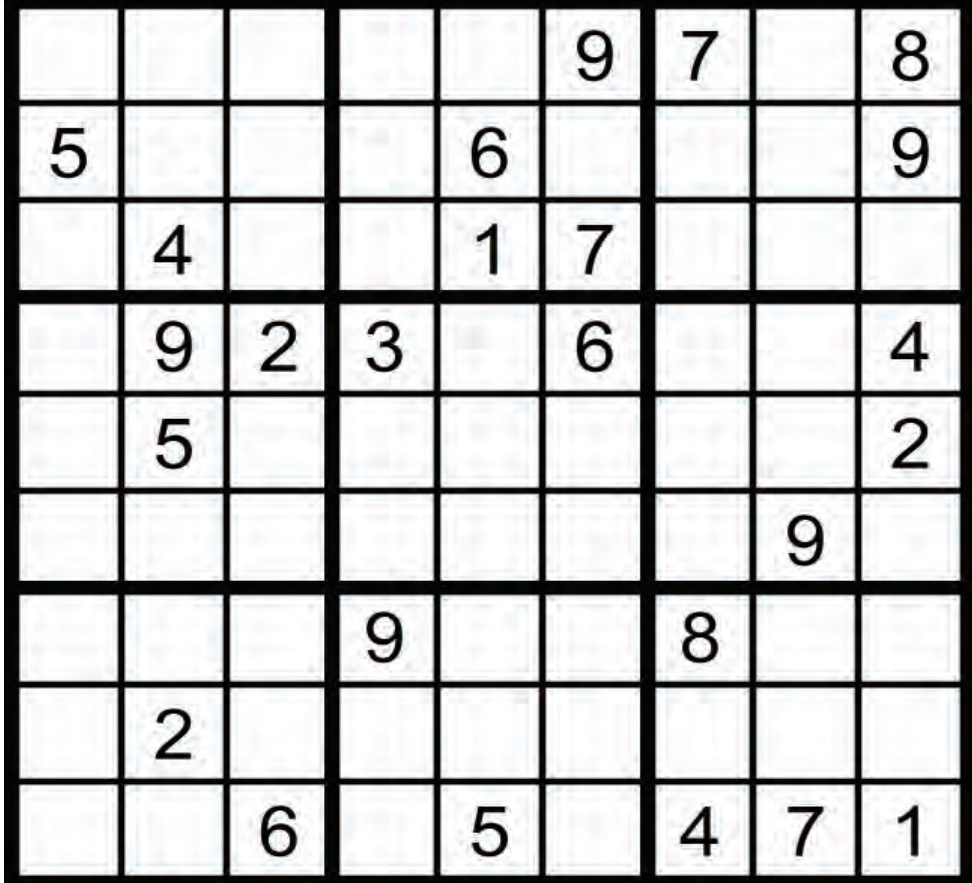


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PUZZLE ANSWERS



Sudoku solution from September 20, 2023

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

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

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

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