



**Hoverlink
coming to
Niagara
page 18**



This photo was taken Saturday morning as Allan Reid, Andrew Howard, Keith Simmonds, Del Rollo, Mike Harrison and Steve Menzie, taking part in a cycling fundraiser, stopped in front of the falls and then continued on their way along the Niagara River Parkway toward Niagara-on-the-Lake. (Photo supplied)

First faceoff for three mayoral candidates

**Mike Balsom
The Local**

The three candidates for Lord Mayor squared off at a meet and greet session in front of a capacity crowd at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 Tuesday night. The evening was hosted by Joe Accardo of the group FocusNOTL.

The grassroots political action group was founded in 2017 in time to run a series of similar events for the 2018 election. Their Facebook page says they are focused on supporting and holding to account the Lord Mayor and town council by applauding successes and exposing failures to meet their promises and position.

Current Lord Mayor Betty Disero and challengers Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa sat alphabetically next to Accardo's podium as he outlined the format for the event. Each was given 10 minutes for introductory

remarks, delivered in an order chosen randomly by an audience member.

Vaughn Goettler was first to introduce himself. The retired business owner promised to give the Lord Mayor's position 100 per cent of his time, and added that his extensive business experience would allow him to build a functional council and staff in NOTL.

"The buck has to start here," Goettler added, comparing the Lord Mayor's job to that of a CEO. "We need to set targets with firm completion dates for all initiatives. We need to create open and transparent meetings with community involvement, and we need to have a town watchdog. An Ombudsman with teeth, so to say, to report on what has been committed and accomplished."

Goettler went on to push for a clear and focused

Continued on page 2

Keith Simmonds: family man, community supporter, great friend

**Mike Balsom
The Local**

Long-time Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Keith Simmonds is being remembered as a larger-than-life figure who always went out of his way to support his family, his friends and the community.

Simmonds lost his life in a tragic accident Saturday morning while on a charity ride with a group of about 30 friends. He was

struck by a truck and was pronounced deceased on the scene.

Del Rollo, vice-president of corporate affairs for Arterra Wines, counted Simmonds as a close friend. He was also on that ride that was raising funds for Campfire Circle, a charity that operates camps in Ontario for children fighting cancer.

"Keith lived life to its fullest every day," Rollo told The Local Monday. "What

was magical about Keith is that he was able to pull everyone along with him on that ride. He worked hard at it and he invested time into friendships. He truly worked hard to make sure he was involved in all of his friends' lives."

Rollo met Simmonds, who came to Ontario from western Canada to be the general manager of Great Wolf Lodge in Niagara Falls, through the tourism industry. He credits former

Jackson-Triggs winemaker Frank Hellwig, now operating his own winery in Australia, for bringing the two together.

"Keith embodied the term 'servant leadership,'" said Rollo. "It was never about him, or about Great Wolf Lodge. It was always about making the world a better place, doing what he could to give back, and really being a steward of the community here in Niagara and beyond."

Local business person and stand-up comedian Joe Pillitteri may know more about how much Simmonds gave back to the community than many others. Pillitteri was almost speechless Tuesday morning thinking about Simmonds, choking up as he spoke to The Local.

"It is that much of a loss," Pillitteri said. "Every show that I've been involved with, for as long as I've been doing comedy for

charity, particularly for the Terry Fox Show, he would just say 'what do you need?' before I could even ask. He would be at the event, he would have already raised a good amount of money from whatever he donated, and he would be pumping up the crowd, throwing in meals and a massage. And he would make sure they knew that was from a massage

Continued on page 3

Local Realtors, Local Knowledge...

Still Your Best Choice!

The **O'CONNOR** Team



margie vangelder
sales representative
905.932.3672



905.468.7700 direct
905.468.4214 office
theoconnorteam.ca



james o'connor
sales representative
905.327.5589

'So much energy, so much caring, so much affection'

Continued from page 1

therapist, not from him personally."

"We realized today that if this were a Venn diagram, Keith would be in the middle of so many circles of people who now know each other really well," Pillitteri marvelled. "Whether it was through yoga, or 'brogga', or our sup-

per club, or cycling, or lifting, or stretching. He was just one of those guys, he was that one person who just kept everything going when it comes to adult friendships."

On a creative level, Pillitteri also admired Simmonds for his keen sense of humour.

"He was a great guy to test material out on. If it wasn't funny, you'd get the

stare, these deep eyes focused on you, saying 'is the punchline coming?', but if it was funny, he would convulse. His reaction was strong and infectious. He had this real genuine laugh. If it was good around the table with Keith leading the laughs, I knew it was something I had to do."

Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati also refers to Simmonds as a good friend,

though they first became close through their mutual involvement in the Sleep Cheap charity event in that city.

"It started almost 18 years ago," he says. "Great Wolf Lodge was a tough nut to crack at first, but they were on the top of the demand list for where people wanted to stay. He ended up sitting on our committee that decided where the money we raised would go."

In a tweet posted by Diodati on the weekend, he referred to Simmonds as Mercer. That's due to what the mayor sees as Keith's uncanny resemblance to famous Canadian comedian Rick Mercer.

"I told him that one of the first times we met," Diodati laughed. "Every time he emailed after that he signed it Mercer. As a matter of fact, I haven't called him Keith in years. I almost forgot his name."

"He has touched us all in so many ways," Diodati added about Simmonds' impact on the community. "It went way beyond tourism. He was part of the fabric of the community. We welcomed him here and he welcomed us. Right from when he arrived from the west coast, he became an integral part of our community."

Keith was born in Edmonton, Alberta, and graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Following graduation, he tried his hand in the banking industry, but knew quite soon it wasn't for him. He packed up and moved to Whistler, B.C. where he managed The Grocery Store. It was there that he met his future wife, Toby, who was in Whistler visiting her father.

Soon, the couple moved to first Fernie, then Invermere, BC, where Keith worked in ski hill operations. Besides cycling, skiing the mountains was one

of his favourite pursuits.

Following those stops, there was a short time for the couple spent in Red Deer, Alberta, where Keith managed a hotel. Their boys Ben and Nick, now 21 and 20 years old, were born in Banff.

While the family lived in Red Deer, a head-hunting company reached out to him on behalf of Jim Pattison's Ripley Entertainment, who was looking for the right person to manage their new property in Niagara Falls.

Keith and Toby and the boys moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in October 2005 while Great Wolf Lodge was still under construction. He immersed himself in the NOTL community as well as the Niagara Falls tourism scene. And for anyone who knew him, it was always evident that no matter how busy he was, Toby and the boys always came first.

More than 17 years later, though, Simmonds' name has become synonymous with the resort.

"He was the driving force at Great Wolf Lodge, and will be missed immensely by all pack members," said lodge human resources director Anne Marie Malleau in an email to The Local.

A news release issued by the Jim Pattison Group, Ripley Entertainment and Great Wolf Lodge says they are all saddened by the loss of their "passionate leader" and "head howler."

"He took great care in supporting his work family and instilling a sense of pride in everything that his team did," says the release. "Keith often referred to the lodge as the little log cabin on the Parkway, and was instrumental in ensuring the success and growth of the company's Niagara Falls location."

Andrew Howard, director, CEO and president of Diamond Estates, says he

treasures the fact that he had the chance to call Simmonds a friend. Saturday's charity ride was for an organization called Tour d'Epicure, started by Howard and Rollo to support Campfire Circle, and Simmonds, says Howard, was always a core part of their efforts. This weekend's ride had raised \$60,000 for their cause.

"Keith had ridden with us a number of years, raising money for these kids' cancer camps, Camp Trillium in particular," Howard said Monday. "He was always so giving of his time. And the week before our ride Keith raised another \$450,000 with his team through his ride to New York City."

"He's amazingly philanthropic," Howard told The Local. "I've always joked that there's only one Keith. To make more of him might have been too hard on the total system. He was so big, not in stature, but in personality. If you met Keith once, you knew him. So much energy, so much caring, so much affection."

Howard says his cycling group has come together around the loss of Simmonds after meeting with grief counsellors and sharing their memories of their friend.

"This group has galvanized, and we'll raise \$300,000 to \$500,000 next year in his name," said Howard. "A plan is coming together to honour Keith, and we're taking it to the next level. We're in the process of building a whole new dock system at Camp Trillium. It's about a \$200,000 build and we now want to finish it for Keith next year."

A celebration of the life of Keith Simmonds, hosted by Pillitteri, will be held this Sunday, Oct. 2 at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre on Stanley Avenue at 11:30 a.m. The public is welcome.



Keith Simmonds on another fundraising ride. (Photo supplied)



HEAT & SERVE
Thanksgiving TAKEOUT
Available Sunday October 9th
Pick up 11am-12pm
\$32.00 / person

Roast Cumbrae Farms Turkey
Roast Brussel Sprouts and Butternut Squash
Savoury Bread Stuffing
Buttered Whipped Potatoes
Gravy
Cranberry Sauce

From The Pantry

Turkey Gravy 1/2 Litre \$10.00 1 Litre \$18.00
Savoury Bread Stuffing for 1-2 \$8.00 for 3-4 \$14.00
Butternut Squash, Ale and Cheddar Soup - by the litre \$16.00
Cream of Mushroom with Tarragon - by the Litre \$16.00
Cranberry Sauce 1/4 litre - \$8.00 1/2 Litre - \$12.00
Apple Crumble \$12.00

PRE ORDERS ONLY
ACCEPTED UNTIL THURSDAY
OCTOBER 6TH
BY CALLING
905-468-4000

111c Unit 2, Garrison Village Dr., NOTL
905.468.4000 | thegarrisonhouse.ca



We salute our



VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTERS

Help thank our amazing Volunteer Firefighters with an ad for your business!
Publication Date: October 12
Booking Deadline: October 5 at noon



NOTL businesses contact
Karen at 905-641-5335 or karen@notllocal.com
Businesses outside NOTL contact
Julia at 905-934-1040 or julia@notllocal.com

Growth in Glendale, official plan questioned

Continued from page 1

economic and tourism strategy that would recognize the role agriculture plays as the backbone of the NOTL economy.

“Tourism is the engine we can rev up or down depending on how we treat it,” he added. “If you listen to our constituents, traffic and related noise in all our villages needs to be managed. We can go up at the hospital and the courthouse to park cars. And we have the (former) firing range too.”

Goettler lamented that the average stay for a tourist in NOTL is 89 minutes. He promised to work for solutions to bring a Michelin Star restaurant or a Relais and Châteaux hotel to the town to attract the right kind of tourism. He added that agritourism and bicycle tourism need to be further explored.

Goettler also called for a strategy that would allow seniors to age in place. He said the town has to stop losing institutional buildings like the hospital and come up with an affordable housing strategy.

Zalepa outlined his experience as both a municipal and regional councillor. He pushed his previous involvement on the town’s planning, heritage and urban design committees and his deep understanding of how to get things done at the municipal level.

The real estate executive who operated an office with his father on Queen Street for 25-plus years said his leadership experience will help guide the future council in a collaborative style.

“I will get the new coun-



Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa face a room of voters at the Royal Canadian Legion Tuesday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

cil started with robust training,” he said, “and then we’ll get into robust and fulsome strategic planning sessions, to set a vision that we can rally behind. We’ll get opinions to develop a strategic plan that will help guide council towards strengthening the operations of the town.”

Zalepa said his first priority would be fiscal sustainability.

“We’ve heard comments from the current council that the budget is not sustainable,” he said. “That’s alarming. We need to build a team to get that moving toward sustainability.”

Acceptable growth was another priority he spoke about.

“We’ve had a really difficult time in dealing with growth to date,” he explained. “The guidelines we have in our planning documents are too vague. There is an ability for us to bring those parameters in a little closer so that when proponents come forward with

proposals for development, we actually have much more clarity for them so they can get their application closer to the guidelines.”

He then promised a strategic plan within the first 30 days of a new council after consultation with residents in each village.

“I want to sit here in four years,” Zalepa said, “and hear from all councillors that they feel that their opinion mattered and that they would do it again. That’s my goal as mayor, to help the council get to that.”

Incumbent Betty Disero began her introduction by acknowledging the challenges brought about by COVID-19 during most of her current term, lauding council and staff for continuing to keep the community engaged, and residents for helping their neighbours.

Her speech focused on three areas: budget, planning and infrastructure.

“This term of council will be leaving our finances in better shape than when we started,” said Disero. “We created new revenue streams, like the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT), so visitors are now contributing to the cost of infrastructure. We required business cases for expenditures over \$50,000, and we purchased new budgeting software allowing council to identify trends in spending. Our reserves are up \$3 million, and our debt was cut in half.”

Her goals for another term include a zero-based budget, further implementation of the MAT and addressing the infrastructure gap.

On the planning front, she defended her record on the town’s official plan, saying the region had to complete theirs first before NOTLs could be reopened. She outlined a number of planning successes, including negotiating the ability to shift densities amongst NOTLs five distinct villages to meet the overall 25 per cent target.

“Our vision, mission and goal,” she added, “is to protect our natural and built-form heritage, maintain our villages in each distinct area, and to protect our vibrant farmlands. We are conducting a zoning by-law review, and we are doing our tourism master plan.”

After outlining a long list of accomplishments by council during her term as Lord Mayor, she acknowledged that there is still a lot of work left to do, including securing funding from upper tier governments for the St. Davids Pool and meeting space and looking at all options for the intersection in that village that has been earmarked for a roundabout by the Region.

“My wish is that the village centres in each of our locations should be vibrant, pedestrian-friendly, and celebrate our culture and heritage,” she concluded. “We are on a good path. We will get there. Please stay with me on this journey.”

Following opening statements, Accardo moved on to questions that were submitted prior to the evening by Focus NOTL members, residents and the media. He said the group had received more than 50 questions, but was able to get through four during the 90

where the town wants it to happen in a way that will be respectful to the community.

“If we don’t get that right,” said Zalepa, “then we will see pressure on the other villages. I think it’s tremendously important that we follow the work that the Region helped us with. The secondary plan has to be tied into what the new council’s vision is going to be.”

Disero said a lot of hard work went into the Glendale District plan, first looking at all the green space, the heritage UNESCO biosphere that is part of it, and the Seaway lands that are earmarked for a 60-acre ecopark.

“We planned out the main street with a public square, with cafes and bike lanes. And then we looked at where to put the buildings, where the jobs would be, where the homes would be. We will keep a watchful eye that it is developed in such a way that people will enjoy living and working there without

minute session.

A question was raised about the future growth of the Glendale area, specifically how each candidate would manage that growth in the best interest of the residents.

Zalepa said the town needs to ensure development occurs

Continued on page 12



Gary Zalepa promised to lead with collaborative style.



Betty Disero focused on finances, planning and infrastructure as three priorities.



Vaughn Goettler speaks of business experience and compared the role of lord mayor to that of a CEO.

REVEL
ON-THE-LAKE
REAL ESTATE GROUP

JOIN THE
#REVELUTION
IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
AND TAKE YOUR CAREER TO
THE NEXT LEVEL

289.868.8869

“ I joined Revel to surround myself with the best in the real estate industry as well as Revel’s dedication to providing buyers and sellers with superior service & marketing! ”

ANDREA POIRIER
REALTOR®

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE VOTES

October 24, 2022

Budget, transit, policing priorities for Darte

Pat Darte
Candidate for
Regional Council

I have had the good fortune to live around Niagara-on-the-Lake all my life. I have seen the major changes that have occurred over that time. The quaint little town I knew has morphed into something very different.

As far as regional things go, we need to work on a lot of issues. I have had the opportunity to get a working knowledge of what they are, how they have been handled, and possible fixes to them. I believe I have good vision and foresight.

The regional budget is obviously the biggest issue to deal

with. First and foremost for NOTL is our disproportionate share of the policing budget. We should approach it with at least getting a hybrid model. We pay the most per capita and have the least usage. This will be difficult to achieve but we need to make it happen.

Transportation is another key element. Our residents need a better accessible system. It is getting better but not fast enough. I would also like to find a system that will allow us to get much-needed labour to the businesses, schools, long-term care facilities and more. I have also worked on a plan to move traffic off Regional Road #55 at East and West Line, and follow the Niagara River Park-

way to Fort George, where I had worked with federal and municipal staff to add 200 addition parking spots.

NOTL has many natural assets to be protected. We also have many opportunities to make life here better. We are poised to grow exponentially, mainly in the Glendale area. I was working with the region on this plan from the beginning. This plan will have a great impact in many ways. It will bring huge dollars in new taxes, development charges, and bolster the general economy. It will also bring new people who will help improve our labour shortages. It will bring new commercial and prestige industrial development. Our infrastructure is already able to handle at

least 90 per cent of those needs with existing facilities.

I would also like to continue work I have started to "put the LAKE back in Niagara-on-the-Lake." I started working on an Eco Park on the Parks Canada property. It would be a joint effort between federal, provincial, regional and municipal levels of government as well as local groups.

It has been my pleasure to have been involved in many different positions of authority. Some of them are: former lord mayor, former regional councillor, founding chair of the FACS Niagara Foundation, founding member of the Niagara Community Foundation, and former chair of the St. Catharines Area

Heart & Stroke Foundation.

In my time I have also volunteered as a coach in hockey, soccer, baseball at many levels. I have chaired many church committees, school committees and other community groups including Polo for Heart, the NOTL Museum, the Shaw Festival, Niagara Parks Commission, NPCA, Wise Guys Charity, the YMCA Campaign, NOTL Hydro board, the Regional Economic Development committee as well as the Regional Irrigation committee.

In my life, I have owned and operated many successful businesses. I have been involved in hundreds of community events. I have been able to understand a lot of the wants and



Pat Darte

needs of people.

I would love to be able to represent NOTL and work for you to improve our community.

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

Kaiser offers skills, knowledge, experience

Andrea Kaiser
Candidate for
Regional Council

I am running to represent Niagara-on-the-Lake on Niagara regional council because I have the skills, knowledge, and experience required to deliver meaningful results for the residents of our community, starting on day one.

I have spent my life living

in, working in, and serving our community, all of which positions me well to be a strong and authentic voice for Niagara-on-the-Lake at the region.

During the last term of regional council, there have been multiple examples of the region making decisions about our community without adequate regard for the views of our community.

The region's recent decision to install bollards on Four Mile

Creek Road without reportedly notifying the town is one example of this misguided approach.

Regardless of the merits or demerits of the decision itself, the town, lord mayor, and regional councillor should always be consulted. If elected, I will work hard to change this "top-down" approach to decision-making at the region to ensure our community's voice is respected.

I intend to bring the same

open, authentic, and balanced approach to representing our community at the region that I used while serving as a town councillor in Niagara-on-the-Lake for three terms.

During my tenure, I championed civic engagement, heritage preservation, economic development and environmental conservation. I also earned a reputation as someone who would respond directly to the concerns of residents. Even when a resident disagreed with my position, they came to respect my willingness to sit down and honestly explain my rationale — something I think we could use more of in local government.

My vast experience serving our community in various capacities over the past 25 years equips me with a detailed understanding of the issues facing

our community. During my service on council, I chaired the following standing committees: public works, planning, corporate services, and taxation. I have also served on the Municipal Heritage Committee, NOTL Library board, as vice-chair of the Chamber of Commerce, and chairperson of Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I presently serve as the chair of the Ontario Sustainable Winegrowing Certification Program.

Beyond my service and volunteerism, I am a local businessperson who has owned and/or operated small businesses in our community for many years. Currently, I am the proprietor of Dreax Wine Co., which produces award-winning wines of international acclaim right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. I also have a B.A. in history and political science



Andrea Kaiser

from the University of Guelph.

As a small business owner, community leader, former town councillor, and local volunteer I am ready to hit the ground running on behalf of Niagara-on-the-Lake! I am committed to helping to build a bright future for our community based on the three pillars of sustainability: economic prosperity, environmental protection and social inclusion. I pledge to provide strong and authentic leadership, and a steadfast focus on achieving results for our community.

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

Thank You

from the

to all our sponsors, suppliers, and supporters of the

<p>OUR GRACIOUS HOSTS</p> <p>Rick & Gianna Dritsacos</p> <p>LEAD SPONSOR</p> <p>Engel & Völkers, Oakville – Nancy Bailey</p> <p>GOLD LEVEL</p> <p>Peninsula Flooring – Carol & Art Hubert</p> <p>Right at Home Realty – Angelika Zammit</p> <p>SILVER LEVEL</p> <p>Niagara Motors – Dave Dick</p> <p>LEAD SPONSORS</p> <p>Ferox</p> <p>Strewn Winery</p> <p>Konzelmann Estate Winery</p> <p>Lailey Winery</p>	<p>DONORS</p> <p>Jackson-Triggs Niagara Estate</p> <p>Stratus Vineyards</p> <p>Pillitteri Estates Winery</p> <p>Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery</p> <p>Bella Terra Vineyards</p> <p>Oast House Brewery</p> <p>Spirit in Niagara Distillery</p> <p>FOOD STATIONS</p> <p>Masaki Sushi</p> <p>BarBea Wine Shop</p> <p>Executive Catering Niagara</p> <p>Cheese Secrets</p>	<p>APPETIZERS</p> <p>Irish Harp</p> <p>Commisso's Fresh Foods</p> <p>Old Winery Restaurant</p> <p>PigOut Catering</p> <p>Aura on the Lake</p> <p>Willow Cakes & Pastries</p> <p>Niagara Home Bakery</p> <p>Savoia Hors D'Oeuvres</p> <p>OliV Tasting Room & Restaurant</p> <p>The Angel Inn</p> <p>Inniskillin Wines</p> <p>The Garrison House</p> <p>Sandtrap Pub & Grill</p>
--	---	---

Back-to-school season is in full swing and ensuring your children's eyes have been checked is a crucial part of their success this school year. Visit our website to book your child's eye exam today.

DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY
— Sight for Life —

Care for all ages, infants to adults

358 Mary St., Unit 7, NOTL | 905.468.8002
8 Secord Dr., St. Catharines | 905.682.9119

www.theeyedoc.ca

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

DENTAL

Dr. Kevin Clark and Dr. Rebecca Zabeck-Clark
Dentists
and their registered
Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE VOTES

October 24, 2022

Miele's issues include taxes, jobs, road safety

Paolo Miele
Candidate for
Regional Council

I have been a life-long resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I was a town councillor from 2014 to 2018, and I have served on several committees: vice-chair of NOTL Community Policing Committee, chair, NOTL budget committee, long-time member of the Virgil Business Association, and an active volunteer with the Virgil Stampede.

My wife Adriana and I live in rural St. Davids with

our three children. Sophia and Felicia attend university in Ottawa and Toronto and Michael is in Grade 6 at St. Davids Public School. I have 25 years in business, we own The Good Eats Diner and we are grape growers.

There are several regional issues important to Niagara-on-the-Lake. People have been talking to me about property taxes, economic stability and jobs, road safety and traffic, the need for more police officers in town, transit, long-term care, more medical services, agriculture, and

expansion to our irrigation system.

My experience on the town council and my years of business experience are what is needed in the region, and together we will do it.

I get things done. Let's make it happen! I will work with other rural mayors and regional councillors to get our fair share of regional tax dollars re-invested in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

My promise is Niagara-on-the-Lake first. My business experience and time on the town council and various committees al-

low me to positively get the job done.

Residents want and need to be engaged, feeling that they contribute, and making a difference.

I believe that public engagement shapes our future. I am available by phone, email, and social media

Niagara-on-the-Lake and its needs are my commitment to you.

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



Paolo Miele

Roberts promises to 'champion NOTL interests'

William Roberts
Candidate for
Regional Council

It is remarkable to me just how much power and influence the Niagara Region has over our lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and yet, in my campaigning, to hear how little most residents know about it.

Owners of a \$1 million home, for example pay \$10,000 a year in property taxes, with over \$6,000, 60 per cent, going to the Region.

In addition to all the regional services in policing, transportation, health and community services, housing and so on, there is also the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, Niagara Parks Commission, Niagara Health and other commissions and agencies that oversee and influence what goes on in NOTL.

As regional councillor I will both champion NOTL's interests to these regional bodies and ensure local residents are much more in-

formed, aware and involved in regional decision-making. I plan to do this in part by opening a visible and accessible constituency office to enhance communication up and down, from the town to the region, even to Queen's Park and Ottawa, to give greater voice to the priorities that NOTL deserves.

As a student, oddly enough, I loved math and physics, as well as music and theatre. Over time these interests led to me attaining a Master's degree in divinity and then one in business. Professionally and personally my thinking is both data-driven and values-driven, a combination I will bring as your regional councillor.

One of the foremost values I take from the adage 'don't kill the goose that laid the golden egg' We have a golden community in so many ways, and it must not be tarnished by narrow, selfish interests.

A value I have spent a lifetime promoting is good health. Without good health in body, mind and spirit everything else is secondary. And yet we are increasingly lacking in health care providers and

services at so many levels. It is not right that nurses get a one per cent increase while the province runs a surplus.

I also, with so many of you, value a healthy environment. Yet only 20 per cent of residents believe we are prepared for the effects of climate change on the town. Eileen and I from Virgil have six children and seven grandchildren who love to come to NOTL. Together we need to

protect the future for all our children facing the ravages of our warming planet and loss of biodiversity. I stand by the data in the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, but there is much more we need to do.

There are many other values we share. With increased tracking and monitoring of solid data we can identify the trends to determine what priorities and actions we must take locally and regionally.

In the tributes to the late Queen Elizabeth II I often heard the words 'servant leadership' to describe her. I have always believed in public service and am eager to provide you with the servant leadership required by your regional councillor.

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



William Roberts



SIP & PAINT

THE IRISH HARP PUB

NOVEMBER 16 @ 7:30 PM

\$75/PERSON: 2-HOUR GUIDED PAINT SESSION, ALL PAINT SUPPLIES INCLUDED, LARGE WINE, BEER, OR COCKTAIL, TAKE HOME YOUR MASTERPIECE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM

(905) 468-4443 • TAXES & GRATUITIES EXTRA

Credit Card Required To Reserve Your Spot • 72 Hour Cancellation Policy In Effect

24 ANGELS DRIVE, ST. DAVIDS-\$2,349,000
 Joy Miele* | Joy@McGarrRealty.com | 905-347-3728
 OPEN HOUSE | SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2PM-4PM

- Craftsmanship
- Attention to Detail
- 3 Car Garage

BUYING? SELLING? MOVE WITH JOY! CALL TODAY

McGarr
MCGARR REALTY CORP., BROKERAGE
*Sales Representative

1507 Niagara Stone Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0
905-468-9229

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES IN THE WORLD

EDITORIAL

Council wraps up with little bit of tension, a little bit of fun

Monday night's council meeting was the last of this term. Some councillors, and of course Lord Mayor Betty Disero, hope to return, others were saying their goodbyes.

There was some wrapping up to do, with CAO Marnie Cluckie presenting an executive summary of all staff and council have accomplished, and Lauren Kruitbosch, manager of customer experience and communications, speaking of measurable improvements to customer service delivery that seem widely recognized and appreciated.

Over the last two weeks, members of the town advisory committees have also summarized their work, speaking of their accomplishments, lessons learned, and recommendations for any changes that could improve their committee's abilities to serve the community over the next four years.

Some of the council discussions became heated Monday, a little more than usual, in what seemed like a preview of what might become candidate debate issues. Coun. Erwin Wiens focused

on town finances and budgets he has said often are not sustainable, and others firmly, but respectfully disagreed.

Coun. Allan Bisback, to dispel the notion that this particular council has been dysfunctional, said "we argue, we agree to disagree, and when we walk out we still walk out as a unified team."

Coun. Clare Cameron lightened the mood considerably, making sure she was going out on a positive note, and went around the room with a message for each councillor. She began with Cluckie, who was hired as CAO about 18 months ago, saying thank you "for sticking with us, for your constant strategic objectives, your eye on the long-term, and your proven ability to deliver results."

Cameron thanked Erwin Wiens for being "the thorn in people's side, the happy contrarian" who says things people haven't always wanted to hear, and for being such a vocal representative of the agricultural community.

To Coun. Sandra O'Connor, she said thanks for being such a "fierce and passionate advocate

of environmental issues."

Cameron had the room laughing when she thanked Coun. Wendy Cheropita, "for your constant grace and calm, and wonderful outfits. I hope someday I can enjoy the same personal shopper services that have brought such grace to our chamber, and I really appreciate your advocacy of the local business community as well."

About Gary Burroughs, one of her heroes, she said she recalled him showing up at regional headquarters (where she was a member of staff) looking like he had just come off the moors, wearing rubber boots, covered in mud, and then transforming into the regional chair. "You really are a legend in this town, and it is very well deserved."

Coun. Norm Arsenault will be remembered for his attention to detail, Coun. Allan Bisback for seeing all sides of an issue, and Coun. John Wiens for his ability to connect with people, for being so warm and caring and showing pride in what council has done, Cameron said.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

was thanked for being an example of what it looks like to fight for people's concerns, and for the loyalty she inspires in those who believe in her.

"We're lucky to live where we do, and this is an amazing community I'm not going anywhere, I'll still be here, watching you, so don't screw up," Cameron joked.

And Burroughs got back at her, becoming emotional

when he thanked Cameron for "being a guiding light."

It might have been the last council meeting, but it won't be the last we will hear from those who hope to be returned to the table when residents vote Oct. 24.

We wish all candidates the best as they enter this intense period of the election campaign, and look forward to greeting those who are suc-

cessful when they are sworn in at the inaugural council meeting in November.

It's been four years of ups and downs, even two of those during a pandemic.

Kudos to council for a productive four years.

Now we're ready to see what the next four years will bring.

Penny Coles
The Local



Councillors Erwin Wiens, Sandra O'Connor, Clare Cameron, Gary Burroughs, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Councillors Wendy Cheropita, Allan Bisback, Norm Arsenault and John Wiens at their final meeting of the term. All but Cameron, Arsenault and John Wiens hope to be back. (Penny Coles)

Bill 7 long-term care 'callous and cruel'

Wayne Gates
MPP, Niagara Falls Riding

We have a problem in healthcare, and punishing our seniors isn't the solution.

Protecting our universal healthcare system and improving healthcare delivery have been a main focus of mine since I was first elected. During my tenure, I've spent countless hours in the legislature advo-

cating to ensure our community is receiving the healthcare it deserves, and that seniors live the last few years of their life with respect and dignity in our long-term care system. However, Bill 7, introduced by Long-Term Care Minister Paul Calandra, is one of the most callous and cruel pieces of legislation I've witnessed as an MPP. The bill is designed to force seniors and those living

with disabilities into long-term care homes outside of their community and away from their families.

I've spoken publicly on this legislation when it was passed earlier this month. Now we've learned the full details of what this bill will do and it's heartbreaking. Right from the beginning, we anticipated this government would use financial coercion to force those in

hospital waiting for long-term care or home care out of their communities. The government claimed we were fear-mongering. Now we know the truth.

Hospitals will now have the ability to tell patients waiting for long-term care they must agree to enter a long-term care home up to 70 kilometres away from their community, or face paying \$400 a day. That can be a one to two-hour drive to see a loved one. In northern Ontario it'll be up to 150 kms. That's how this government wants to fix problems. We can't deny the fact that we do have a serious problem in our hospitals — they're stretched to capacity and most hospital networks in Ontario face a severe staffing shortage. But ripping people away from their families and forcing them into long-term care homes 70 kms away is not

a solution. It's cruelty.

Beyond the moral outrage we should all be feeling, how workable is this heartless solution? If this government is successful in opening up beds, how will this solve our on-going staffing issues? A hospital bed without a nurse or doctor is just a piece of furniture. The healthcare crisis we find ourselves in won't be solved by punishing those seeking long-term care. But it can be solved if we start investing in the system and investing in people.

This government sent a message to our healthcare workers when they passed Bill 124, limiting wage increases to one per cent. After standing up as heroes in the face of one of the worst global health crises of our time, the Ford government showed them no respect. Given mounting inflation, this

cap on wages is a pay cut and a strong message that healthcare workers are not valued by this government.

We can start fixing this problem by repealing Bill 124. But it goes well beyond that—we must start investing in the healthcare infrastructure this province so desperately needs, invest in home care, hire and retain more healthcare workers and start ensuring that no matter what role you play in healthcare delivery, you're paid a fair living wage.

This government will say policies such as Bill 7 are put forward to protect healthcare, but it will likely do the exact opposite. Legislation like this will slowly chip away at the foundation of our universal healthcare system, and it will hurt people in our community. I can't accept that. We must do better.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Having watched, with delight, many episodes of Big Bang Theory I was skeptical that the prequel, Young Sheldon (Seasons 1

to 5, Netflix, 2021) could offer any interest. I was very wrong. The Cooper family and assorted friends have captured and held my interest. I just hope there will be more.

Donald Combe is a re-

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

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

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

Editor:
Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com
905-246-5878

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles
Regional Sales and Obituaries
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

notllocal.com [facebook.com/notllocal](https://www.facebook.com/notllocal) [instagram.com/thenotllocal](https://www.instagram.com/thenotllocal) @thenotllocal

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

DISTRESS CENTRE
For depression,
distress and crisis.
24 hour help line:
905-688-3711

**MENTAL HEALTH
AND ADDICTIONS
ACCESS**
(Toll Free)
1-866-550-5205

**GAMBLER'S
ANONYMOUS**
905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE
Service for youth
416-586-5437
1-800-668-6868
(Crisis Line)
kidshelpphone.ca

**ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS**
Meetings every
Wednesday evening
8 p.m. to 9 p.m.
St. Mark's Parish Hall
41 Byron St., NOTL
or find a meeting
905-682-2140

**ASSAULTED
WOMEN'S
HELPLINE**
Mobile calls to:
#SAFE (#7233)
1-866-863-0511
(Toll Free)

CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-222-8477
(TIPS)
niagaratips.com
Text 274637 (CRIMES),
keyword: Niagara,
then your tip

Experiencing Ontario through provincial campgrounds

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

Ontario has a large number of provincial parks. These offer a range of camping experiences in a natural setting. With our new Armadillo Backpack trailer, we wanted to start visiting parks that we had not had not experienced prior to this year. Grundy Lake Provincial Lake was one of these. We had heard of it many years ago but, alas, never had the opportunity to visit.

The first difficulty we encountered while making plans was the provincial booking system. Gone are the days when you simply drive to a park expecting a site is available. The popularity of camping has made that next to impossible. In order to assure you have a site at the park you wish to camp at, you need to make reservations online through this booking system. Unfortunately, the system appears to be subject to abuse. What we learned from other campers is that people will reserve a site, early in the year, for 28 days not knowing what week or two they will actually use the site. This means the sites may be fully booked until whoever reserved them

cancels the days they are not using it.

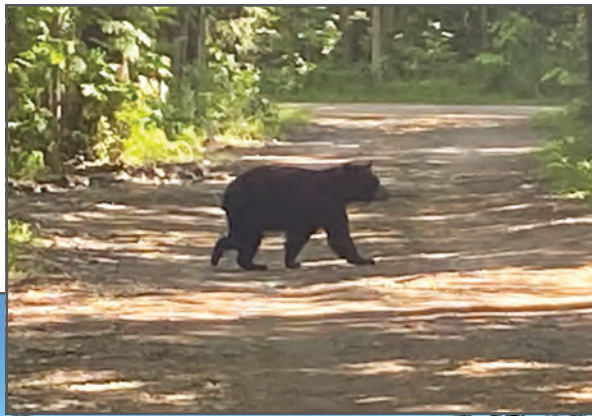
Grundy is a big attraction for campers as it does not allow motorized boats in any of the lakes that the park encompasses. For those of us who enjoy a quiet paddle on a canoe, kayak or paddle board it is heaven, offering a quiet preserve where one can hear the soft movement of waves gently lapping on the shore and the plaintive cry of the loon without the screaming engine sounds of motorboats and Sea-dos. Needless to say it can be quite busy..

The park boundaries encompass several lakes besides Grundy. Gut Lake, Swan Lake, Gurd Lake and Clear Lake can all be accessed from within the park. There are nine separate camping areas within the park with a total of 863 sites. Some areas are radio/generator-free for those who enjoy the peace and quiet of nature. One campground area is also dog-free.

We spent two pleasant nights in the trailer camping area before moving to the Red Maple campsite. The Red Maple area had been closed up until the day we were able to move into it. Both sites were quite nice and the lakes easy to walk to. At one point, we seemed to have the Grundy Lake beach area all to ourselves as we sat reading under a tree.

There are several trails in the area and we had a particularly nice hike on the trail that circles Swan Lake. The lovely smell of pine on a hot day and the cooling sensation as you walk under the canopy was most agreeable. The area, part of the Canadian Shield, has amazing geology and it is quite observable on this beautiful hike.

All in all, this Provincial Park offers a wonderful camping experience, and the opportunity to enjoy quiet lakes while paddling your watercraft.



David and Claudia Gilchrist crossed the country in their Armadillo Backpack trailer, and then turned to provincial campgrounds to explore areas closer to home. One of those was Grundy Lake Provincial Park, where David's photographs captured a black bear crossing campsites, a trail around the park, and great opportunities to kayak or canoe. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

Local LETTERS

The dream is still alive in NOTL

Terry Fox was not a quitter. He just ran out of time. We are the time he didn't have.

Thank you to each and every one of you who participated in the 42nd annual Terry Fox run. You haven't given up on his dream, a world free of cancer. You kept the spirit alive on Sunday, Sept.18 here at Simcoe park in NOTL.

It was so wonderful to see the community come together after two years of not gathering in person. We were all here for the same purpose . . . for Terry Fox and cancer research.

We were honoured to have the chairman of the Terry Fox Foundation do his

42nd run here in our community. Together with Joe Pillitteri and his team Pillsy, they helped bring in over \$150,000 for the foundation's innovative cancer research. The money is making a difference, and people are living longer.

Terry Fox is an example to our youth that they can change the world with courage and compassion. Thank you to the students from Crossroads School and Vineridge Academy for being a part of this worthwhile event.

Many volunteers come together to marshal along the route, take registrations, hand out certificates, water and set up the display of past

photos in the bandshell. All of you help add to the success of this event. Fruit is generously donated by Quiet Acres and Walkers Fruit Market.

The event was both emotional and inspirational as we listened to jazz singer, Juliet Dunn's heartfelt story and joined her in singing our national anthem.

All of you have your own personal contribution to Terry's legacy and I thank you for your continued support in keeping Terrys dream alive.

Hope to see you Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023

Joan King
Terry Fox Run Coordinator

Local LETTERS

Grace United Church cemetery stones need repairs

Dear Rev. Maureen Ellison and parishioners of Grace United Church:

Last Sunday, I was both shocked and saddened when I visited your cemetery at Gage and Gate.

I was looking, unsuccessfully, for the grave of

NOTL's longest serving librarian Mary Duddy, a black woman and one of your past parishioners.

The folks buried in your cemetery lived and were loved and deserve respect from we, the living.

Please repair and re-

store the headstones and perhaps provide visitors with some information about the folks who's finally resting place has fallen into such heartbreaking disrepair.

James Russell



Since 1928 We Have Been Keeping Home Buyers & Sellers Company- Guiding Folks Just Like You Along The Way.

Bosley Real Estate... Trusted Professionals; Whose knowledge, Patience, and Understanding You Can Count On.

BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE
EST 1928

Leading REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

OFFICE: 905-468-8600 | BOSLEYREALESTATE.COM



Bosley Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage | 5-233 King Street, Niagara-On-The-Lake
Brokerage respects the contracts of its competitors.

Parents disturbed by racist Kindergarten worksheet

St. Davids principal agrees, apologizes

Penny Coles
The Local

Tracee Smith has made her point with a local school and the school board about offensive material given to her son's Junior Kindergarten class.

Now she wants to know "what concrete steps will be taken to make sure it won't happen again."

Smith and her husband are Indigenous parents of two children at St. Davids Public School.

Last week her son, Ekki-an Christmas, came home from JK with a worksheet designed to teach students to recognize the capital letter I, and a small i.

The graphic on the worksheet showed two Indigenous cartoon children, complete in fringed clothing, headbands and a feather, with the wording that began "two little Indians are eating ice cream," and instructions to colour the correct letters.

"Indigenous people don't walk around with feathers on their heads, and neither do we," she told The Local.

Smith, a member of the Missinabie Cree First Nation in northern Ontario, spoke to principal Carl Glauser and District School Board of Niagara staff, and although "they said all the right things, they apologized and said they were looking into it and were conducting an investigation, what they haven't said yet is what is actually going to happen as a result of it."

She has been told they don't know where that particular worksheet came from, and understands teachers are able to choose the resources they use as curriculum supplements.

But the question she had for the principal and board staff was "how do you take this paper, photocopy it 25 times, hand it out to a bunch of four- and five-year-olds, read it to them, do the exercise with them, and not know this is a problem?" asks Smith.

"The bigger picture," she says, is what will be done next, what kind of training will be given, what is being done now that isn't working

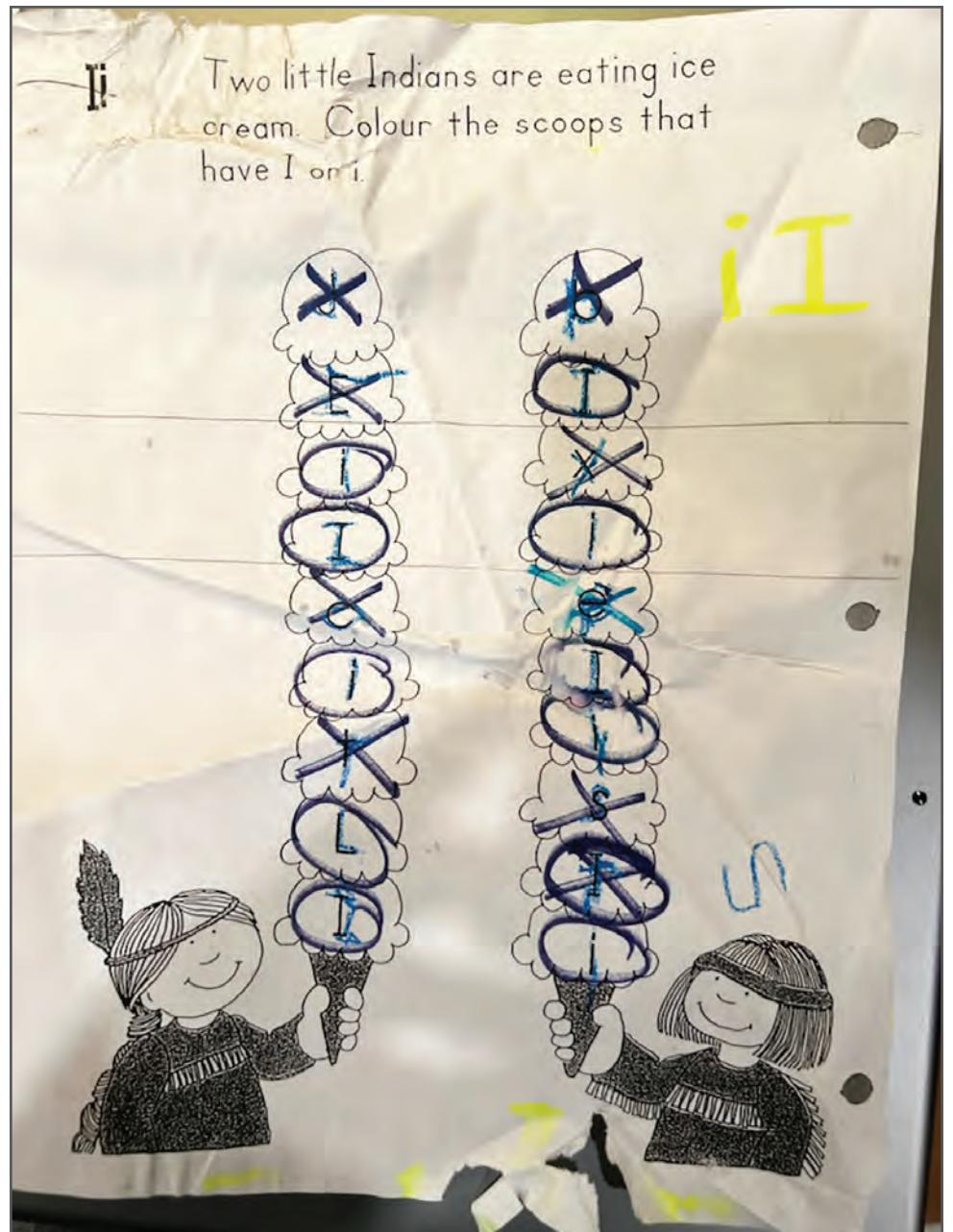
and what can they do more of that will work? "That is what hasn't been communicated."

Smith says staff she has talked to "have definitely acknowledged that they probably have to do more education and training, but how much more, and what does that mean? Until I actually explained the problem with the assignment, some of them didn't really get it, they didn't really understand, they asked me what's offensive about this?"

Georgie Groat, the lead for Indigenous education with the District School Board of Niagara, "gets it," says Smith, who works in Indigenous education herself on a national level. As founder of Outside Looking In, an organization created to empower Indigenous youth, she understands there are always limits to time and budgets, but says there has to be a better job done of training.

The teacher who handed out the worksheet is young — she started teaching in 2017, says Smith.

"The bigger story includes what teachers are learning and not learning



Continued on page 9

The worksheet shows a stereotypical cartoon of Indigenous children. (Supplied)

nso

niagara
symphony
orchestra

FirstOntario
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

THE MUSIC OF JOHN WILLIAMS

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 1
7:30PM

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 2
2:30PM

NIAGARASYMPHONY.COM | 905.688.0722

'Concrete steps' need to be taken by board, teachers' colleges

Continued from page 8

in teachers college. Every human being has their own views of other cultures, but as teachers, do they not have a bigger responsibility, are they not held to a higher standard to not perpetuate stereotypes and racist and discriminatory information to young minds?"

Smith hasn't heard from any other parents — although a letter from the principal was sent home, she isn't sure whether it went to every family or just those in her son's class, and she doesn't think they would know who made the complaint. But she does know she is the only parent who brought the issue to the school's attention.

She has however heard from the wider community, "from people who are appalled."

The good that could out of that worksheet would be to use it as a tool to teach other students, to have kids

look at it critically and see if they have a problem with it, she says. "I know a few of my friends who have done that with their own kids, so it's already being used as a learning opportunity."

Kim Sweeney, senior manager of communications at the DSBN, told The Local the principal at St. Davids, "is supporting staff to review resources from the perspective of decolonization, equity, diversity, inclusion, and anti-racism."

The origin of the worksheet is not clear, said Sweeney. "It is not a ministry document, and it didn't come from the DSBN."

Sweeney spoke of "disciplinary action," but wouldn't share what that might look like — Smith says she certainly doesn't want the teacher to lose her job, just to learn from her mistake.

All staff and schools at the DSBN have been notified of this incident, said Sweeney, outlining what steps are being taken to ensure teachers are more

mindful of the material they choose in the future:

- The Indigenous Education team are continually working with educators to provide professional development and authentic resources to support educators with embedding Indigenous knowledge into their teaching practice to strengthen the presence of Indigenous culture, languages, history, and current realities of students
- This will continue along with training sessions focused on understanding Eurocentric bias and how they negatively impact sovereignty-seeking individuals and communities
- Administrators at all schools will be reminding staff about the necessity to review resources with a decolonization, equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism lens. This has come up at the

time schools are about to celebrate Orange Shirt Day, and the DSBN recognizes National Truth and Reconciliation Day on Sept. 30 "as a whole system with every school participating. The Indigenous Education team has provided educators with a variety of grade-appropriate activities to support the learning of all students (Kindergarten to Grade 12) in the work toward Truth and Reconciliation. Students and staff are encouraged to wear something orange on that day," Sweeney told The Local.

The DSBN has an Indigenous Education team of seven people led by George Groat, for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

"We know that supporting educators and staff at the DSBN is a process, and we are continually working to educate, provide PD sessions, and authentic resources to support administrators and teachers to build capacity when teaching and embedding Indigenous con-

tent and learning in their schools and classrooms," said Groat.

Her team is working toward further supporting the well-being and school experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students to promote student achievement, she said, and to strengthen the presence of Indigenous culture, languages, and history for all students, and assist educators to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into their teaching practice.

"We are also working with Indigenous Education Advisory Council to involve community partners in the work we are doing."

In his letter to St. Davids school families, principal Carl Glauser said when the worksheet was brought to his attention and he reviewed it, "it was clear that the content was racist and discriminatory."

He apologized on behalf of the school and DSBN, saying they were "sincerely sorry to the students, families, and entire school com-

munity that this offensive material was distributed. It should not have been used as a learning resource."

He said the DSBN "is committed to embedding Indigenous learning across our curriculum, including education on Indigenous histories, perspectives, culture, contributions, and the current realities that exist today. And we continue to acknowledge and teach about the true history of residential schools and the impact they have — and continue to have — on families and communities across Canada."

However, he added, "we know there is still much more work to be done as we keep with our journey towards truth and reconciliation. We remain committed to being an active partner in the reconciliation process."

Smith is ready to move forward, hoping for concrete steps to be taken, and says "there will always be more to do, but you have to start somewhere."



Niagara on the Lake Realty
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

The Highest Total Volume of Local Sales for the Past Decade

Highest volume in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 01/01/2011 to 09/21/2021. Source MLS.



188 VICTORIA STREET
\$1,395,000

MLS 40322197 • Chris Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



6286 FOREST RIDGE DRIVE
\$808,999

MLS 40327049 • Randall Armstrong



29 STONERIDGE CRESCENT
\$1,462,800

MLS 40324991 • Randall Armstrong



17 FIELD ROAD
\$699,000

MLS 40328711 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



652 KING STREET
\$1,199,000

MLS 40277410 • Viviane Elltoft and Jane Elltoft



8 SETTLERS COURT
\$2,495,000

MLS 40249154 • Chris Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



335 VICTORIA STREET
\$1,495,000

MLS 40313723 • Chris Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



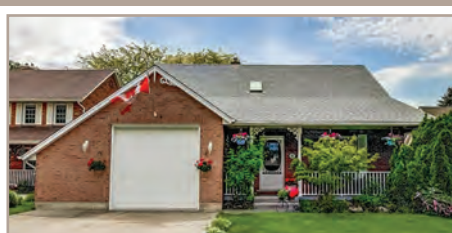
229 VICTORIA STREET
\$1,695,000

MLS 40297034 • Chris Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



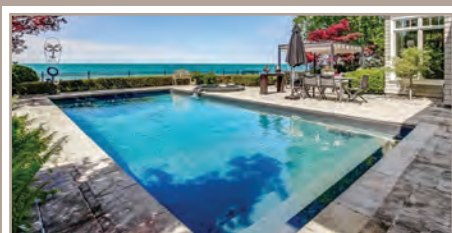
10 MACDONELL ROAD
\$1,049,000

MLS 40315723 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



32 THE PROMENADE
\$1,199,000

MLS 40314010 • Thomas Elltoft and Ricky Watson



243 NIAGARA BOULEVARD
\$4,895,000

MLS 40320944 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



631 KING STREET
\$1,225,000

MLS 40309389 • Victoria Bolduc

Christopher Bowron*** 905-468-2269
Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726
Philip Bowron* 905-348-7626
Bonnie Grimm* 905-468-1256
Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585

Viviane Elltoft* 905-468-2142
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft* 905-988-8776
Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie* 905-685-2458
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240
Caroline Polgrabia* 905-933-4983

Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983
Weston Miller* 289-213-8681
Giovanni Rodriguez Martinez* 905-328-2145
Ricky Watson* 905-246-3387

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Bollards in St. Davids a short pilot project

Penny Coles
The Local

The bollards residents are seeing on Four Mile Creek Road in St. Davids are temporary, installed by Niagara region as a pilot project to slow down traffic and provide safety for cyclists on the bike lane beside the road.

Carolyn Ryall, director of the region's transportation services division, says staff are continually looking at options to improve road safety.

Earlier this year she met with a group of St. Davids residents who were concerned about vehicles speeding, and the safety of cyclists on the stretch of road coming from Niagara Falls to York Road. They discussed a number of options, including bollards, information she took away to determine what might work best.

The bollards offer a demarcation between the road and bike lane, protecting cyclists, and also have been proven to slow traffic down, she says. "The separation between cyclists and vehicles is key."

To residents who would prefer to have more bike lanes rather than bollards, she explains bike lanes are being implemented wherev-



The bicycle bollards will be removed before the snow flies, and are part of a pilot project that wasn't intended to last more than two months. (Penny Coles)

er they can be — the paved area beside the road on Four Mile Creek is wide enough to be considered a bike lane — and it's not a matter of choosing one or the other, "it's providing an extra level of safety," says Ryall. "We're trying to make our roads safe for all, not just for vehicles."

Regional staff also looked at what other Ontario municipalities are doing and found bicycle bollards were a primary measure used by a number of municipalities.

Because this is just a small pilot project, she says, there

was no formal process to communicate the plan to the public, and no notice given ahead of time, although the location was chosen based on feedback received from the public.

The region will be evaluating how effective the bollards are and making recommendations for the future. Staff is also looking for input from residents about what they like and don't like about them on the two regional roads where they have been installed: Martindale in St. Catharines and Four Mile

Creek in St. Davids.

They are also on Oakdale Street in St. Catharines, a city street rather than a regional road, based on a decision made by the city.

Ryall says the bollards are flexible, will bend if hit by a car and bounce back, and will not damage a vehicle.

Although they look the same, the bollards have come from two different suppliers, with a difference in the material they're made of, and if the region moves ahead with the program, will look at which performed best.

In response to residents who are concerned about snow plows, garbage trucks, or emergency vehicles, she says even if the bollards are approved for permanent use, they will be seasonal, removed for the winter. They are spaced far enough apart, at a distance prescribed under provincial legislation, that vehicles can move over to the side of the road and back when it's safe to do so.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa were both at the meeting with regional

staff this summer when road safety options were discussed with about 20 residents.

"The region was proposing a number of things for Four Mile Creek Road," said Disero, but there was no notice given to the town that bollards were being installed. "After that meeting I didn't hear anything back. The region did not keep us up to date. I assumed there would be more communication."

Zalepa also remembered the discussion with concerned residents and some options, such as painting markings on the road to slow people down, and putting no parking signs up along one stretch of the road, which has been done.

"Bollards were discussed, but I didn't know they were going forward with them," he says.

However he does remember residents being especially concerned about speeding once school started and school buses were back on the road, so there seemed to be a need to move ahead quickly, and the region might have moved forward to meet that timeline.

Anyone wishing to provide feedback is encouraged to contact Niagara Region's website under Bicycle Bollards Pilot Project- Niagara Region, Ontario.

Right time. Right choice.

VOTE
Vaughn Goettler
Lord Mayor

Accountable Leadership
Financial Integrity
Restoring NOTL's Identity

www.vaughngoettler.com

offering Wednesday 9 am
Pilates Mat class
beginning in October 2022.

This will be a beginner mat class focusing on core strength, balance and general muscle patterning. Classes will be added as need arises.

Start Date: October 12, 2022
Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, Anderson Lane

- 10 week Session Blocks - Wed. 9 a.m. (missed classes can be made up in subsequent sessions)
- Instructor: Certified Pilates Instructors with Rehab training.
- Cost \$200
- You will need a mat, a full towel and loose fitting clothes that stretch.

We will start with the basics and give you exercises to focus on for the rest of the week until the next class. Regardless of the shape you feel you are in, you will start from the basics and move from there building strength and endurance. Modifications will be provided to clients based on their physical needs as well as enhancements for clients who are more accustomed to pilates.

Please contact Barb at: pilatesemporium@outlook.com

Bikes for workers program handed over to church

Local Staff

Terry Weiner and Mark Gaudet, co-founders of Bikes for Farmworkers, have decided to move on to other ventures.

After seven years of refurbishing and repairing donated bicycles for migrant workers, a transition committee with GateWay Community Church are looking at ways to successfully provide safe bikes for farmworkers.

Bike project volunteers have been working with GateWay since 2019, a news release says, and have become part of the church's community outreach work.

"The church will be leading the installation of a new management team that will oversee the day-to-day operations going forward."

"This was an exciting venture for us," says Weiner. "We saw a need in the community and had a great experience setting up something that was very important to the farmworkers who come here for up to eight months of the year."

Gaudet says he and his co-founder have taken their project as far as they can and they're ready to hand it off to someone to continue their work. "BFF could benefit from new energy and some different skills. Social media presence is one of the things that

comes to mind."

Both retired men will be pursuing other interests and passions. They agree that retirement has its stages, and this is an opportunity to enjoy other things.

As newcomers to the community, Gaudet and Weiner noticed migrant farmworkers riding bikes, wondered where they got them from, and found out the answer was from many sources. Research pointed them to a bike repair program managed by the St. Alban's Church in Beamsville, and they reached out to the coordinator, Mike Hahn. They learned that the farmworkers wanted bikes as a means of transportation for recreation, and to purchase groceries and other items in town. But bikes were difficult to find, other than at garage sales or abandoned at the end of a driveway, and often they were not safe.

Hahn showed them how to set up a bike repair operation and gave them tips about servicing the farmworker community. They developed a 50-point checklist for all repairs and every bike went through a quality control process before being released for sale. During the first two years, local donated bikes were repaired in their garages. Gradually, Gaudet and Weiner became aware of organizations like Positive Living and Niag-

ara Migrant Workers Interest Group (NMWIG). With the assistance of Positive Living, they were able to secure a startup grant from the Niagara Community Foundation to help them set up repair work stations.

Then, "Lloyd Redekopp came into their lives and made available some basement space at the old Virgil School, a property he owns," the news release says. Promoting their work through community newspapers resulted in many bike donations from NOTL residents and beyond. Their operation expanded from there and they had three high-growth years, maintaining their operation during the two years of the pandemic as workers continued arriving each growing season needing a means of transportation.

Today, eight volunteers help repair and refurbish bicycles and donations come in all year round. Since 2016, BFF has sold 2,300-plus bikes and provided repair services on more than 1,600 bikes.

Over the years, Gaudet developed relationships with Zoom Leisure Rentals in NOTL, Bike Me Up, Bikefit and Liberty Bikes in St. Catharines, and Broken Spokes in Port Colborne, for ordering new bike supplies and sharing old parts. Weiner and Gaudet networked closely with Jane



Mark Gaudet and Terry Weiner in the Virgil workshop of Bikes for Farmworkers, are ready to turn over the organization to others, including Ken Eden and GateWay Community Church. (File photo)

Andres, who prepares welcome bags for offshore workers, and Julia Buxton-Cox, who manages the Farmworkers Hub, both well-known advocates for NOTL farmworkers. Gaudet refers to having a bicycle community hub, which includes the suppliers, partnerships and stakeholders, including farmers, community donors and municipal officials.

What made this partnership between Weiner and Gaudet so special was their background in business,

their complementary skills, Gaudet's passion for cycling and love of fixing bikes, and Weiner's interest in mastering bicycle mechanics and expertise in setting up repair manuals and internal policies. Together, they were able to train new repair volunteers to be part of a proficient operation and to examine each bike critically, addressing any weaknesses.

Bikes were also fitted with high-quality reflective tape so riders are visible if riding in low light or at night. Sold for

\$20 to the farmworkers, the proceeds, as well as any financial donations from the community, have helped to pay for the purchases of new tires and tubes, repair tools and other shop supplies. In addition, they've often made donations to other local organizations involved in assisting migrant workers.

Gaudet and Weiner say they will do their best to pass on as much as they can to the new team that comes forward, basically handing over a "turn-key operation."

WE LOVE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

IT'S WORTH PROTECTING

“ Doubling tourism in NOTL means higher taxes for costly infrastructure, road repairs and mitigating traffic congestion. **”**

“ Niagara-on-the-Lake would need more traffic circles. Emergency response times would be reduced. Parking will be difficult to find. Good neighbours will move away because of crowds and hollowed out neighbourhoods. Large, noisy, littering crowds will make NOTL famous as the town overtourism killed. **”**

“ Niagara-on-the-Lake needs a tourism strategy that puts residents ahead of greed. Niagara-on-the-Lake should first be great place to live and second a great place to visit. NOTL should be a gem worth visiting, not a overcrowded tourist trap noted as a quick stop on the way to Niagara Falls because of its many its tax payer funded public toilets. **”**

“ Defund tourism marketing that goes beyond pre-pandemic levels. Vote for town councillors who put residents first before special interests. **”**

WE NOTL

WeLuvNOTL.com

How should accommodation tax be spent?

Continued from page 2

big high rises.”

Goettler warned of the potential for Glendale to become a dumping ground for intensification.

“We do need to have contextual development,” said Goettler. “Glendale residents are worried about high rises and related developments. We have to make sure we listen to the residents. Schools go without saying. We have to be very focused on human transit, too, as opposed to vehicle transit, bike paths and walking paths so people can get to and from safely.”

Another question dealt with how each candidate would use the proceeds of the MAT, estimated to be about \$1 million in its first year.

“I’ve always been a supporter of the MAT to help pay for the infrastructure needed to welcome tourists,” said Disero. “The first million will be split 50-50. Half will be saved for municipal infrastructure repairs. The other half will go to tourism marketing, or a DMO, as the province calls it.”

Goettler called the MAT a mixed bag, questioning its need, and suggesting that instead of being administered by the town it should be in the hands of the restaurant and hotel owners who will be assessing the tax.

“Government is sometimes a black hole into which funds go,” said Goettler. “Hotels would administer it and report to council what they’re doing. It’s not a tourist-friendly tax, but it

must go into the right hands to target the tourists we want.”

Zalepa said he supports the tax, but thinks the current council got the process wrong.

“There should be a freeing up of municipal funding when this tax is collected,” he said. “That extra money should be returned to the taxpayers in a reduced levy in the 2023 budget. We really need to sit down with the stakeholders and find out what they want. Collecting the money and not really having a plan in advance, that’s not what they want. It’s a positive, let’s make it a positive and use it to benefit the community.”

The discussion then turned to the possibility of moving the council to a ward system.

Goettler said he originally would not have been supportive of that move but changed his mind after speaking to a number of residents, especially some in the town’s farming community.

Zalepa said he is not supportive of a change but would like to hear more about it. He added that if it would increase voter turnout, he might change his opinion. Either way, he said a properly reviewed process would be needed before any change.

Disero said she was torn on the subject, acknowledging that government could be more efficient and effective with a councillor representing each village, but warned that a ward system

could possibly lead to some elected official not working with the entire community’s well-being at front of mind.

The evening wrapped up with more discussion on the town’s official plan, or lack thereof, and the confusion that it can create for developers.

Zalepa reiterated that the town’s guidelines are not meeting the needs of the community. He called for better guidance for developers, improved clarity in the rules, and strong, specific guidelines that would help the town in court and avoid ministry tribunals, calling the town’s current guidelines “wimpy.”

Goettler promised he would bring a delegation to the province to make the case that NOTL is special and unique and should not have to meet the same density requirements that are placed on the suburbs of Toronto. He also promised to fight for a UNESCO heritage designation for the town.

Disero once again defended her council’s work on development guidelines and protection of agricultural lands. She added that she did not see Zalepa in the room with her when she was negotiating with the region for changes in the density mappings. And she also shot down Goettler’s UNESCO idea, as she said the previous council applied for that designation in 2017 and was denied.

The formal part of the eve-

ning wrapped up at about 8:22 pm, at which time the three candidates were able to mingle with the crowd directly.

The next session hosted by FocusNOTL will see council

Oct. 5. candidates Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis, Richard Mell and Nick Ruller at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on King Street for a Meet and Greet on



Vaughn Goettler talks to voters.



Betty Disero greets members of the audience.



Gary Zalepa considers what voters at the meeting have to say.

Straightforward and Steady

- ADVOCATE for a sustainable budget
- PROMOTE agriculture and rural viability
- IMPROVE tourism through dialogue and action



ERWIN WIENS

289-687-5551
 erwinanddorothywiens@gmail.com
 erwinwiensfornotl.ca



treadwell

THANKSGIVING

HEAT & SERVE TAKEOUT PACKAGE

Available for pickup: Sunday, October 9th | 11am-4pm
 Last day to order: Thursday, October 6th

Brined and Roasted Ontario Turkey (both white and dark meat)
 Turkey Gravy | Whipped Mashed Potatoes
 Stuffing | Buttered Autumn Vegetables | Cranberry Sauce
 Roasted Butternut Squash Soup | Housemade Rosemary Bread
 Pumpkin Tart with Maple Crème Anglaise

\$65 PER GUEST | plus taxes (minimum 2 guest order)

To order: 905.934.9797 | orders@treadwellcuisine.com



Fundraiser to help at-risk youth

Penny Coles
The Local

Helping youth, says Laura Byers, general manager of the RRPC Innovation Foundation, is a need that is ongoing.

But with a two-year economic disruption during COVID, “there has been a gap between what we can afford to do and what we need to do.”

The foundation, established by philanthropist Suzanne Court in 2019, supports at-risk youth in communities across the region through partnerships in education, nutrition, sports, advocacy and mental health.

The RRPC foundation is dedicated to helping youth succeed by providing opportunities that may not exist for them otherwise, and by supporting community agencies that support youth.

The foundation has established the Step Youth Empowerment Center in St. Catharines, “where it feels like home,” says Byers.

It provides a place where homeless, troubled, confused or “even just lost young people” can drop in and find the people and resources who can help them.

A fundraiser in “the works” for quite a while, says Byers, is being held Saturday, Oct. 1 outside The Works, on James Street in St. Catharines, beginning at 1 p.m.

“It’s a very cool event,” says Byers, with “an incredible line-up of artists who have come together for a good cause. It’s going to be pretty amazing.”

The money raised “will provide support for a safe, dry space for youth, with free mental health counselling, and no wait list.”

It is also a “timely hub” for navigating resources in the community, she says.

Young people, aged 12 to 24, who need to talk to someone can drop by at 58 Ontario Street, at the corner of Church Street, Mondays from 9 a.m. to noon, or Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m., but should call 289-668-0667 first or email contactus@stepniagara.ca.

This event, Blues, Brews & Burgers, will feature a line-up of non-stop live music with local musicians performing from 1 p.m. to 7 pm.

At 7:30 p.m., the multiple award-winning Brant Parker Blues takes the stage with his band, featuring special guest blues artist

Spencer Mackenzie. The event is free, and there will be beverages and food to purchase, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going to help youth.

Mackenzie, says Byers, is a local musician “taking Niagara by storm, and has become a pretty powerful model of youth supporting youth.”

There are a limited number of VIP Early Bird front-of-the-stage tickets available for \$25 per person, or a VIP table for 10 for \$200.

To reserve your table

of 10, call Works franchise owner Mario Ciccarelli at 905-651-5421 or visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/.../blues-brews-burgers-tickets>



This is one of the rooms in the Step Empowerment Centre, a safe space for youth, a place where they can find the resources they need and free mental health counselling. (Photo supplied)



Join the Niagara Health Board of Directors

Our CORE values inspire us to be EXTRAORDINARY: Compassion in Action, Driven by Optimism, Achieving Ambitious Results.

Niagara Health is a multi-site organization comprised of five sites and a growing network of community-based services, serving 450,000 residents across the 12 municipalities making up the Regional Municipality of Niagara. The team is made up of more than 7,300 employees, physicians and volunteers. Niagara Health provides a wide range of inpatient and outpatient services, including Acute Care, Cancer Care, Cardiac Care, Complex Care, Emergency and Urgent Care, Kidney Care, Long-Term Care, Mental Health and Addictions, Stroke Care and Surgical Care.

Niagara Health’s Accreditation with Exemplary Standing is a clear demonstration of the team’s commitment to the highest safety and quality standards. As a community-based academic centre, teaching and learning, research, innovation, and partnership are propelling Niagara Health towards imagining a healthier Niagara. Our strong partnerships with the Niagara – Ontario Health Team - Équipe Santé Ontario Niagara (NOHT-ESON), Hotel Dieu Shaver, Brock University, McMaster University, Niagara College and many others, will help us transform healthcare and work to improve the health of our community through patient-centred, innovative and sustainable health care. A new hospital build, the South Niagara Site, is a significant priority over the next five years.

Niagara Health’s Board of Directors is expanding to enhance the overall skills and experience of the Board and to promote effective succession planning. We are recruiting new Board Directors who have demonstrated executive leadership and governance experience, and a commitment to our Vision, Purpose, and Values to join us in 2022-23 and beyond.

The Board is interested in hearing from leaders with any of the following experience profiles, and especially those with board experience:

- Legal
- Construction and Project Management
- IT and Cyber
- Finance, Audit and Risk

Niagara Health is participating in the federal government’s 50 – 30 Challenge to increase diversity in positions of influence and leadership across our organization. We welcome applicants from equity-deserving groups including: women, racialized persons including Black Canadians, people who identify as gender or sexually diverse, persons living with disabilities and Indigenous peoples. Ideal candidates would be members of the Niagara community.

For a detailed Board Director recruitment profile and to submit your expression of interest by Friday, Oct. 28, please visit NiagaraHealth.on.ca/BoardRecruitment

www.niagarahealth.on.ca



niagarahealth
Extraordinary Caring. Every Person. Every Time.



Third in a Series!

Let’s talk facts about Niagara-on-the-Lake’s infrastructure:

We are not a business. We are a community. Our commitment to all who live and work in NOTL is an improved lifestyle and enhanced opportunities in the Tourism, Agriculture and Business sectors in order to grow and maintain a thriving economy.

Better Life for Citizens

1. To help young families who work and live in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we participated in building a new and expanded nursery school at the NOTL Community Centre and a 24-hour daycare at the new Central Community Church serving the Niagara Region including a recreation space for youth. TO DO Next term: Acquire funding from upper tier governments for the St. Davids Pool.

2. Worked with other community partners to keep our town active by completing parks and park improvements in all areas of NOTL; completed Phase One of the Heritage Trail; installed a community garden at Niven Park and encouraged Parks Canada to open the off-leash area. TO DO Next term: Create more diverse activities for children. Start the Recreation Master Plan.

Transportation Infrastructure

1. Completed the Transportation Master Plan and sent it out to the community for input. TO DO Next term: Revise the Transportation Master Plan to better suit our community needs and ensure we exhaust all alternative solutions to the St. Davids roundabout.

2. Hwy 55 in Virgil WILL be re-constructed in 2023 for better traffic flow and a more pedestrian village feel including buried hydro lines, wider sidewalks, trees and parkettes.

3. We approved joining Niagara Region Transit. Thanks to the hard work of our CAO, we have a fair formula for funding. TO DO Next term: Roll out the new transit system.

Supporting Tourism and Business

1. Effectively worked with all sectors to safely navigate the perils of the Covid-19 pandemic by quickly establishing outdoor patios to help keep restaurants open, and created the ShopNOTL and Town Ambassador Program to promote and sustain local businesses.

2. To encourage a diversity of businesses, Council approved deferring development charges for industrial development and approved the Municipal Accommodation Tax to fund improvements to our Tourism infrastructure. TO DO Next term: Complete Tourism Master Plan.

I have enjoyed personally working and supporting community residents to create a youth hub for high school students; researched locations for senior assisted living; supported Hoverlink, an environmentally friendly water link to Toronto.

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

Effective Honest Leadership



www.bettydisero.com

paid for by the campaign to re-elect Betty Disero 2022



Ashley Simpson's family fundraising for Wings of Mercy

Penny Coles
The Local

It was two B.C. police officers and a beam of light that led to the discovery of Ashley Simpson, who had been missing for al-

most six years.

When police from B.C. made arrangements to visit John and Cindy Simpson at their Lakeshore Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake last Dec. 3, they didn't know their daughter's body had

been found a few weeks earlier, but that was the news the police wanted to share with them.

"It was the best Christmas present we could have had," says John, telling The Local how comforting it

was to picture that beam of light on Ashley, directing the way to her remains. It wasn't the ending they had hoped for, but it was what they expecting. They needed it to be over, for the searching to end, and to fi-

nally bring her home.

John had travelled to B.C. many times, and on one of his trips, met Shane Michaels, a licensed drone pilot from Alberta who wanted to use technology he was developing to find Ashley and other missing people.

It wasn't Michaels who found Ashley, but a partnership of sorts was formed. Simpson wanted to help Michaels help other families, so they could find their missing loved ones.

At the time he was looking for Ashley, Simpson says, there were six women missing in the same area. Ashley and one of the others were found, both murdered, and the other four are still missing.

It's a mountainous, isolated area, where the police say people go to disappear, not to be found, but some are truly missing. Michaels has founded an organization called Angels of Mercy, with a goal of looking for all missing persons, anywhere in the world.

The problem, says Simpson, is that in some cases, especially in the area where Ashley disappeared, it's difficult to know if people have purposely made

themselves hard to find, possibly escaping from something that threatens them, such as an abusive relationship. "That's a problem, identifying the missing people from the runaways."

That was the initial reaction from the police when the Simpsons reported their daughter missing — that she had chosen to disappear.

"Her friends knew right away that wasn't the case," says John, and over the six years, there were several trips by friends and family to search for her. The first year, he went to B.C to look for her three times, two times the second year, three the third year, and in the fourth year, he went with his daughter and granddaughter, who wanted to help.

"She was having a hard time, missing her aunt, so we took her so she could see what we were doing. But it's hard. You get there, you have some new piece of information to act on, and you're hoping to find something. Then you come home empty-handed, and it's so retching for your soul." His granddaughter,



Amy, John, Amanda, Ashley and Tara Simpson, Ashley's dad and sisters, at Amanda's wedding in 2015. (Photo supplied)

Continued on page 15

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
Downtown St. Catharines

4 OCT

The Tenors
Now and Forever

Blending classical music and contemporary pop, the award-winning and multi-platinum selling band have achieved international success, performing over 1500 live shows and hundreds of TV appearances on five continents.

8 OCT

Anne of Green Gables - The Ballet

Based on the beloved Canadian novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables - The Ballet® follows the adventures of Anne Shirley, an orphan girl sent to live on a farm in the fictional town of Avonlea, Prince Edward Island.
Discounts available for youth and groups.

15 OCT

East Coast Kitchen Party

Newfoundland supergroup The Rowdy Men (featuring 'Come From Away' vocalist George Masswohl) bring the spirit of the East Coast to the PAC for the biggest, liveliest, down-home kitchen party that Niagara has ever seen!
A PAC Fundraising Event

Ashley would have wanted to help search for others

Continued from page 14

then 14, “was beside herself, devastated that we didn’t come home with Ashley?”

That’s why Simpson is so supportive of Wings of Mercy, and the help it could offer to other families.

He explains there are lots of people who operate drones, but to do searches, they have to be licensed drone pilots, and those are spread out and difficult to find.

Wings of Mercy is dedicated to creating a data base of licensed drone pilots who are willing to help search in their area, and to fundraise to cover expenses. Michaels is also, through Facebook, compiling a list of missing people, and has worked on searches across North America, and in Britain and Ireland, although they can only step in when police have given up, so they don’t interfere with police work.

When Ashley went missing, news reports always included the information that she left with a pink suitcase. “That was a turning point for Shane,” says Simpson, explaining

Michaels was motivated to begin work on drone technology to pick out certain colours, like that pink suitcase.

He says on the same day the police showed up at his NOTL door, in B.C. Ashley’s boyfriend, 39-year-old Derek Flavell, was being charged with second-degree murder.

There was a bail hearing — he was denied bail — and his trial is scheduled for Oct. 17 to 20.

Simpson and other family members hoped to be there for it, but it has been closed to the public to protect the identity of some of the witnesses, he explained. The Simpsons will only be able to listen to it by phone, as they did the bail hearing.

“It was horrendous what we learned at the bail hearing,” he said, but they are unable to talk about it.

While they won’t be going back to B.C. for the trial, as they had hoped, they intend to return eventually to place a memorial where Ashley was found. The RCMP, knowing that family would want to one day visit the site, which was rough to get at, have built stairs for them, Simpson

says.

In the meantime, he is working on a fundraiser for Angels of Mercy. Ashley would be all for supporting the organization to help others, he says.

“If she knew someone was lost, she would have been the first on the ground, wanting to search.”

The fundraiser is at the Merritton Community Centre, 7 Park Ave. in St.

Catharines. It’s on Nov. 11, with a barbecue and dance, and Simpson is looking for donations for prizes and a raffle table. The proceeds will be split between Wings of Mercy and a local charity.

For more information or to donate email findashleysimpson@gmail.com

For information about Wings of Mercy visit their Facebook page.



Ashley Simpson (Photo supplied)

<p>20 OCT</p>	<p>27 OCT</p>	<p>2 NOV</p>	<p>22 23 SEASON firstontariopac.ca</p> 
			
<p>Gord's Legacy</p> <p>Featuring Canadian artists Tom Wilson, Susan Aglukark, The Poets, Chris Murphy, Phil Davis, and more. Join our collective reconciliation journey as we celebrate Gord Downie, the man, the music and his enduring legacy. Funds raised go to the <i>Downie-Wenjack Fund</i>.</p>	<p>The Men of the Deeps</p> <p>For over 50 years, <i>The Men of the Deeps</i> choir of working and retired coal miners have been travelling the world as Canadian Ambassadors, singing and storytelling their way into audiences' hearts, preserving and presenting rich Cape Breton folklore, culture and talent.</p>	<p>Classic Albums Live: Aretha Franklin</p> <p>Released in 1969, <i>Aretha's Gold</i> is a GreatestHits album that established Aretha's enduring reputation, from "I Never Loved A Man (The Way I Love You)" to "I Say A Little Prayer." Performed by A-List musicians exactly as you remember the album, note for note, cut for cut!</p>	

Run and dog walk brought out trail supporters

Penny Coles
The Local

A fundraising campaign for the second of four phases planned to rehabilitate Niagara-on-the-Lake's Upper Canada Heritage Trail began Saturday morning, a perfect day for a fun run and dog walk.

Beginning from Memorial Park, on Parks Canada land, about 30 people enjoyed a five-kilometre run or walk on the trail while 20 people took part in the two-kilometre route for dog walkers, raising more than \$7,000 for the day.

About 12 volunteers and heritage trail commit-

tee members were on hand, signing people in, accepting donations, marshalling along the routes and handing out medals, to walkers, runners and dogs who took part in the event.

Many participants were regulars on the trail, happy to be supporting the continuing rehabilitation project.

Barb Gelb and Astrid Shrubbs are dog walkers who use the trail not quite daily, but several times a week. Fortunately their dogs are friends as well — Gelb's vizsla, Lake, and Shrubbs's Portuguese water dog have known each other since they were puppies, and look forward to walking

together and to playing on the beach at Ryerson Park, and swimming in the lake.

The trail, says Gelb, "is a little escape from the road and the traffic. It feels so safe and so peaceful, and it's easy to walk on. I just wish it was longer."

It's also great to cycle on, she adds.

Shrubbs agrees — it's great to have a trail, other than the busy Niagara River Parkway recreational path, that's not on the road.

She says she's never seen a problem on the path, whether people are walking, riding or out with their dogs. "People are respectful," she says, "and

dogs have to be on leashes." Gary Zalepa, walking with his wife Tammy, says he grew up on the Promenade, and remembers walking to school on the path when he was a kid, and cross-country skiing on it in the winter. "We were always on the trail."

He and Tammy had a dog for 16 years they used to walk on the trail, along with their boys when they were little, but now, it's just the two of them, and they use it often.

"It will be great to see it finished, and people getting more use out of it," he says.

Tony Chisholm, one of the trail committee members and an organizer of the event,

says he saw many regulars come out, but he would have liked to see more new people attend, and more donations to help with the rehabilitation, although "the sponsors have been great. I think it will take time. The first time you do anything you don't know what to expect, but those who came out and know the trail want to support it. A lot of people I've seen today use it all the time."

Chisholm and Rick Meloen, who have been on the committee from the beginning and serve as vice-chair and chair, are glad to see it used, to keep people off the road and away from traffic.

Phase one has been completed, following the abandoned railroad right-of-way from John Street to Charlotte and then from Charlotte to East and West Line, making it accessible for all walking, running, biking, and horseback riding. The next step will be to go from from East and West Line to Line 3, the third phase on to Line 9, with the final stage involving improvements from there to York Road.

Identifying the trail between the Dock Area, where the railway began, to John Street, may take place following the completion of the fourth phase.



Brooke Clarkin and Marc Sellan came from out of town to try the heritage trail, and were given a prize for walking the longest distance — they got lost.



Lord Mayor Betty Disero took Bella on the dog walk, but not the whole distance — Bella is used to shorter walks.



Spencer Miller, Lewis Sutton-Goettler, Alex Woo, committee member Tony Chisholm, Vaughn Goettler, committee member Rick Meloen, Deborah Hugh and Fritz, the white dog and Cowboy, with Vaughn, at the beginning of the dog walk in Memorial Park.



Tammy and Gary Zalepa complete the heritage trail walk.



Barb Gelb and Astrid Shrubbs, with Lake and Otis (left) and a group of dog walkers wait for the event to start Saturday morning, from Memorial Park. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Charles and Julie Neufeld finish the dog walk with Cesna and Penny, who are rewarded with medals.

GARY BURROUGHS COUNCILLOR



Your Experienced Voice On Town Council
"Committed to making a difference."

VOTE
OCTOBER 24, 2022



905-658-8717
garyburroughs.ca
burroughs2.gary@gmail.com

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens
Originally adapted and directed by Tim Carroll

A Christmas Carol
Production Sponsor



A Christmas Carol
Supported by



IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS



White Christmas
Production Sponsor

Mary E. Hill

Holiday Season
Hotel Partner



The Holiday Season
is sponsored by



Celebrate the holiday season at The Shaw in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Featuring Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* and Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

HOLIDAY SEASON TICKET PACKAGE
Buy both Holiday Season shows and **SAVE 20%**

SHAWFEST.COM | 905-468-2172



Graeme Somerville (A Christmas Carol, 2021). Photo by David Cooper.

Cross-lake Hoverlink to connect Toronto, Niagara

Public meeting Thursday Sept. 29 to discuss it

Mike Balsom
The Local

The announcement of a new hovercraft service between St. Catharines and Toronto's Ontario Place, to begin as early as next summer, has people across the province agog with excitement — none more so than Hoverlink CEO and founder Chris Morgan.

The indefatigable Morgan visited the offices of the NOTL Local to sit down

and talk about his plans ahead of this Thursday evening's community information session to be held in north St. Catharines.

Since he went public with the announcement, Morgan has been swept up in a whirlwind of interview requests, leaving him with barely any time to get back to working on the project.

The announcement comes after more than 10 years of research and planning for the

feasibility of a hovercraft operation between Niagara and the province's capital. Having experienced Morgan's mile-a-minute cadence in the hour-plus long conversation, it's hard to imagine how he kept it all a secret during this time.

The project is a labour of love for the Aldershot, Ontario-born Morgan, who knows first-hand about the congestion on the Queen Elizabeth Way along the western edge of Lake Ontario. And, with a degree in earth sciences from McMaster University, Morgan is also armed with the knowledge of its effect on the environment.

"It's not too late," says the rural Niagara-on-the-Lake resident about the environment, "but we need to fix it. One word has gotten us here — greed. We need to wake up. We need to have more oxygen producing plants. And we need to get cars off the QEW. We're hurting our ability to live on this planet."

Morgan laments the results of a study that shows the large number of trucks that cross the border from the U.S. into Niagara on their way to Quebec. He suggests they add to the congestion of the local corridor simply to avoid paying the numerous expensive tolls for a more direct route.

Politicians have been taking notice of Morgan's con-

cerns. This week he was called to a Standing Committee on Innovation for Sustainable Development at the House of Commons. This was at the request of Oshawa MP and committee member Colin Carrie and at the urging of Niagara West MP Vance Badawey.

He's heard the naysayers, and he's very aware of previous failed attempts to bridge the Lake Ontario gap in a speedier way. But Morgan is positive his venture will not meet the same fate. And the fact that he seems to have the interest and the support of local, provincial and federal government officials alike makes it all the more possible.

Working with Griffon Hoverworks design group, who has built hovercrafts in more than 41 countries, Hoverlink has developed a large-scale hovercraft that will be able to transport up to 180 passengers across the lake in a climate-controlled cabin. The trip is expected to take about 30 minutes each way between a new terminal proposed to be built on St. Lawrence Seaway lands and a smaller facility at Ontario Place.

Morgan smiles as he talks of "her," the hovercraft, that is. Hoverlink has one of these vessels almost ready to go and another under construction in the U.K.

"She is so strong, so incredible," he says. "There are four Rolls Royce MTU engines on her, but we're eventually moving on to electric

engines. They can run on bio-diesel fuel. They are totally accessible. We have them set up so a wheelchair can be rolled on and tethered down safely."

He and his group have worked with the Seaway and the Coast Guard to ensure that there will be no disruptions to shipping lanes. Morgan says the target is to begin open-water testing next spring or summer, something that is required for one month before Hoverlink can begin operations. Morgan promises to step that up to two months of testing to ensure that everything is going as planned.

Questions of noise from the craft have been posed, and Morgan insists the hovercraft will be about as quiet as a dishwasher. The noise inside the cabin will be quieter than on 737. And there is little disruption to marine life, as the craft hovers above the water level.

They have been designed with cargo pods that will allow travellers to bring along bicycles and even kayaks. But a common question is what happens when these travellers disembark from the crafts?

Morgan promises three electric shuttle buses that will shuttle visitors to Niagara from the terminal into either St. Catharines, Niagara Falls or Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those plans have received positive feedback from mayors Walter Sendzik, Jim Di-odati and Betty Disero respectively. Across the pond,

another electric bus will shuttle travellers to Union Station and a few other Toronto connecting points.

At only \$30 one way, Hoverlink is basically planning to charge a dollar-per-minute for the ride. That's a price that seems quite enticing for the convenience, especially when you factor in the cost of gas in your car and add parking to the total for a trip to Toronto.

Morgan insists no public money is going into Hoverlink's coffers. He has aligned with a number of private investors and advisors, including Griffon Hoverworks' global pilot trainer Rob Trussler and CFL legend Michael 'Pinball' Clemons, who has helped with government relations.

Though he's keeping things under wraps when it comes to looking further ahead, it's clear Morgan has other routes in mind, perhaps even one that will squire those trucks on their way to La Belle Province across the lake at a different point.

"Hovercrafts have been around for more than 50 years," Morgan says. "These kinds of operations are happening elsewhere around the world. It's time to bring this to Niagara."

Morgan and his team will be at the Grantham Lions Club at 732 Niagara Street in St. Catharines Thursday, Sept. 29 for an open house community information session from 6 to 8 p.m. All are welcome.



Chris Morgan is excited to be launching this new venture, which he began working on 10 years ago. (Mike Balsom)



NOTL resident Chris Morgan is confident he has the right hovercraft to cross the lake from Toronto to Niagara in 30 minutes.

MEET AND GREET WITH GARY ZALEPA
Candidate for Lord Mayor

Common sense leadership for Niagara-on-the-Lake

OPEN HOUSES 4-6 PM
Thursday, October 6
Old Virgil Public School
Four Mile Creek Road
and
Tuesday, October 11
Pillar & Post
The Barn at the Gardens
48 John St W.

www.GaryZalepa.com | Election@GaryZalepa.com



Willowbank celebrates anniversary with painting unveiling

**Katie Haughton
Special to The Local**

Last Thursday, the board, staff and students of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts held a reception to mark 15 years of providing excellence in education to those studying heritage restoration.

As the only school of its kind in Canada, Willowbank offers hands-on experiential learning in restoration disciplines, says a news release about the anniversary celebration, adding that one of its most compelling aspects is the gradual restoration of the historic Willowbank mansion through its use as a “living lab.” Graduates of the program have moved on to successful careers in various aspects of heritage restoration, including a number of grads currently employed in the restoration of the parliament buildings.

Earlier this year, following a tour of Willowbank, renowned local artist Marilyn Cochrane offered to develop a painting of the mansion highlighting its 200-year history. After immersing herself in the Willowbank archives, Cochrane worked through the summer and emerged with an exceptional impression of the mansion and its living history. In her remarks at the reception she underscored that she had been “captivated” by Willowbank and all that it represents.

Her stunning work was presented to Victoria Broer, who represents

the Bright-Urban family on the board of directors, and whose family foundation both facilitated the original purchase of the estate and has continued to provide operational support.

In accepting the painting Vikki said, “this is an incredible piece of work, and my family is honoured to have played a role in Willowbank.”

“This amazing work belongs here at the mansion,” she continued, and as a result of her generosity, those visiting Willowbank will be able to enjoy the painting prominently displayed in the Bright Parlour.

The first and only full-sized print of her work was presented to Dr. Elizabeth Oliver-Malone, who has been steadfast in her volunteer and financial support of Willowbank since its origin. Oliver-Malone still serves as the archivist and librarian for the facility. She said I was the pleasure for her and her late husband to assist in facilitating both the school and the preservation of the mansion.

The presentations were made by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Willowbank chair Patrick Little and Cochrane.

On behalf of the board, Little offered the thanks of the board to the artist for her incredible contribution to Willowbank.

“I am honoured to be a part of Willowbank,” said Cochrane. “Indeed Marilyn, we are honoured to have you,” said vice-chair John Scott.



Willowbank chair Patrick Little, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Willowbank benefactor and director Victoria Broer, artist Marilyn Cochrane, and vice-chair John Scott celebrate the 15th anniversary of Willowbank, and a painting to mark the occasion. (Mackenzie Campbell)



TOTAL BUY IN

Based on a recent survey, the top 3 issues NOTL residents want the town to prioritize are:

- Improve Parking
- Reduce Traffic Congestion
- Road Repair and Infrastructure

Tourist spending helps fund infrastructure improvements like these.

Scan the code below to view the complete survey results or visit www.chambernotl.com/researchandresources



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
best served shared

Feature your business in our **LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: United Way Niagara
United Way Niagara programs are life-changing

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors
Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years!

The full page is made up of a **HALF PAGE AD** and **HALF PAGE ARTICLE**

Article word count: 450-500
Ad size: 10.25" w x 7" h
Publication Date Subject to Availability



NOTL Businesses contact **Karen** at **905•641•5335** at **karen@notlocal.com**

Businesses outside NOTL contact **Julia** at **905•934•1040** at **julia@notlocal.com**

SCHOOLS



ST. DAVIDS PUBLIC SCHOOL



Students walk through community for Terry Fox

Penny Coles
The Local

St. Davids Public School, like many schools across the country, held a Terry Fox for students Friday.

It was the day the Terry Fox Foundation scheduled for school runs, although it was offered as a suggestion, along with ways to make the run meaningful for students.

“Our next generation of students will be the ones to continue Terry’s fight and lead this worthy cause towards his dream of a world without cancer,” says the foundation website.

Parent Adriana Carter Vizzari agrees. At the school to watch her children participate and cheer on about 400 St. Davids students, she was grateful to new principal Carl Glauser for encouraging his students to take part in the annual tradition.

She spoke of teaching students the courage of Terry Fox and his fight against cancer, and ensuring young kids of this generation understand the importance of what he did and carry it on. She also stressed the feeling of community the run fosters, as more than 400 students walked or ran around their neighbour-

hood — a reminder that St. Davids is a community of families and children, and that there is where the future of the community lies.

Glauser says there was an assembly before the walk, to talk to the students about Terry’s story and his legacy, and to watch a video to get them excited for the walk.

Online donations from St. Davids families had reached about \$2,000, he said, as the students prepared to head outside and walk around the block, many with stickers that read “I’m not a quitter.”

That was part of the message the kids were

taught about Terry Fox, and likely reinforced by parents.

One student told The Local she was wearing it because “Terry Fox was not a quitter. It means you shouldn’t give up, you should stand up for yourself and your goals.”

Another student, Hayden Rowaan, told The Local he is a competitive cross-country runner, so he knows what it means not to be a quitter. “You’re not going to stop, no matter how hard it is. You’re going to push through. Even if it hurts, even if you have a cramp, you’re going to keep on going.”



St. Davids principal Carl Glauser held an assembly for students to talk about Terry Fox and watch a video about what he accomplished. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Hayden Rowaan, a competitive runner (centre, purple shirt), says he understands Terry Fox’s message not to be a quitter — no matter how hard it gets, you push through, says Rowaan.



About 400 students walked around their school to take their Terry Fox event out to the community.



The older kids seemed to enjoy taking the hands of the younger students and looking after them as they walked through the village.



Ryder Kallies, Matthew Cater, Coco Perng, and Avery Kallies (right) walked together through St. Davids. “I was happy to help raise money for Terry Fox and cancer, and I liked running with my friends,” said Coco, echoing the feelings of many of the students.

RJWA
ANDREWS LAW
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION
Barristers & Solicitors
905.468.0081
info@rjwandrews.ca
REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS

HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA
TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS
NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 905-353-9590
FORT ERIE OFFICE: 905-871-9991
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA • TONYBALDINELLIM.P.CA

UpsurgePerformance
PERSONAL TRAINING
In-home Personal Training by Mullsy
705-948-2686 Mullsy27@yahoo.ca

SCHOOLS



CROSSROADS PUBLIC SCHOOL



Back to school at Crossroads



Crossroads students took on the role of cheerleaders during the Terry Fox fun through Old Town streets. (Photos supplied)



Learning resource teacher Tyler Lowther plays a math game with a student.



Senior Kindergarten students are welcomed back by Nancy Romanowich-McConkey and Robyn Larcombe, and learn how to be good leaders for Junior Kindergarten students.



Anjie Inglis' Grade 1/2 students watch a short clip about belonging to a community.




Grade 3 and 4 students work together for teacher Heather Smith to build a strong sense of community in their classroom.



Steve Holowchuk discusses safety in his Grade 2 physical education class.



Paul Taylor's Grade 5/6 class starts the school year off strong, with a patterning lesson in math.



Vote
Pat Darte
For
Regional Council

- Regional Taxation especially NOTL Policing Portion
- Niagara Eco Park - "Put the LAKE back in Niagara-on-the Lake."
- Glendale Plan - Opportunity for new taxes, jobs, and housing
- Protect our Natural Assets
- Strategic Plan for NOTL regionally
- Regional Transportation - For healthcare workers, educational, and businesses
- Hwy 55 Congestion - New route down E/W Line to Parkway with new parking at the Fort

A Proven Leader
dart4region@gmail.com

Filming wrap-up for Hidden Corners: Canadian Erie

**Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local**

The mud was sucking at my legs from the kneecaps down. As I unloaded precious cargo out of the canoe, borderline unable to pull my legs from the powerful grip of the exposed creek bottom, my friend Nate Bachynski is heard laughing up on the bank. I

am now sinking up to my waist in sandy sediment. Once all of the gear was successfully up in Nate's care, I then sacrificed my feet for the weeks to come. Barefoot, I hauled my canoe up the bank through a patch of poison ivy, using an exposed deer trail as the only place to break through the muddy vegetation in an environment that looked

more like the Congo. Just days later, I would be guiding a couple of 20-kilometre hikes with tender poison ivy bubbles on the bottoms of both feet in soggy, saturated footwear. I had no time to be bothered by this, and was instead overjoyed with a farewell salute to summer, and a two-and-a-half year filming project coming to

an end. Tentatively speaking, this was the final planned filming session for the upcoming Hidden Corners: Canadian Erie nature documentary series I have been working on since lockdown times began. I have finalized the name of the documentary, as it will exclusively showcase the Canadian lands and waters of

the Lake Erie. I figured that keeping busy outdoors would be personally healthy, but more importantly, I didn't want us to take our eye off the ball on appreciating the irreplaceable importance of our local ecosystems. Lake Erie's shoreline, or Canada's south coast, did not disappoint. When we embrace a sense of wonder and conduct a sense of environmental responsibility here at home, we are inadvertently doing our part to protect the linkages of ecosystems around the world.

ty and wild canoe challenges on this special weekend, Nate and I actually started on foot. Firstly, we enjoyed a night of whiskey and local stories with some Simcoe locals. Night one's local whiskey endeavour deserved some sweating the next day, so we departed to roast our bodies on Long Point, a giant sand spit which projects into Lake Erie. It also happens to be what is arguably the most biodiverse locale in the nation. Our premier stop that morning was a series of raised trails which meander endlessly through a bird-watcher's paradise. From a visitor's perspective, it initially looks boring. What appears to be a monocrop of plant life — a sea of grasses and reeds at a monotonous height over dozens of collective square kilometres — is actually teeming with life. It looks of something bland, but is home to Blanding's turtles, among countless other national rarities and more than 400 species of bird. What immediately caught our attention was the explosive diversity of

Before the mucky hilarity

Continued on page 23



Owen Bjorgan and Nate Bachynski on a "miniature but technical portage around fallen trees." (Owen Bjorgan)

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

BARREL HEAD

1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
12PM-9PM**

DAILY SPECIALS

FULL MENU AT PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD
 CALL FOR TAKE OUT (905)-468-1439
 FOLLOW US @BARREL.HEAD

OUTDOOR PIZZA PATIO

LIVE MUSIC
 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR MUSIC SCHEDULE

PILLITTERI
ESTATES
Winery



DINE IN

TAKE OUT

ICEWINE COCKTAILS

Canoe trip includes creek banks' flora and fauna

Continued from page 22

insect and bird life. The filming highlight was watching a species of tern, a bird that looks like it belongs on a soggy ocean coast somewhere, dive-bombing the water with precision and calculated authority. These birds captivated Nate and I, as we stood there like we were watching our favourite sports team, cheering for each smash into the water as the aerial predator hunted for nutritious fish. It's wild footage, which I can't wait to put into slow motion for you.

The afternoon sun was getting hot in Canada's warmest region, so we decided it was time for a refreshing overnight paddling trip up a large creek that flows into Lake Erie.

When we arrived at the canoe launch spot, with my classic canoe Old Baldy ready for another reckoning, we watched a few locals head downstream — but we had ambitions to head upstream.

In the world of paddling, I personally prefer the narrower and more enclosed sections of flowing water. This situation allows you to better investigate the creek bank's flora and

fauna. I enjoy the generally cleaner nature of upstream water, where it has yet to be tainted by the unavoidable effects of humanity.

Nate and I were really pushing our luck on a few technical maneuvers in the canoe on this trip. It is a wonder we didn't dunk Old Baldy and our gear. Massive trees had fallen across the creek, and each one posed as a unique navigational hurdle. Multiple times, Nate and I would have to use the communication skills we had learned together in a rock band, as research partners, and previous camping companions.

The trees and log jams offered small windows of space to push both the canoe and our bodies through, but not at the same time. One of us would exit the canoe and climb the tree like an undiscovered primate species of southern Ontario. The other would sit heavy in the back of the canoe as the monkey man in the tree pulled us halfway over the logs. The canoe person would then climb out onto the same tree, and while hanging over the flowing water, pull Old Baldy through the wooden gauntlet.

Immediately after many

of these blockages, there would be grand clearings of open water, gently flowing and eddying quietly in place. We pulled out the fishing rod and flung it into the abyss of peacefulness. There are not too many creeks around that are large enough to not touch the bottom, but are close quarters enough to feel intimate with the ecosystem. The water quality is refreshingly cool due to its spring-fed nature, and there are no sounds of traffic. The canoe quietly pivoted around in the water, the lure's splash and the nostalgic drone of dog day cicadas filling the cup of audible satisfaction.

We enjoyed a superbly relaxing sleep in our tent and bug-proof hammocks, and woke up in the morning to the same muddy poison ivy bank we barely climbed up just a day ago. The mud was so encompassing and deep, that we actually had to load the canoe and push it unmanned out into the current. Nate and I then swam to Old Baldy, and steered him towards a giant log in which we could climb out of the water like evolution itself and man the canoe again.

Paddling back to the vehicle for some time, I was



A blue heron waits in a sea of biodiversity for its next meal in Long Point. (Owen Bjorgan)

contemplating the end of filming Lake Erie's coast. There were high hope species I dreamed of finding and profiling on camera, let alone to share personal space with, such as the eastern massasauga rattlesnake, monarch migration, or a badger. The humbling thought of not finding these species after extensive searching is how Mother

Nature is still appreciably good at keeping a secret, and perhaps it should be kept that way.

I plan on publishing this film in the first half of 2023, and there will be a public screening event for it as well. I am beyond happy, excited, and satisfied with the moments on my camera and in my heart I was able to achieve over the last

two-and-a-half years, and I can't wait to show you your backyard in a way you have never seen it.

In the meantime, my other four Hidden Corners nature documentaries are located for free on my youtube channel, Owen's Hiking And Adventures. And, as always, thank you for your readership and support.

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

Creek Road Paints
is still **mixing** things up!
Open for in-store shopping
(5 Customers at a time)
Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm,
Saturday 8 am - 12 pm
Place your order in advance and we can have it ready for you.
Call 905-468-2412.
Creek Road Paints
1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

THE FARMHOUSE CAFE
Now taking reservations for Thanksgiving!
Traditional Turkey Meal available October 9th & 10th
Check our website for full details and to make reservations
905-468-8814
Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in October

Serving Niagara Since 1977
SIMPSON'S
Join us for monthly **Customer Appreciation Days Online and In-store:**
Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month
Customers 60+: Every Last Thursday of the Month
Shop from the comfort of home
www.simpsonspharmacy.ca
In-store, Curbside pick-up or FREE local delivery*
*Orders over \$15
Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY
WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR
Celebrating 20 Years in Business 2002-2022
Open 7 Days a Week
Wine Tastings Offered Daily
Reservations Strongly Recommended for Wine Tasting
1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com

NPCA recognizes environmental stewardship

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority held its 2020 and 2021 Conservation Awards at the West Niagara Agricultural Centre and Fairgrounds Sept. 21.

The awards recognize individuals, groups and businesses for their significant achievements and contributions in improving and restoring our local environment for the benefit of all

watershed residents.

The 2021 Awards of Merit were received by a number of people with Niagara-on-the-Lake connections. Environmental educator Kerry Kennedy of Niagara College was recognized for her dedication to numerous organizations, including Trout Unlimited-Niagara Chapter, the Niagara Falls Nature Club, Niagara Environment and the Birds of Niagara Steering Committee.

Kyra Simone, a member

of the NOTL Environmental Advisory Committee, who received the Lord Mayor's Volunteer Award for her environmental efforts in 2021, was also recognized with an NPCA award. Simone runs a local community group that engages volunteers in environmental initiatives, and is currently enrolled in a Ph.D program at McMaster University's Ecohydrology lab.

Simone's partner, Gregory Ford, and his colleague Kiersten McCutcheon ac-

cepted an Award of Merit on behalf of their organization, Niagara Coastal Community Collaborative. Niagara Coastal works on three ecological priorities: nature-based shorelines, healthy beaches and habitat and species. They partner with regional groups to conserve the Great Lakes and have collaborated and engaged more than 500 volunteers in collecting data across 98 different sites.

The Business Award of Merit was earned by Spirit in Niagara Small Batch Distillers, founded by Arnie Lepp. His efforts to use fruit that would normally have gone to waste to create a fruit-based assortment of spirits earned the distillery the award, as well as other environmental initiatives, such as using the wastewater from their distillation process as green manure for fields and surrounding farms, allowing every stage of the fruit to be used rather than tossed away.

Lindsay Taylor also received an Award of Merit for founding ncStewards, a group of environmentally-motivated Niagara College students who promote and engage in practices that further the objective of sustainability on campus and across Niagara.



Rob Foster recognizes Arnie Lepp with the Business Award of Merit, with Chandra Sharm and Natalie Green of the NPCA.



NPCA chair Rob Foster with Kyra Simone, who was recognized for her community group that engages volunteers in environmental initiatives. With them is NPCA CAO Chandra Sharma, and Natalie Green, manager, climate change and special programs. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



2021 NPCA Award of Merit Winners are Lindsay Taylor, Kerry Kennedy, Kyra Simone, Kiersten McCutcheon (front), Gregory Ford, and Arnie Lepp.

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

Flavours of the Week

Honey Garlic Dark Balsamic
50% off Sept 26th - 30th
(limit 2 per customer)

Black Walnut Dark Balsamic
Free with \$65 purchase Oct 1st & 2nd
50% off Oct 3rd - 7th (limit 2 per customer)

SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERY
FABULOUS FOOD
LOCAL NIAGARA
FARM TO GLASS
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS
OCT.9 FAMILY STYLE
THANKSGIVING DINNER
LIVE MUSIC WEDNESDAYS
ED PIZZO ON THE PIANO



SUN - THURS 11-7 | FRI & SAT 11-8

SPIRITINNIAGARA.COM | 905 934 1300
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE



NEW IN STORE!
Neil's Real Deal Hot Sauces
Made in Ontario
Local Discount 10%



SHOP IN-STORE OR ONLINE
118 Queen St., NOTL | 289.868.8898
olivniagara.com

YES! WE'RE
OPEN

LET YOUR CUSTOMERS KNOW YOU ARE OPEN
TO SERVE THEM SAFELY!
RUNNING EVERY WEEK UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

To place your ad, call or email Karen at:
905.641.5335 | karen@notllocal.com

Nashville to Queenston — and stops along the way

Mike Balsom
The Local

Queenston resident Jess Rice was at a Nashville-area Target store when she got the call from Canadian-born music legend Neil Young's people.

She had just sold her wildly popular and critically acclaimed restaurant Avo there and was trying to figure out her next move. Avo had been voted Music City's best new restaurant in 2015. The country music royalty who call that city home were frequent guests. She was the talk of the town and in high demand.

"They asked if I catered," she recalls of the phone call, "and I said no. Then they asked if I did private chef work and I said not usually. Then they asked if I would do it on tour, and I said no. Finally, they asked if I would do it for Neil Young, and I said 'Yes, in fact, I would.'"

Avo was, and for the most part still is a raw food restaurant, specializing in vegan, kosher and gluten-free menu items. That fit in well with the lifestyle of Young and his wife, actor Daryl Hannah.

Once she said yes to Young's people, Rice had to figure out exactly how she would go about cooking on a tour bus. It was a bit of a leap of blind faith for her, not knowing what kind of equipment might be supplied for her, but leaps of faith seem to be commonplace in her life.

Rice always thought she would end up working in the music business, but never imagined that her love of food would be the vehicle that would take her there.

Born in Georgia, Rice grew up in Massachusetts and began a Fine Arts degree from Lesley University in Cambridge. She moved to Austin, Texas with a band, and finished her degree at the private, non-profit St. Edward's University.

"I was always into music," she says. "I worked in a record store when I was a kid. I thought I would end up in the business side of

music, publicity or management. I eventually left Austin and took an internship with a public relations firm in New York City for three months."

When that came to an end, the long-time country music and bluegrass fan decided she wanted to live in Nashville, so she headed to Tennessee. While there, she made the decision to eliminate animal-based and genetically modified foods as well as gluten from her diet, and began helping others do the same.

Her next leap of faith? Studying with naturopathic doctor Amy Rachelle in Indonesia, focusing specifically on raw foods. After that it was on to study with the world's leading plant-based chef Matthew Kenney at his culinary institute in California.

On her return to Nashville she made a name for herself supplying raw food dishes to local eateries and teaching plant-based nutrition classes independently and with Metro Nashville's Community Education Commission. Rice also was invited to teach knife skills to country singer Trisha Yearwood on a Nashville Food Network television show, which led to an opportunity to cook for Kelly Clarkson.

At the same time, she was working on the concept for her own restaurant, and in 2015, after two years of planning, she opened Avo and took the city by storm. A year later she sold the restaurant, and that's when Neil Young came calling.

Her first tour with Young was in 2016, taking her to big shows such as Farm-Aid and the Outlaw Music Festival.

"Cooking on a tour bus has its challenges," she laughs. "We kind of transform a bus into a kitchen. It was kind of wild and crazy. But it was great, and touring with everyone, I kind of have a whole family now from that crew. Being on the road together binds you together like family."

She can't share much

about what she serves artists such as Neil Young and Pearl Jam, with whom she just finished travelling for four stops from Sept. 1 through 8 in Ontario and Quebec.

But knowing that her specialty is healthy, organic foods, one can guess the general theme of the menu. In between cities, she loves to stop at local farm stands to get the freshest produce available and to actually meet the farmers who grow the food. That's one of the traits of her new home in Niagara that she truly values.

So, how did the world-class healthy lifestyle advocate and chef end up in Niagara?

During Young's 2016 tour there was a stopover in Telluride, Colorado, where Hannah keeps a home. Over the course of three days, they used the stopover to film Hannah's script for a psychedelic cowboy movie called *Paradox*, starring Young, Willie Nelson and Nelson's sons Lukas and Micah, which debuted on Netflix in spring 2018.

The cinematographer on that film? Canfield, Ontario native Adam C.K. Vollick, who had settled in the village of Queenston.

"I was cooking for everyone on the film, Willie, his sons, Daryl, so many people," says Rice. "Adam had been running around all day shooting the movie. He was so nice, super-friendly. He came up to me to thank me for cooking. We exchanged emails and didn't see each other for a couple of years."

Rice has continued to cook for every one of Young's tours since then. On one of those later jaunts Vollick, who has been shooting for Young since being introduced to him by Hamilton-born music producer Daniel Lanois in 2010, ended up on the same "shadow" bus as Rice. They began to realize they had a connection. After a vacation to Europe, Rice decided to visit Vollick in Queenston to help him recover from a bicycle accident.

Rice and Vollick married at St. Catharines City Hall in January, 2020, and 13 months ago they welcomed their daughter Velvet Mae Vollick into the world.

Their daughter's name is a reference to the Elizabeth Taylor film *National Velvet*, revealing another love of the ebullient Rice, her love of horses.

When she moved to Queenston with Vollick, she brought with her Jonesy, a Kentucky thoroughbred she named for the country singer George Jones. He boards in Smithville, and travels with Rice to show and compete in Southern Ontario.

Rice sees some parallels between Queenston and Nashville, especially with the prevalence of the vineyards and farms along the Niagara River Parkway. She can't help but visit every farm stand she sees.

"That's a Neil Young piece of advice," Rice explains. "You never pass a farm stand, you stop. I always think of that when I stop."

When she ran Avo she bought all of its produce adhering to the hundred mile rule, and sees Niagara as another place where that can easily be done.

"It's that same kind of spirit that I had in Nashville," she says. "It's really strong here in Niagara. And I always laugh and tell my friends that I can see New York state from my front yard. I like the proximity to the border because I work over there a lot, and it's kind of nostalgic to me, too."

A couple of years ago Rice and Vollick bought a 5.5 acre property just outside of Nashville. It has a four-horse barn on it. It's the perfect property for the couple to pursue their collective creative dreams.

"Our plan is to always have both a Canadian and a Nashville home base," says Rice. "We want to turn the Nashville base into a sort of permaculture/orchard/horse haven. It will have a commercial kitchen space, too."

Other than the week-long stint with Pearl Jam earlier this month, which she got via Young's recommendation, most of Rice's cooking lately has been for Velvet Mae, Adam's daughter Bijou from his first marriage, and Adam, whom she refers to as an "opportunivore."

Over the years Rice has amassed a series of original recipes she often shares on her Instagram and Facebook accounts, both dubbed My Poor Tired Liver. She one day hopes to put them all together in a cookbook that one can imagine would also double as an incredible work of art if she combined both her and Vollick's artis-



Chef Jess Rice tries to cut watermelon on a moving bus. (Photos supplied)



Chef Jess Rice hams it up on a tour bus.



Chef Jess Rice on set with Trisha Yearwood and her cousin Beth for the Food Network in Nashville.

tic bent to create it.

She says the short Pearl Jam tour has left her hyper and inspired. She has taken on the occasional cooking gig as a personal chef, and says she would absolutely love to cook for more local NOTL people, who can book her via her website chefjessrice.com.

Of her journey from art, to the music business, to being a chef-roadie, Rice acknowledges that it might seem an odd career trajectory, but it makes perfect sense to her.

"You can reinvent yourself a hundred times in this

life," she says. "Whatever your passion is about, go for it and see what sticks. I've been lucky. Maybe my focus has changed a little bit, but it all kind of ends up coming full circle, and it just sort of rounds out the passion before it."

She continues, "everybody loves music. And everybody eats. Everybody can get around a table and find some kind of commonality. Through music and food, there's a common thread for people to connect. That common thread of food and music is what makes me the happiest."

Local SPORTS

Preds win home opener 6-3 in physical game

Mike Balsom
The Local

After a slow start, the Niagara Predators cruised to a 6-3 victory over the visiting Northumberland Stars to win their home opener Friday in their second season at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena.

It was a penalty-filled Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) match, with the Stars assessed penalties seven times in the first period alone, including twice for unsportsmanlike conduct. The physical brand of play by the much older and much larger Northumberland squad seemed to throw off the young Predators early in the game, but it was something head coach Kevin Taylor had warned his team about.

"I knew (Northumberland) was going to take a lot of penalties," Taylor said after the game. "I was just trying to keep the guys emotionally in check."

The slow start allowed Northumberland's Thomas Murphy to open the scoring just over six minutes into the

game. But 16-year-old Predators forward Nolan Wyers responded only 49 seconds later when he skated in unchecked and put one past Stars goalie Caeden Bellmann.

The period ended with a 1-1 tie, and with the Predators holding a five-on-three advantage for the last five seconds, when the Stars' Justice Scheltgen was handed a five-minute major for a vicious cross-check just 32 seconds after Murphy was charged for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Niagara carried that advantage into the second period, and Anthony Tropea capitalized on it to put the Predators up 2-1. That was followed by returning forward Reese Bisci's first goal of the year on another power play later in the period, after he accepted a perfect pass from behind the net from Riley Ellis. Just over a minute later, Wais Ayubi, who had just joined the team Friday afternoon, pushed the score to 4-1 for the Preds with what turned out to be the winning goal.

"He was trying out for another team and he came

over today," Taylor said. "We signed him just today. What a bonus for a player like that. A great start to his season."

The tables were turned early in the third when Ellis took a high sticking penalty, allowing Murphy to notch his second goal of the game for the Stars on that power play. But Bisci answered 11 seconds later with the Preds' fifth of the game, his second, assisted by Ayubi. Ellis then atoned for leaving his team shorthanded by scoring number six for the Preds almost exactly a minute later. Northumberland's Aidan Robertson scored on the power play with Preds defender Dawson Walker serving time for delay of game later in the period.

The Stars tried in vain to mount a comeback in the last six minutes, and it led to much frustration that continued to seethe to the final second. Northumberland's Liam Chapman cross-checked a Niagara player hard into the boards, causing a scrum to begin, with a few punches thrown by both sides. Referees worked to calm things down quickly, and Chapman

was assessed for a five-minute major at the end of the game.

When the ice was finally cleared, Taylor was happy with the result and, more importantly, with the way the team played.

"We wanted to keep the speed going," he explained. "We got the guys going wide. It's a bigger ice surface (than St. George's rink, where the Predators lost their season opener 2-1 five days earlier), so it helped us. We came up with a big win, and the leadership group stepped up for us today."

Chief among that leadership group is second-year Predator Max Bredin, wearing the captain's C on home ice for the first time. The St. Davids resident appreciates the weight of the letter on his jersey.

"It's a real honour," said the 19-year-old, "especially being from NOTL. I just want to do the town proud, being the only hometown guy on the team. It's a big responsibility, with only a few guys returning from last year. It's a big task to be part of the leadership group."

Bredin joined the Predators defensive corp last November and quickly made an impact. He played in 28 games, amassing four goals and 20 assists in that stretch. At the time he signed with Niagara they had already worked their way through a number of early games with few players on the bench. Two games into 2022-2023, the team is facing the same issue, dressing only 16 skaters Friday night.

"It's going to be a bit of a grind during the front end of the season," admitted Bredin. "But the guys coming in will be a big help and will really strengthen the team when they arrive."

Team owner Robert Turnbull, who stepped in last season to also serve as head coach and general manager, was at Friday's game and was pleased with the quality of what he saw on the ice.

"It's a young, young team, but they play with a lot of spark," Turnbull said. "Once we get our European players over, and we sign a few more, this team could go to the championship."

Taylor gave the player of the game designation to Tropea, one of three assistant captains (along with returning players Dawson Walker and Logan Baillie), whose power play goal in the second period seemed to get the puck going for the Preds.

"It was a timely goal," Taylor told The Local. "And he showed great leadership tonight, too. He slowed the game down and controlled the puck a lot tonight. He really stood out for me tonight."

He also lauded the play of goaltender Ryan Santini for shutting down the Stars repeatedly during shorthanded situations and making some key saves.

About 90 spectators filled the stands Friday night, and were treated to pre-game and between-period live music from Niagara hard rock band Bitter Pill, fronted by defenceman Dawson Walker's father James. Predators assis-

tant coach Connor Shipton strapped on his Gibson guitar during the first intermission to join the band in blasting out a cover of The Offspring's Come Out and Play.

The Windsor Aces come to town for the Predators' third game of the season this Friday night, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors, and \$5 for kids under 12 years old.



Predators defenceman Guy Manco takes the puck behind the Stars net. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Predators goalie Ryan Santini makes a stop with Max Bredin, Leo Savin and Logan Baillie come in to help.



Rock band Bitter Pill, fronted by Preds defenceman Dawson Walker's father James, entertained the crowd pre-game and between periods.



Preds' Tyler Gearing leads the charge into the Northumberland end.

Local golfers recognized



The 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 Niagara District Secondary School OFSAA-winning golf team was inducted Saturday into the Niagara Wall of Recognition. Teammates Ricky Watson and Brad Neudorf accept the honour along with their NDSS coach Billy Simkin, the former head pro at the NOTL Golf Club, at the ceremony at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club. Teammates Evan McCaughey, Marc Forbes and Mark Hicks were unable to attend the ceremony. Multiple NOTL Golf Club champion Martha Cruikshank was also inducted into the Wall of Recognition Saturday following the Champion of Champions tournament.

Local WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, October 2nd

9:45 a.m.

Kids Ministry Sign In
(Nursery - Kindergarten)

10:00 a.m.

Worship Gathering
Online & In-Person

Message:
Kevin Bayne
Being Present with
One Another in our Homes
www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your
Worship Services
in this section, please contact:
karen@notllocal.com

Local CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com



**Compassionate
Transparent
No Pressure**
www.morganfuneral.com

OBITUARY



JOSELIN, PETER EDWARD, BSC, MSC, PENG. —Born May 6, 1934 in Redhill, Surrey, UK. Passed away peacefully on September 23, 2022 at the Greater Niagara General Hospital in his 89th year. Predeceased by his parents, Frank and Irene Joselin and his sister, Dorothy Swanton nee Joselin (Ken). Loving father of Christine Forber (Andrew), Beth Joselin (Trevor Michael) and Anne Joselin. Loving grandfather of Colin (Artemis) and Thomas Forber, Connor (Mariah) and Sheila (Robbie) Charette and great-grandfather of Thorston Charette.

Graduated from Queen Mary College, London UK 1955 (Civil Engineering), then did his Masters at Tulane University, New Orleans, LA on a Fulbright scholarship. Met Mary Cleve in New Orleans, where they got married in 1957. In 1958, Peter and Mary moved back to the UK where their daughters Christine and Beth were born. Peter worked in the UK then overseas in Nigeria before the family moved to Canada in 1967. Their youngest daughter, Anne, was born soon after the family's arrival in Canada. In 1969, they moved to Niagara Falls when Peter started working for HG Acres. He spent 27 years with Acres, rising to Project Manager, mainly for power system planning for several East African utilities. On retirement, Peter and Mary moved to Virgil, where they lived until 2020.

Peter was extremely active in the community and often took on leadership roles. He was the President of the Niagara Falls Curling Club. He was a warden at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church (Stamford), until the late '90s. He loved sailing and was a long-time member of the Parkway and Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Clubs. Peter and Mary volunteered with Meals on Wheels for many years. Peter and Mary have been active members of Grace United Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake since moving to Virgil. Member of the Lower St. Johns River Valley Lunch Group, Niagara Falls Power Squadron. One of the founding members of the Niagara Falls Probus Group.

They were avid supporters of the performing arts. They loved to attend opera and classical music concerts. They watched the full repertoire of plays at Stratford for many years, and also attended many plays every year at Shaw, as well as being members of the Shaw Guild. They also loved to travel and Peter visited 6 of the 7 continents, all except Antarctica.

Cremation has taken place. Visitation will be held at Morse & Son Funeral Home, 5917 Main Street, on Tuesday, September 27th from 3-7 pm and on Wednesday, September 28th at Morgan

Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake from 4-7 pm. A celebration of life will be held at Grace United Church, 222 Victoria Street, NOTL on Thursday, September 29th at 11 o'clock. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Grace United Church or to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



NOTICE

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

FOR RENT

FOR RENT
Small "bachelor style" house in rural NOTL suitable for 1 person. Has laundry facilities. Snow clearing and yard maintenance included. \$1300 per month plus gas and hydro. Call 905.651.5466

DELIVERY

Same-Day Home Delivery from Local Wineries, LCBO, Beer Store Call 905-704-1600 beeronwheels.ca

OBITUARY



SIMMONDS, KEITH—Keith let out his last legendary howl on the 24th of September 2022. He was doing what he loved - riding his bike, spending time with friends and supporting a cause that was so dear to him. One of his favourite quotes was "Whether you think you can or can't - you're right". True to form, Keith always chose the "I can" approach to life. As a born-and-bred Edmonton boy, Keith grew up celebrating mountains and the outdoors. He met his wife Toby in Whistler, moved to Fernie and then Invermere where they had their two boys, Ben and Nick, of whom Keith was intensely proud. The family spent a year in Red Deer before landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Here Keith began his Great Wolf Lodge adventure while building a sharing, caring community for all of us. His passionate, encouraging and philanthropic nature is exemplified perfectly by how he spent his last 10 days; He cycled, fundraised and laughed his way from Toronto to New York City... It was the ride of his life. Forever loved and missed by his adored boys Ben and Nick, his cherished wife Toby, his treasured mother Ellen Mae, late father David, his brother Greg (Susan), beloved nephews Braeden and David, a clan of cousins who were always there for him, a large and incredibly loving family of in-laws, friends and colleagues galore, and of course his beloved Wolf Pack.

If you have a special photo with Keith that you would like to share, please send to: bensimmonds119@gmail.com

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday the 2nd of October, 2022 at 11:30am, Niagara Falls Convention Centre, 6815 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls, Ontario. Reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Campfire Circle in his honour: <https://campfirecircle.org/keithsimmonds>



VITEZ, VLADIMIR "VLADO"—Long-time Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, Vladimir "Vlado" Vitez died September 22, at 2pm at the St. Catharines General Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Vlado was born on May 10, 1944 in Varazdin Breg, Croatia. In 1964 he married Estera Cor in Varazdin, and in 1967 the couple and their 2-year-old son immigrated to NOTL. Vlado worked at Cunningham Foundry in St. Catharines for 34 years. As a founding member of the Croatian National Centre in NOTL, Vlado was well-known in the Niagara Croatian community; a sports enthusiast, he loved soccer, bocce, and fishing. Vlado was an especially devoted father, always ready to sacrifice for his children's education, and later for the care of his adored granddaughter. He built 2 homes in NOTL, and his immaculate gardens and landscaping showed the enormous pride he took in them. He was also an exemplary neighbour, never hesitating to help others in the community; and he was always ready and willing to share his knowledge, whether you asked him to or not. Vlado leaves his wife, Estera; son Walter (Cambridge, ON); daughter Gordana, son-in-law Colin Johnston, and granddaughter Ema Johnston (Virgil, ON); brother Zeljko and nephew Goran (Varazdin); as well as numerous in-laws in Murska Sobota, Slovenija, and a host of dear friends in the Niagara region.

Vlado's family received friends at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake on Monday, September 26th from 2-4 & 6-8 pm. Funeral service for Vlado was held at the funeral home on Tuesday, September 27th at 11 o'clock. Interment with Rite of Committal followed at St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

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

Local SPORTS

Disc golf officially open at community centre

Local Staff

The disc golf course opening at the community centre was celebrated Tuesday afternoon, with a good crowd ready to try it out.

It's a nine-hole Aceplace course, described on the company's Facebook page "as good for veteran players to practise their short game, or for new players to try disc golf and have some fun."

It was supported by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club, whose members helped with the installation.

Although at the opening, CAO Marnie Cluckie said it would be available at a low cost to play, Rotarian Paul Lalonde jumped in to say it will be free — discs can be borrowed at no cost from the community centre when it's open, and playing the course is free.



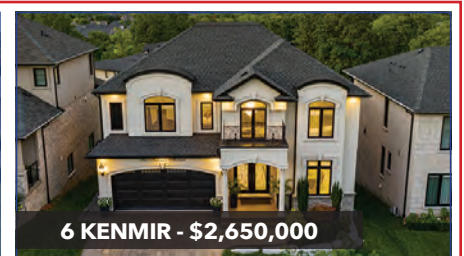
Town officials and Rotarians gathered at the Community Centre Tuesday for the ribbon-cutting of the disc golf course.



The crowd gathered at the disc golf opening tried their hand at the game — the number of discs that made it into the basket shows they need some practise. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

YOU DESERVE THE BEST!



FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



RE/MAX NIAGARA
REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

GREG SYKES real estate TEAM

This market is changing. It is vital to use an agent who KNOWS Niagara-on-the-Lake. If you are thinking of buying or selling, you deserve the best. Call Greg today direct at 905-329-3484.

When you call Greg, you get Greg.