The Niagara-on-the-Lake



The trusted voice of our community.

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On the waterfront

The heavy construction at Ball's Beach is done, with the Town now beginning the restoration of the path and grass in the park area. Hannah, Wes and Emma Ridesic love swimming at the beach, and Wes likes to hunt for crawfish (below), but this sandy beach that has been created by the shoreline protection project has added a new element they all enjoy. Hannah was especially proud of her sand mermaid tail, says mom Robin. The weather was cooperating early this week, and the kids were making the most of it. (Photos supplied)



Canopy Growth reaches out to seniors during COVID

Penny Coles The Local

Canopy Growth, one of Canada's largest medical and recreational cannabis producers, has given eight Niagara long-term care homes iPads to help alleviate isolation for residents during the pandemic.

Sitting in her office in B.C., Hilary Black admits she doesn't know much about the Niagara Region, but as chief advocacy officer for Canopy Growth, she feels strongly that seniors, as the most vulnerable segment of the population during COVID, need the most support.

"My grandmother is 104, and she lives at home, with full-time support. I have the her relax, feel good and privilege of talking to her sleep. whenever I want to."

But in long-term care

forced to talk to their loved ones while a staff member stands by, holding a phone to their ear, she says.

So when Canopy decided to do something to help seniors, she supported iPads on "wheelie stands," preloaded with communication apps, so that even if help is required to initiate a Face-Time phone call, seniors don't need a staff member, covered with all their personal protective equipment, standing beside them.

Black also knows an awful lot about breaking down barriers for patients who can benefit from cannabis, and again, she refers to her grandmother, who takes what she calls her "mary jane vitamins" daily to help

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Two councillors resign from CAO selection committee

Penny Coles The Local

Two councillors have resigned from the CAO selection committee, but with most of their discussions having taken place in closed session, clear.

The surprise is that Couns. Clare Cameron and Gary Burroughs have both been passionate and outspoken about

and the need to strictly adhere ed to improve hiring practices elected officials across Niagara participating in the CAO to the proper process.

Both have referenced several times in earlier discussions the ombudsman report released late in 2019 about the hiring of the former regional chief administrator, which both also endorsed then, and

in the future.

Cameron read a statement to council at Monday's meeting about her resignation, part of which said, referring to the provincial watchdog's report, "This document clearly detheir reasons aren't entirely he denounced as an "inside scribes the missteps that ocjob," tainted with improper curred in hiring a CAO at Nidisclosure of information to agara Region in recent years, could undermine the quality mendations to the selection the successful candidate. They and I have considered its con- of final recruitment, and sigtents and recommendations nificantly erode the public's have referenced since, the rec-very seriously since publicathe importance of hiring the ommendations that stemmed tion. The belief that this report very best candidate for the job, from the investigation, intend- has unique importance for all would be more comfortable sion-making," she said.

led to my moving adoption of in December last year. I feel slightest spectre of personal, political or other third-party influence creeping into any aspect of the CAO hiring process to provide advice or recomtrust in this organization."

recruitment as a member made just before council went its recommendations for the of council, and hoped that Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake council deliberations could take place, whenever possivery strongly that even the ble, during an open, therefore public, meeting, rather than in closed session.

committee, I hope to receive written minutes of the committee's meetings in order to She went on to say she inform and aid effective deci-

Cameron's statement was into a closed session Monday. Burroughs had asked for a discussion of the makeup of the selection committee in public, which was intended to occur during the closed session, "Before council is asked and a vote was taken about whether it should be public or not. Couns. Wendy Cheropita, John Wiens, Burroughs, Cameron, and Lord Mayor

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October 1, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL

Live Shaw revues a go, Christmas Carol cancelled

Penny Coles The Local

Although Queen Street has been teeming with cars and visitors most weekends this summer, local businesses are reporting a shift in demographics to day-trippers who might stop for an ice cream or a patio meal, but aren't in town to shop.

Shaw Festival patrons traditionally have stayed in town longer, spending more while they're here, and the festival is now giving those patrons a reason to visit, even during a pandemic.

Small musical revues are taking place in private backyards, at wineries, in the Shaw Festival garden and other locations around town, and those who attend are loving the live performances.

But many were also hoping for a return to the indoor stage soon, including CEO Tim Jennings.

Those hopes were dashed with the news this week that A Christmas Carol is not to be, at least not this year.

Jennings said last week he wasn't giving up altogether on staging the holiday classic, although chances weren't looking good.

"We're really hopeful we can move forward," but with cases of COVID rising, he theatre." said, "we're very concerned. We're working against a tidal sical revues are small, and wave."

He expected a decision this week, and the announcement of the cancellation came as no surprise Tuesday.

"We held off making this nings. decision for as long as we possibly could because we had set our hearts on getting back into one of our theatres this year. But it was not to be: the situation clearly calls for caution. We need to keep media release. "But our optimism remains unquenchready to leap into action the letter.



Kristi Frank, Alexis Gordon, Élodie Gillett and Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane in rehearsal for the Shaw Festival's outdoor concert series. (Photo supplied)

moment we get the nod. We plans for next season, which I hope and believe will be our best yet, not only because of people making that work, and witnessing that work, will do so with such passionate, renewed commitment to the life-affirming value of live

Audiences for the muso far, have been limited to those with Shaw Festival membership, but there could be some public availability in the coming weeks, says Jen-

The festival has developed partnerships with Jackson-Triggs Winery and Vintage Hotels, among others, and there could be ticketed events, depending on the venues, but the best chance everyone safe," said artistic to see a performance, he says, director Tim Carroll in the is to become a Friend of the Shaw through membership opportunities, and to find able: we will do what we can, out more about the events. when we can, and we will be sign up for the Shaw e-news-

The concerts have been are about to announce our free, and were put together quickly, once the Shaw received its \$400,000 federal grant for live, outdoor perthe quality of the work we formances. "Soft openings" can offer, but because the have taken place in recent weeks, says Jennings, featuring eight performers involved in three musical revues, including ensemble members Kyle Blair, Andrew Broderick, James Daly, Kristi Frank, Élodie Gillett, Alexis Gordon, Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane, and Jonathan Tan, with associate music director

Ryan deSouza.

ital costs, and by the federal this out with small audiencwage subsidy, says Jennings. Each venue is setting its own the norm for Shaw, "they are safe pandemic protocol, according to space, and provin- lovely revues of great comcial guidelines.

The outdoor performances "help to connect us with of driving economic recovour patrons," Jennings says, adding orchestrating the it's working. People are gocurrent endeavour has been ing out to dinner, shopping, "complicated and weird," and very different compared to what the Shaw had been here and stay longer." hoping to offer, which was on-stage performances, although to a limited capacity.

The performances, howthe grant, which paid for capbe going outside, and trying he says, and to reassure them need."

es," he says, and while not beautifully staged concerts, posers."

As to fulfilling the goal ery, Jennings says, "I think lounging on patios. We're trying to get people to come

The concerts have been scheduled to finish before dinner to encourage patrons to come and spend the day The revues are funded by ever, are a start. "It's great to in town, and go out to eat,

that NOTL is a safe place to

"Businesses of Niagara are really focused on public safety, and have been unbelievably resilient with patios, popups and offering more options," says Jennings. "We want people to stay, shop and make use of all our amenities." The town is hurting, he added, "and we need to help."

This is the Shaw's way of "pivoting to a different, safe-gathering world," and its desire to do more than offering only online programs. "The act of getting together and sharing art is a basic

Pedal Pushers ride for palliative care



Lord Mayor Betty Disero was at the former hospital site Saturday, where the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service office is located, to start the Healing Cycle ride for the Pedal Pushers team. Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director of the service says it was an amazing day, with more than \$16,000 raised from donations so far for palliative care. Their goal was \$10,000. "We are so elated to have been able to raise this much money given COVID. Some of last year's corporate sponsors weren't able to help us this year, due to their own business losses, completely understandable and somewhat expected. However, we were very fortunate to gain more community support this year from personal donors," says Bagnulo. (Penny Coles)



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THE NOTL LOCAL

New CAO 'one of most important decisions this term'

Continued from page 1

Betty Disero voted in favour of the committee membership discussion taking in place in

Disero said the selection committee meetings had been going along well, until they reached an issue where there was disagreement between members who were split in their opinions. Even after a closed session with council, Disero said, it couldn't be resolved, and the two resigned.

Disero alluded to a concern over whether staff involved in the work of the selection committee had signed the required document agreeing not to disclose any information about the selection discussions, and said that document had been signed. "I'm not sure why there was still a feeling that the ombudsman's concerns had not been followed. That's remained a contention," she added.

Burroughs did not speak about his reasons for resigning Monday night, but he told The Local that for him, it's an issue of process.

As someone who has been involved with political selection committees and hirings in the past, both at the regional and municipal level, he believes strongly in following the proper process, and in this

case, he is not sure that it is, he said.

most important things we're going to do in this term," he said, adding that although he didn't want to speak for Cam-

Since last January, when the end of the year. Cameron passed the motion that the Town would follow the recommendations of the ombudsman, which included signed privacy documents, and proceed with caution during the search to replace former CAO Holly Dowd, he has also stressed the importance of "not just talking about doing it, but making sure we are doing it."

Although Disero has said the process is being followed, "I haven't seen it," he says.

He signed off on the privacy document himself, but he wanted to see a list of everybody who has access to the search information and evidence they too have signed off.

"The process is so important," he says, referencing the regional "inside job," when he sat on regional council, and was unaware of what was going on behind the scenes.

"As long as we follow the process, we're good."

"I wish them all the best," he says of the current selection committee members. "This is where it's going to get difficult."

Earlier in September, selection committee members "I believe this is one of the were provided a list of candidates by the consultant working with them, and members were expected to provide a shortened list for interviews. eron, he believes she feels the Disero said then she expected a CAO would be chosen by

> Left on the committee are Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Coun. Erwin Wiens. After Wiens was given an opportunity to also resign, which he declined, three more councillors, Sandra O'Connor, Allan Bisback and Wendy Cheropita were appointed at Monday's council meeting.

Coun. Clare Cameron's statement in full:

This statement firms that I have resigned from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's CAO Selection Committee, effective September 21, 2020.

The Chief Administrative Officer's role is incredibly important to our community, and the selection of someone for this role is a critical decision that I sincerely looked forward to participating in as an elected official.

The hiring of a CAO requires the utmost care under any circumstances, particularly in the public sector, and now even more so given the November 29, 2019 Ontario



Couns. Allan Bisback (top, left), Clare Cameron, Erwin Wiens, Sandra O'Connor, Norm Arsenault, Gary Burroughs and John Wiens during the discussion of the CA0 selection committee resignations. (Screenshot)

Ombudsman's Report "Inside organization. Job." This document clearly describes the missteps that occurred in hiring a CAO at Niagara Region in recent years, and I have considered its contents and recommendations very seriously since publication. The belief that this report has unique importance for all elected officials across Niagara led to my moving adoption of its recommendations for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake absolutely necessary to delibin December last year.

I feel very strongly that even the slightest spectre of personal, political or other third-party influence creeping into any aspect of the CAO hiring process could undermine the quality of final recruitment and significantly erode the public's trust in this

Given these convictions, I am most comfortable at this time to participate in next steps for CAO recruitment as a member of Council, rather than as a member of the CAO Selection Committee. I also look forward to seeing the Selection Committee's work, and any related Council deliberations, occur in open session wherever possible, unless it is erate in camera under the Municipal Act. Before Council is asked to provide advice or recommendations to the Selection Committee, I hope to receive written minutes of the Committee's meetings in order to inform and aid effective decision-making.

Further, given this Coun-

cil's commitment to supporting diversity in all its forms, I wish to encourage the CAO Selection Committee to utilize a blind evaluation of applicants that would remove names from future candidate lists until the start of interviews, and therefore help to ensure the utmost fairness of evaluation at this stage on the basis of merit and experience over any other factor.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake deserves only the utmost quality of open, genuine, innovative and collaborative leadership at all levels, and that includes finding the very best possible candidate to be our next CAO. I trust that the work of the CAO Selection Committee will continue in that spirit.



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'Please apply, we'll talk' about tourism recovery grant

Penny Coles The Local

As applications for the federal tourism grant come in slowly, businesses impacted by COVID are being encouraged to seek their share of the \$500,000.

Coun. Allan Bisback, one of the Town's Discretionary Grant Committee members who will review and evaluate the applications, says he expects, as the Oct. 15 deadline approaches, applications will begin to come in quickly.

The objective, he said, is to help small and medium businesses that have spent money on COVID measures, such as plexiglass, signage, door modification, and personal roactive to June 1.

Town staff have develfor the Tourism Recovery Grant, created in col-Ontario, and delivered in partnership with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, winery operators, and the Niagara Region.

Before COVID hit, local businesses were on track for a record year,

says chamber president and are hesitant to apply. Eduardo Lafforgue, also a member of the evaluation thinks most businesses committee.

had a devastating effect if the committee discovers on local businesses, and it's too high a benchmark, not just on Queen Street. it can be lowered. Businesses in town that are part of the "tourism value" ness owners are planning chain," although not necessarily considered part of very busy," and will get the tourism industry, can their applications in closer qualify, if they have spent to the deadline. money to meet pandemic guidelines, he says.

affected by tourism, or nesses and maintain about changes related to tourism, you need to apply. The eligibility is very open, very flexible. If you have and Lafforgue, the evaluany doubt, apply, and we'll talk to you."

Eligible businesses will protective equipment, ret- be granted a minimum of \$4,000, up to a maximum of \$20,000. The grant is for at Peller Estates Winery; oped the application form a total of \$500,000 to be and Linda Sicoli, economdistributed.

Grant eligibility also the Niagara Region. laboration with FedDev includes arts and culture, not-for-profit organiza-

> \$4,000 threshold is too high for some of the smaller businesses, who may tion, visit notl.com/fedhave had COVID-related dev-apply. expenses less than that,

Lafforgue says will have spent consider-Once the crisis hit, it ably more than that, but

> He believes most busito apply, but they are "very,

The grant, announced last month, is expected "If your business is to support about 50 busi-100 jobs.

> In addition to Bisback, Coun. Norm Arsenault, ation committee includes Paul Harber, chief proprietor of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery; Madison Vine, marketing manager ic development officer for

For more information about eligibility guidelines and the application pro-Bisback wonders if the cess, visit notl.com/feddev-grant.

To begin your applica-

Town responds to rising COVID numbers with closings

Penny Coles The Local

With the Premier finally admitting Monday the recent uptick in COVID cases is the second wave, the Town is responding with some measures of its own.

conceded the province is in a second wave, "it will be worse than the first wave dents, businesses and town we encountered earlier this staff, and visitors continuyear," he said.

Following Monday's announcement, the Town their diligence, and asked sent out a release saying it is "adapting operations and tightening safety precautions to safeguard the community, while continuing to provide full service to residents."

Town is taking is the can- new COVID cases in the cellation of public skating province has been more at both arenas, although than 400 most days, with it remains open for organized, staffed activities. Public skating, which is not monitored, will be paused until Nov. 1 while watching the number of cases, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in her update to council Mon-

closed to the public, and community centre rentals, which were slated to resume Monday, Oct. 5, will be delayed until November, although the cafe and the library will remain open.

With the emergency Doug Ford not only control group making decisions to prioritize the health and safety of resiing to come to town, Disero thanked residents for them to work together.

> "Niagara-on-the-Lake has had few to no cases for a number of weeks, and we'd like to keep it that way," Disero said.

As last week went on, One of the steps the she said, the number of 700 new cases Monday in Ontario, and 554 new cases reported Tuesday.

> In Niagara, there were 38 new cases reported over the weekend, 12 Monday and five Tuesday.

in NOTL, with zero active open.

Town offices will remain cases, but we want to keep it at zero or close to it," said Disero.

> There was also a question about Halloween, Disero said. The Town was going to prepare something for the Virgil Sports Park, but has decided not to go ahead with that.

> The Region has said it will make a recommendation to municipalities about the Oct. 31 celebrations by Oct. 12, and will depend on COVID numbers in the next two weeks.

> Staff will continue to provide service online, over the phone and with additional curbside dropoffs (via drop box) and pickups, as required.

> Call 905-468-3266 for any service you need, the town release says, and staff will ensure you receive the service you need.

> The customer service desk at the community centre, fitness area and pickup from Sweets & Swirls Café remain open. Rentals are postponed.

The NOTL Public Li-"We're really fortunate brary will also remain

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





Niagara-on-the-Lake Launches **Tourism Recovery Grant**

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

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

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

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

Seniors using iPads for communication

Continued from page 1

Throughout Black's career, she says, her goal has been to ensure access to medical cannabis.

She's extremely proud of Canopy Growth for its current research project, which is studying the use of medical cannabis as a treatment for patients in long-term care homes, and are dealing with three main issues: pain, moods, and sleep problems, she says.

Eight homes in Niagara, including Upper Canada Lodge, are participating in the research, Black says. It began earlier this year, and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"I'm particularly excited about this study," she says.

"Residents of long-term care facilities are one of the last groups we have to break down barriers to cannabis for."

It can be administered in a capsule, the same as other medications, she explains, and the study will help determine safe dosages for seniors, as well as possible side effects. "We will see what the data tells us at the end of the research project."

When COVID hit, caus-

ing further isolation and a seniors, especially those in long-term care homes, and Canopy Growth wanted to do something to help, it was natural to turn to the already partnering, through the study. They have sup-Canada Lodge and the sev-Black.

She would love to see sense of disconnection for more access to communication for residents in longterm care, and encourages other businesses to consider similar donations.

"This is kind of the least facilities which they were we can do. Let's create an avalanche of love across the country. Maybe collectively plied 16 iPads to long-term we can make an impact, at care homes involved in least in terms of connectivithe study, including Upper ty, for those who are feeling the most lonely and isolaten others in the region, says ed, on top of the fear of the pandemic."



Seniors can use FaceTime to talk to loved ones. (Facebook photo)

Miller promises on-time service with a smile

Penny Coles The Local

residents will know the new regional garbage collection policies have taken effect when they see the trucks everything about them will be shiny and new.

The Miller Waste Sys-Gone is the Re-Think Your Waste campaign, replaced by Box It. Bin It. Sort it. The region's new slogan, on the sides of the trucks, has been designed to encourage faces." a better rate of waste diversion.

about 65 of them, are diesel, at a cost of \$250,000 to begun to arrive at the Miller site on Townline Road in says Miller district manager Rob Harris, and were unveiled last Wednesday.

"We're very excited. We have new trucks arriving current contract, and some in Canada. every day," he says.

They'll all be available ees, says Harris. when the new contract bags and cans of garbage collection will be limited to every other week, although recyclable and compostable to home," he says. material will continue to be picked up weekly.

days and routes will be the same.

"We've tried to keep it as Niagara-on-the-Lake user-friendly as we could. It's a new contract and a new vision," Harris says, with a company that has a long history of waste management and a reputation for good service.

"We pride ourselves tems logo is on the doors. on customer service. We'll make sure garbage gets picked up on the right day, with boxes and bins put back nice and neat, and with lots of smiles on our

The contract called for all new trucks, with two dif-The trucks themselves, ferent models, one configured to collect garbage and compostables, the other for \$300,000 each. They have blue and grey box collec-

About 100 staff will work NOTL, ready to roll Oct. 19, out of the Townline Road garage and office, some of them local, newly hired and trained, some who worked for Emterra, which has the long-time Miller employ-

kicks in, at the same time them will be new. We also his wife Brenda are commuhave some transfers from other divisions, who are local and wanted to be closer any community they live

Lord Mayor Betty Dise-



Lord Mayor Betty Disero assured NOTL residents they will be well-served by Miller Waste Systems. (Penny Coles)

one of the top 50 companies

"We'll be well-served by Miller," she says, adding "About 30 per cent of Blair McArthur, CEO, and nity-minded people who always give back, "improving and work in."

In NOTL, the pickup Systems to NOTL, talking company's reputation, well-

ence, and its name for being and said the accolades are significant investment in well-deserved.

> Bradley says he is counting on residents to make waste-processing capacity." changes that will help meet the Region's 65 per cent diversion target, up from the acquired an organics procurrent rate of about 50 per cent, a goal which he said is "ambitious but achievable."

Denis Goulet, president Regional chair Jim of Miller Waste Systems, ro welcomed Miller Waste Bradley also spoke of the says the company is excited to serve the Niagara Region,

Niagara, in terms of property, collection assets and

A sister company, Escarpment Renewables, has cessing plant in Grimsby to become a state-of-the-art facility, producing highgrade natural fertilizer for agricultural use, Goulet says.

Miller is one of two

about its 50 years of experi- known across the province, and is "prepared to make companies to share waste management across Niagara, along with CFL Environmental, which will be based in St. Catharines. The two will divide municipalities between them, with Miller covering St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Fort Erie, and Port Colborne, along with NOTL.

> More information on changes to Niagara's waste collection program is online at NiagaraRegion.ca/waste.

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EDITORIAL

CAO selection committee debacle

closed session, it is tempting to speculate, to try to read between the lines of the little that is said

The answer to the "why" of two councillors resigning from the committee is unclear. They deserve credit, despite their obvious frustration, for adhering to the rule that what is said in closed session, stays in closed

But that leaves the rest of us even more frustrated, for only being able to guess at what transpired.

councillors, Gary Burroughs and Clare Cameron, have been passionate about their belief NOTL deserves the right CAO, and also as strongly determined that the proper selection process must be strictly followed, especially in light of what happened with the tainted process that hired the regional chair during the previous term of council.

That's what makes their resignation so puzzling. It wouldn't have been a decision made lightly for either Burroughs or Cam-

A small number of residents, maybe about 200, may recall being at the Royal Canadian Legion during a candidates meet-

Dennis Dick were speaking.

Cameron, who up until then was unknown on the NOTL roughs will continue, or at least political scene, was asked, if she was elected, what would be the most important attribute for a new CAO. It was expected that this term of council would have to hire someone for the position, that she hoped to be part of the selection process. Her passion and excitement at the thought Penny Coles were evident, and her articu- The Local late answer to that one question likely helped earn her the title of deputy lord mayor.

Also memorable that evening was Dennis Dick, a 23year council veteran hoping for another term, after four years away from the table, when he was asked the same question. He spoke right after Cameron, and he stood up and answered something along the lines of, "if elected, I'd hire Clare Cameron for CAO." He was acknowledging the obvious admiration the audience felt, and he drew a hearty laugh, as he often did when he

So, if nothing else, we know she will continue to be involved as much as allowable from the council table, when discussions will take place for the most part **Penny Coles** ing, in September, 2018, when in closed session, and amongst The Local

When so much is said in both Cameron and candidate the members who make up the new selection committee.

> And we know she and Burattempt, to hold members accountable to the process that will keep them on track to find the best possible candidate.

Because, after all, that is what NOTL deserves, and after and Cameron said that night Monday night's discussion, there will be a lot of eyes watching.

Community food drive

On another note, congratulations to all those who organized and participated in the Community Food Drive for Newark Neighbours. Lord Mayor Betty Disero announced Monday night that a ton, literally, of food was raised, as well as \$4,000. Those looking to Newark Neighbours for help with Thanksgiving dinners are going to be blown away by the generosity of this community. Congratulations to all involved, including those who donated to the drive.

Town staff put together tribute to friend, colleague Dennis Dick

One of the loveliest moments in time to ever occur during a Niagara-on-the-Lake council meeting is the tribute video, put together by town staff, to Dennis Dick, a long-time councillor and friend to so many in the community. Dennis died of cancer Aug. 21.

There was laughter, there were tears, and as a memento for the family of Dennis, a beautiful, moving tribute from his friends, colleagues, and many who were both.

They spoke of his love for his family, his love of people, his desire to help, and his passion for making NOTL better, not only through his 23 years sitting at the council table, but in the community, in his volunteer work. There is no doubt that Dennis loved this town, or that the residents were his extended family.

Dennis for the tribute were asked what they would miss about him, there was talk of his exuberance, his optimism, his sense of humour, his boisterous laugh, his smiles, and, as many people agreed, his big, booming voice. Or, as former councillor Jim Collard, his longtime friend said, "everything."

Many spoke of Dennis as someone you would always know was in the room. At council, he was never one to speak for the sake of speaking. He would sit back in his chair, a contemplative look on his face, but when he stood up to voice his opinion, he would suddenly take up a lot of space in the room. Yes, it was because his voice was loud — he had no inside voice, said Collard — but even more so, others said, because his voice was

When those who spoke about strong. He spoke with confidence, with wisdom, with belief in what he was saying. And in doing so, although others didn't alway agree with him, he earned their respect.

The video is on the Town's YouTube and Facebook channels. Make sure you have Kleenex.

Penny Coles

Kudos to all those who contributed. The list of credits includes the incredible people who spoke of Dennis, and all those who had a hand in the video, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero, who organized it, Lauren Kruitbosch, Beth Audet, Jack Custers from YourTV Niagara who provided some video footage of Dennis, Lucie Palka who helped dig up some Town video, and David Lepp and Randy Klaassen, who provided some photos.

View from the couch

Donald Combe Special to The Local

Enola Holmes (2020) is about a 16-year-old who finds herself facing the world alone, but having been educated by a wise mother, and defying the societal norms for women in the Victorian era, she becomes an independent woman, a fine detective, and manages a little romance. She astonishes brothers Sherlock and Mycroft, and me, who love Enola's focused actions and



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Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local

The full week of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website https:// auchterlonieonastrology.ca. In part II of my podcast, thanks to AstroButterfly, we get Mars retrograde in Aries - The Hero's Journey.

Thursday, Oct. 1: The full Moon at 5:05 a.m. is powerfully important. In ancient times, when the calendar was moonbased, this was the New Year. With Mars nearby today, retrograde in Aries, opposite the

Mars kind of New Year! Emotions will be fiery and it's every man, woman and child for him/ herself. Still, this is accompanied by the Sun in Libra, seeking peace and harmony just as determinedly. Today the Energizer Bunny of U.S. presidents celebrates his 96th birthday. It was Oct. 1, 1924 that Jimmy Carter was born in Plains, Georgia. While he lasted only one term, respect for him has grown every still use today. year since.

Sunday, Oct. 4: Pluto has appeared to move backward since April. Today it turns to direct in Capricorn. motion until next April when

Sun, it's a full Moon and full it turns retrograde again. It has been playing with our willpower, holding us back. Now a lot of pent-up energy will be available to finally get the things done that you want done. Check where Pluto is in your natal chart for more information. The calendar designed by Julius Caesar lasted over 1,600 years, but was replaced on Oct. 4, 1582, when Pope Gregory introduced his Gregorian Calendar, which we

And that's Auchterlonie on Astrology for this week. Next week it's the third quarter Moon

Until then, shine on!

Letters! We want letters!

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

The trusted voice of our community

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The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

Hike shows fall colours just a three-hour drive away



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Sitting on an old rock face, beneath our feet lies 420 million years of history. The time warp doesn't stop here, though. Looking across the Beaver Valley, you see the opposite cliff is a five-minute drive, or a two-day hike away on the Bruce Trail. In between lies a sea of colourful forests and a few quiet villages.

This sleepy, but significant area of the Niagara Escarpment is just three hours north of here, but this is where the northern magic begins. There are more woods than farms, the air smells better, and it's fringe black bear country. I'm standing on a clifftop taking this view in with a group of buddies.

This is what happens when you take a pandemic bachelor

hike as a critical aspect of his adventurous weekend.

on the trail, which was busiyou, the last hoorah of fall colours and warm weather up here was upon us. Our cohort of black T-shirts read "Groom, Groomsman" and the like, so we visually stood out.

Everyone we passed gave out a cordial "congratulations," or they simply commented on how unusual and fun it was to see guys out hiking for a bachelor party. Definitely a first for hills.

Still keeping a low profile, and enjoying the views from the clifftop, we found ourselves window-shopping from various lookouts along the dramatic escarpment drop. We basically floated from viewpoint to viewpoint, having a group sit-down at each Trail for 37 days. The memory spot for some life chats and taking photos.

face we stand on, named Old Baldy, is personified in name We got some memorable and structure alike. We look at comments from other walkers the shear drop and try to wrap our heads around being 152 er than we anticipated. Mind metres above the Beaver River below. That's basically triple the height of Niagara Falls, being overlooked by a bald patch in a head of colourful hair.

> We see the fall colours with summer's warmth, and signs all over the backroads reminding us that a qualified vehicle is required here for the coming winter if you're going to navigate these escarpment

> I sit and wonder many things. There is a beauty in doing something so normal, and taking it outdoors during a time of a shifting world.

> I also happened to be sitting on the exact same cliff that I did in 2014, when I thru-hiked the entire Bruce sparks were flying, as I found

party outside! My good friend Valley was certainly rewarding ter from, and the dirt roads have to take that short drive, Much of the slopes have caurequested it include a solid at this time of year. The rock I crossed to enter the woods be a little adventurous, and again. It was a very inward, quiet, but profound experience to revisit Old Baldy, which I later named a song and my canoe after.

On that note, as our government has officially started sprinkling the words "second wave" all over our screens, let's not ever forget what Ontario across both sides of the valley. has to offer in terms of its natural heritage.

Going up north for such wild and deep woodsy experiences doesn't require a fourhour-plus drive. It's incredible to realize what lies within three hours north of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The pandemic's ups and downs have allowed me to further appreciate how Ontario is naturally a pretty exquisite place to be "confined." I didn't need the reminder, as I am always actively seeking out opportune places to explore in our local regions. Having said that, taking the time to make a feel it for yourself. The people up there are so relaxed and lovely, too. It's like stepping back in time.

The guys and I find ourselves in silence after a series of good laughs as we look out over Old Baldy. The fall colours are impossibly painted

liflower-like tree crowns, bulbous and swollen with bright colours, their visibility testament to their longtime conservation and all the changes they've seen in this valley.

Those coloured trees tell us that life changes and it moves fast. Here's to making the most of it with nature, and cheers to my buddy and his wife to-be!



myself remembering kinks in quick visit up there is how the Fall colours not yet seen in Niagara have arrived in Beaver Valley, The view of the Beaver the trail, a ditch I filtered wa- real reminders set in. You just a short distance north. (Owen Bjorgan)

Library opens for browsing slowly and cautiously



Cathy Simpson Special to The Local

We're very happy to be open in time for library month, and Ontario Public Library Week, Oct. 18 through 24. We're not going to be able to celebrate the way we usually do, but have some virtual celebrations planned. Watch the library's website and social media for details.

Canadian Library Month was launched in 2006 to give anyone unfamiliar with library services incentives to visit their local library and experience all we have to offer. Ontario Public Library week has an even longer history dating back to 1958 when Canada and the U.S. celebrated the first National Library Week with the theme "Wake up and read!"

Libraries have been around for 5,000 years, dating back to ancient the Middle Eastern civilizations that preserved important records

and texts, and evolving into the first public libraries established in Athens, Greece around 500 BC. Libraries have a long history, but that doesn't make them outdated. In fact, public libraries are more relevant than ever in the internet and social media age, as the quest for knowledge becomes increasingly confusing and complex, and where barriers to information access still exist.

We see these barriers to access amplified during the COVID-19 pandemic, and those with slow or no internet access, or those with no computer, still have access to information and learning. We're now open for computer and Wi-Fi access, with technology tutoring by appointment, and we are loaning Wi-Fi hotspots. As well, we've recently added coding toys, LaunchPads and Wonderbooks to the collection.

plications for children, teens to 3 p.m. and adults, no internet access

to learning mode for literacy practise. We have several different coding toys that also don't require an internet connection. We believe these resourc-

es will level the learning playing field, and we encourage vou to borrow and explore them. The library is now open for browsing, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thurs-LaunchPads are tablets days from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., pre-loaded with learning ap- and Saturdays from 11 a.m.

Computers, tech tutoring required. Wonderbooks are sessions, and study spaces are print books with a ready-to- available by appointment on play audiobook kids can read Mondays, Wednesdays and



recent months. (Photo supplied)

are doing our best to ensure along with, and then switch Fridays, and can be booked everyone, and look forward same mission: enriching the online by visiting the library's or call 905-468-2023.

We've really missed seeing sures, but we still have the library.

to welcoming you back. The community by providing acwebsite, notlpubliclibrary.org library looks a little different cess to the world's ideas and due to health and safety mea- information. See you at the

Sentineal family asks for help

ensure the safety and secu- have been lost and balance (daily if possible) to Security of horse and carriages needs to be restored. on the streets.

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Kitten capturing hearts as he waits for surgery

Penny Coles The Local

pulled her car over on likely be the only option. Lakeshore Road last week, snatched up a kitten from he'd make it to the vet's." the road, she had no idea whether the wee orange ball of fur was alive or dead.

A talented amateur photographer, her plan had been to spend some time with her camera and then and she was told he might head home, but when she have severe neurological realized she had driven over a kitten, as had the vehicle behind her, she turned around as soon as she could to pick him up. As she wrapped him in the blanket, she says, she could see no marks on him, no blood or clinic overnight. visible injuries.

The cat-lover headed ed," says White. straight to the Virgil Animal Hospital on Niagara take financial responsibili-Stone Road, not knowing if ty. I'm newly retired, and I he would be breathing when knew the bill would be sigshe arrived.

called the number on the tachment. door of the clinic, and folcol, a staff member came out decision." into the vestibule, grabbed him from White, and disappeared, leaving her outside.

"As I sat in my car, waiting for some news, I couldn't stop shaking," she says.

The first report was that he had either broken his neck or his back, and hu-When Janice White mane euthanasia would

"I wasn't surprised," says grabbed a blanket and White. "I didn't even think

> But after X-rays were taken, a staff member came out again and said they were wrong, his neck and back were fine.

The kitty was in shock, damage — they just didn't know at that point. They said they would put him on pain medication, and since asked about sending him to the emergency medical

"I told them I couldn't nificant. But I had already When she pulled in, she formed an emotional at-

I said, 'that can't be my lowing the pandemic proto- call. You have to make the felt he needed surgery, a leg

> With the cost of overclinic decided they would keep him, and in the morning, he was doing much better. "They said he was a more experienced."



it was late afternoon, they Micky is discovering the pleasure of playing with toys. (Photos supplied)

fighter."

"Then it got complicat- and found a red-headed fighter named Micky, and that became the name of the little ginger kitten, whom the veterinarian said was seven weeks old, and weighed just two pounds.

"They told me he still wasn't out of the woods, but he was more active, and they amputation. His left front leg was paralyzed, and the night care about \$600, the vet wasn't comfortable doing an amputation on a kitten so young, so they wanted to send him to someone

and committed to what she could raise on that, she said.

The fund is doing well, but White says she has no idea what the final bill will be, and has decided to keep the fund going, to also cover vaccinations, neutering, and pet insurance for anything the funds to pay for Micky's else that pops up in the fu-

She is also hoping, with all the coverage on social home for Micky — she has a cat who won't be happy with another one in the house, although she has brought

White told them she'd Micky home to save costs ony there, maybe several. White did some research start a GoFundMe page, until his surgery, and is finding him so loving and sweet, she's not making a decision about giving him up just yet.

NOTL Cat Rescue will likely help with the adoption process, if that's what she decides, but doesn't have medical needs — no rescue organization has that kind of money, she says.

The area of Townline media, to find a permanent Road and Lakeshore, where she picked up the kitten, is known for stray cats and kittens, White says.

"There is probably a col-

There has to be a way to get them spayed. But there aren't a lot of financial breaks for rescue organizations."

Erika Buchkowsky, a volunteer with NOTL Cat Rescue, says the story of Micky is all too familiar. There is another little kitten, Murphy, at the rescue shelter now, who continues to have health issues. He was found by town staff at the Concession 6 roundabout, "in really bad shape, and he's going to become expensive too. He's another needy

Continued on page 9







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Fundraising continues for Micky's future

kitten."

Shelter volunteers have hkowsky. already trapped about 20 cats and kittens in the area where Micky was found, to be spayed or neutered, she says, and he is likely one they missed — his orange to good homes.

and white colouring is sim-

Most of them have been They're not nasty, they're re-draining." vet-checked and adopted, ally frightened." but the shelter still has six



Staff at the Virgil Animal Hospital have been caring for and cheering on the tiny kitten who was hit by a car on Lakeshore like myself have been pay-

Continued from page 8 ilar to those they picked up. cats as being mean and nasout of our own pockets," she "It's a problem area, but ty," she says. "They aren't at says. just one of many," says Buc- all. They're just not used to

> adults that are slowly being ganization has trapped 74 socialized, hopefully to go cats and kittens in the last year to be spayed or neutered, most of whom have has used her photography been adopted, although the few that can't be socialized are returned to where they're found. They have 14 cats in the shelter at the moment.

A male and female cat in a year, Buchkowsky says, and those kittens go on to reproduce, so when you have an area of feral cats, the numbers can grow exponentially. There aren't a lot of vets offering discounts, and cat rescues, such as the Messenger on Facebook. one in NOTL she volunteers for, haven't been able to do COVID.

"Some of the volunteers ing for food, litter, and other

"People think of feral supplies, and the vet bills,

"Cat rescues can be humans or human contacts. mentally and financially

To learn about or donate The local cat rescue or- to NOTL Cat Rescue, check out the organization's Facebook page.

In recent months, White skills to help raise money for the shelter. She has been offering mini-sessions for families or their pets, and offering a package of five edited photographs, which have been well-received. She can produce a lot of kittens charges \$100, with the full amount going to the shelter, and has so far been able to donate \$800. White is willing to continue her personal fundraiser for the shelter for the month of October, and can be reached through

Meanwhile, she says, after a bad week, Micky is doa lot of fundraising during ing well. He's "a real sweetheart," eating, which will help make him stronger for the difficult surgery he's facing, active, vocal, and happy

Janice White is finding Micky to be a sweet-natured kitten, and is pleased with the progress he is making leading up to sur-

playing with toys in White's guest room.

But he has a long recovery ahead of him, and a lot of challenges, says White.

To donate to Micky's GoFundMe page, visit https://www.gofundme. com/f/help-poor-kitty-hit -by-car



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165 PRIDEAUX STREET

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THE NOTL LOCAL **October 1, 2020**

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Submitted by Thomas TV

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more than ever before. Some lours, classic black or walnut

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October 1, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL

Nursery school little ones prove adaptable, resilient

Penny Coles The Local

Nursery School and Child Care Centre had hoped to be in its new, expanded home by the end of the year, like everything else, plans pandemic.

In the meantime, the nursery school is fortunate to be able to take advantage of the beautiful green space surrounding its facility, says Penny.

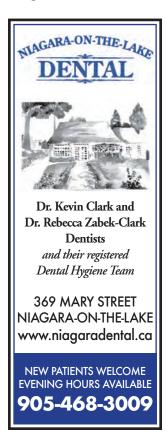
Behind the community centre, youngsters can the afternoon. spread out and make the most of the outdoors, having fun looking for bugs, playing ball, ring-aroundthe-rosie, and other games with their friends.

'We're outside the majority of the time, about six and disinfectant, says Penhours a day. We have such ny. great outdoor space, and we're making the most of outside, where kids can temperatures are checked it. We're very fortunate with what is available to us."

Even when the cold weather arrives, she says, "as long as everybody is dressed for it, and it's not ical distancing, but with time as possible outside. too harsh, we'll be outside our age group, it's difficult," as much as possible."

Inside, the school space and routine has changed, but kids "have shown how adaptive and resilient they are," says Penny.

"Our day is different, and we have a very different-looking classroom. But we still have the same great, loving, warm and caring atmosphere."



Cleaning was always an important part of their day, she says, "but it's on another Although the Niagara level now," with extra staff to help, so they don't have to worry about cleaning and being with the kids at the same time.

The large area carpets have to be flexible during a have been removed, as have the soft furnishings, pillows and "cozy things," she says. The use of toys is monitored, and children must wash their hands between use. The toys played with in executive director Candice the morning are put away for deep-cleaning, and a new set is brought out for

> Instead of nap-time blankets being brought from home, they are provided at school, bagged up and labelled with the child's each nap with soap, water

spread out, but at mealtime inside, children sit at the ends of tables, to give child care is offered in septhem more space.

"We are trying for physduring play time, it's okay end of the year. for them to interact."



name, and washed after Kaitlyn Eymann plays ball with Dawson Paget, Delilah Colvin, Hunter Willms, and Axl Benner. (Penny Coles)

Parents have to go online to answer health-re-Most snacks are eaten lated questions daily, and as children arrive.

> Before-and-after school arate rooms, she says, and again, kids spend as much

The nursery school has she says. "At more high-risk 18 children registered now, times such as naps they're but will be up to its full spread out. Outdoors, complement of 24 by the

The waiting list, she

says, is 122, and growing. Most parents are on the list for about two years, ahead of when they'll need it. "We advise them to get on the list early. About 40 of those on the wait list are ones we can't provide space for now."

The relocation and expansion of space is anticipated to alleviate the wait, but "construction has been delayed by COVID, and we have no updates right now."

Those using the com-



School-age friends Luca Moreno (clockwise, from bottom right), Gavin Carpenter, Hudson Ward and Aeryn Garth have their after-school snack out by the climbing trees. (Photo supplied)

munity centre have seen the continue that way through future site beside the library the winter, she adds. marked off with yellow tape the spring.

The majority of the says Penny. funding is expected to come from the Province, tions are also important, for with a contribution from all ages," she says. "It's wonthe Town and Region. The derful to be back together, nursery school also plans a safely." fundraising campaign, but again, because of COVID, it of board members wraps too has been delayed.

is coping so well."

spring, until the end of August, there were regular Zoom sessions for parents is an integral part of the and children, to keep the school, she says. "We are kids "engaged and connected," she says. Birthdays tors that are so dedicated, were celebrated online, and have a true passion for children were encouraged to share information about and stories.

without technology."

virtually, and are likely to aranursery@gmail.com.

"If there is one benefit for some time — construc- to this, it's been to a work/ tion was expected to start in life balance. Technology has been such a useful tool,"

"But personal connec-

As the two-year term up, Penny says, "we have "We have to take it day been so grateful for all the by day, and be positive," hard work and support our says Penny. "Right now, current board has providwe're just happy everybody ed our school over the last two years, especially with During the closure last regards to COVID-19 and our expansion plans."

> The board of directors very grateful to have direcour community."

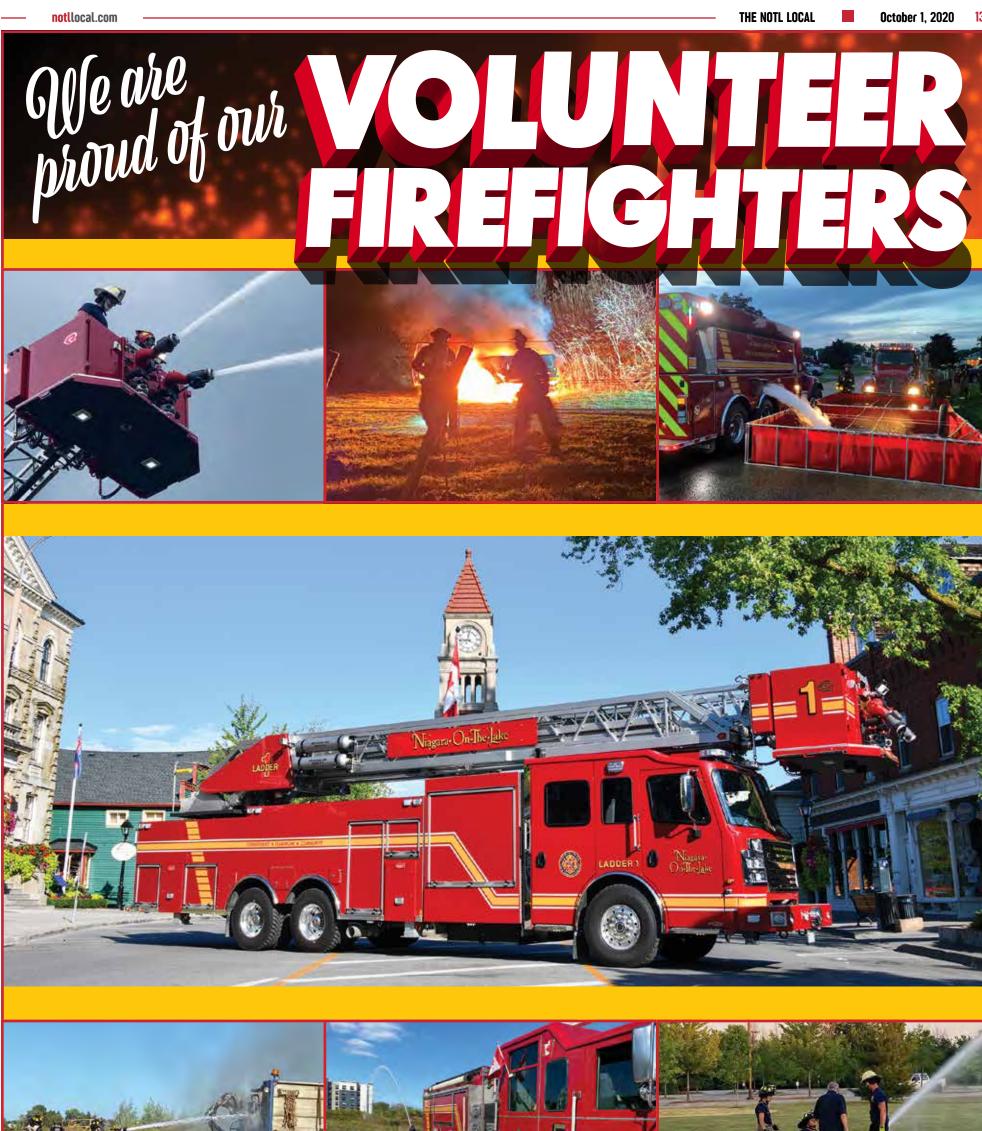
In saying thank you to their pets, and hear the fa- the board for all that they miliar nursery school songs have done during their term, Penny says, "we look "It was a bit of an adjust- forward to seeing what new ment for some of the kids, community members may but a lot of them loved it. be interested in coming I don't know what we'd do aboard and for the next two years." Anyone interested, Staff and board meet- she adds, is encouraged to ings have also been held reach out via email at niag-



Candice Penny, Maegan Price, Kaitlyn Eymann, Karen Den Besten, Tanya Tavender, Jessica Lattanzio, Megan Lampman and Wendy Kulp have their staff meetings over Zoom, which has provided a good option during COVID. (Photo supplied)









Thank you to the Volunteer Firefighters of Niagara-on-the-Lake

from Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council

October 1, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL

Asmouring VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Message from the Fire Chief: Committed to the community, and each other...

Early in 2020, the evolving COVID-19 response began to impact each and every one of us.

The uncertainty that surrounded the constantly evolving response was felt by many, and your volunteer firefighters were no different.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their unwavering commitment to their community, even amid such uncertainty, and for being a strong and consistent foundation our community can always lean on in times of need.

During the height of the ongoing response to COVID-19, 15 newly recruited volunteer firefighters graduated from their 300-hour recruit training program, without fanfare, and began responding to emergencies throughout our community. Their fortitude as they commenced their new roles is admirable, given the circumstances.

I would like to thank The NOTL Local for ensuring that our local volunteer fire-fighters are recognized for their significant contribution to the community, and additionally, their interest in covering Fire Prevention Week 2020.

This year's Fire Preven-

tion Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in Canada.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I ask you to make a commitment to ensuring the safety of your family. Ensure that you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

It might just save a life.

Nick Ruller Fire Chief & CEMC



Nick Ruller - Fire Chief

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF







notllocal.com









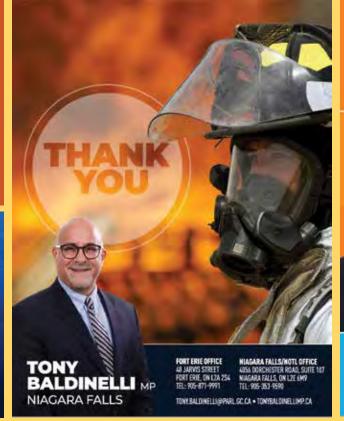




Thanks for your commitment to our community

Gary Zalepa,Regional Councillor
(Niagara-on-the-Lake)

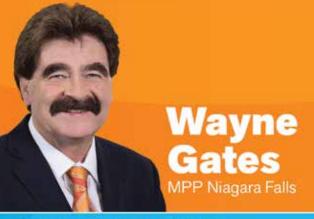
416-602-5431 | gary.zalepa@niagararegion.ca





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Very proud to support our brave volunteer firefighters and the incredible job they do!



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Daniel Ens Firefighter



Jeremy Froese *Firefighter*



Todd Loney Firefighter Firefighter

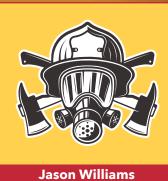


Karley McKeigan









Firefighter

Thank you to our amazing Firefighters!



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Thank you Firefighters!

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Derek Rooney Assistant District Chief



Colin Hunter

Firefighter

Stan Lament Firefighter







Rob Macleod Firefighter



Arthur Martin Firefighter



Mark Newman Firefighter



Greg Pillitteri



Firefighter



Steve Roy Firefighter



Firefighter



Milan Vujovich Firefighter



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Thank you to all of our courageous Volunteer Firefighters for your dedication to our community! 365 Four Mile Creek Road, St. Davids 905-262-6600 | stdavidscoldstorage.com

· VIRGIL ·



Captain



Rick Gray District Chief



Jim Neufeld Assistant District Chief



Jim Reschke Lieutenant



Henry Boese Firefighter



Darryl Janzen Lieutenant



Firefighter



Brad Disher Firefighter



Jason Disher Firefighter



Rod Falk Firefighter



Dean Filipetti Firefighter



Hendrik Heikoop Firefighter



Rob Konkle



Kevin McClelland Firefighter



Jason Meleskie Firefighter



Derek Merza Firefighter



Jason Plut



Jason Reynolds Firefighter



Larissa Stemmler Firefighter



Lucas Topic Firefighter



Vito Trapani Firefighter



Matt van der Zalm Firefighter



Jeremy Werner Firefighter



Daniel Willms





Helen Mosca Office: 905-468-4214 Direct: 905-650-5669 helenmosca@royallepage.ca

Aaron Cherney Office: 905-468-4214 Direct: 905-401-7915

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THE NOTL LOCAL

· QUEENSTON ·





Dave Jones Assistant District Chief



Braeden Bilinsky Firefighter



Jared Bilinsky Firefighter





Firefighter









Tanner Ferguson *Firefighter*



Rob Glass Firefighter



Spencer Glass Firefighter



Ken Hernder Firefighter



Bill Maartense Firefighter



Chris Maartense Firefighter



Deralyn Mackenzie Firefighter











Thank you for keeping our community safe!

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Thank you to all our Volunteer Firefighters! 1501 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil 905-468-7241 silkscountrykitchen.com

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Thank you to our amazing firefighters for keeping us safe!



905-468-5535 Niagara-on-the-Lake

Thank you to our wonderful Volunteer Firefighters!





We all know how fortunate we are to have such dedicated and skilled volunteers looking after our community!

Thank you!



The trusted voice of our community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, LOS 1TO

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GLENDALE

































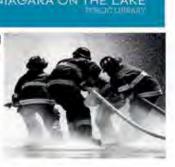




Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.



















Hours: Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

> 175 Lakeshore Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake 905-934-5066 www.seawayfarms.ca

October 1, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL notllocal.com

Honouring our

Safe Home NOTL – Smoke Alarm Program

While our day-to-day in your homes. lives have changed for the within our homes has not.

With more people now working from home and generally spending more annual average number of house fires have begun to increase. Fire chiefs across the province attribute this increase to preventable cooking or smoking related the rise, it is more import-

time being, the threat of fire Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire conducts home visits to assist post several messages in the in making our community coming days, reminding fire safe. Due to COVID-19, residents to test their alarms time in their homes, the we will not be making the and ensure they and their same home visits as we usu- families are fire safe. ally do. Instead, this year we are encouraging every resi- article in The Local a few dent in Niagara-on-the-Lake weeks ago, don't forget that to test and confirm their own smoke and carbon monsmoke and carbon mon- oxide alarms expire. Most issues. With house fires on oxide alarms on Monday, alarms expire 10 years from Oct. 5. Then upload a pic- the manufacturer date, howant than ever to ensure you ture of yourself doing this ever check with your device have working smoke and test to social media (Twitter, instruction manual to concarbon monoxide alarms Instagram and Facebook) firm your alarm's expiry date.

using the hashtag #SAFE-Every spring and fall, the HOMENOTL. Look for and Emergency Services and Emergency Services to

In case you missed our



A reminder to serve up fire safety in the kitchen

Services is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years — to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in Canada. The majority of reported home fires started

materials.

can be prevented," said Lorraine Carli, vice-president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "Staying in the kitchtimer, and avoiding distrac-TV are steps everyone can cooking fire. take to keep families safe in • their homes."

The Niagara-onthe-Lake Fire & Emergency Services encourages all residents to embrace the 2020 Fire Prevention Week theme.

"The most important • step you should take before making a meal is to

The Niagara-on-the- fires start with the ignition Kitchen!" said Brad Dish-Lake Fire & Emergency of food or other cooking er, Fire Prevention Officer. "A cooking fire can grow "We know cooking fires quickly. I have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that could easily have been prevented."

Niagara-on-the-Lake en while cooking, using a Fire & Emergency Services wants to share safety tips tions such as electronics or to keep you from having a

- Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it

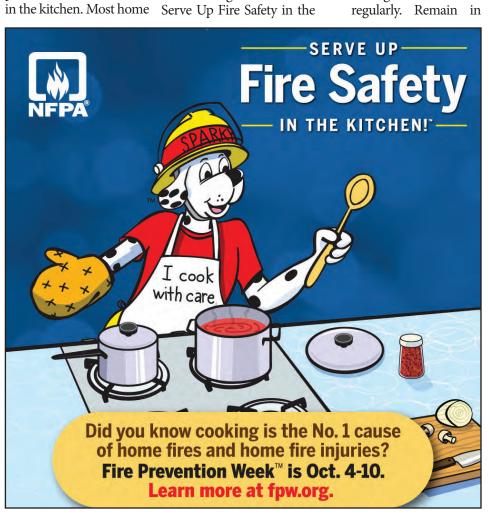
the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

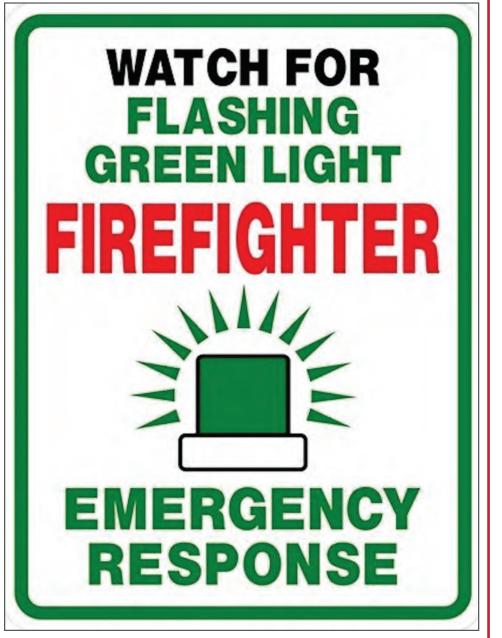
- You have to be alert when cooking. You won't be alert if you are sleepy, have taken medicine or drugs, or • have consumed alcohol that makes you drowsy.
- Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid near-

by when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 1 metre around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

To find out more about fire safety programs and activities in Niagara-on-the-Lake, please contact the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services at firedepartment@notl. com. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking fire prevention, visit www.fpw.org.





Fundraiser for painful illness held in St. Davids

Brenda Sharp Special to The Local

"Imagine waking up one day to what feels like someone stabbing you repeatedly in the face, each strike more intense than the last — in your forehead, your jaw, your eye, your lips, your mouth.

Then the shocks start coming, what feels like volts of electricity coursing through one side of your face. And when the storm quiets, you're left with a dull, aching pain that persists until the next attack, leaving you vulnerable to any trigger — a simple breeze, a light touch, a bite one ..."

That's how life is described on a website that is raising funds for anyone Neuralgia (TN), a nerve dis-

to mankind. Others simply tual. A live link was shared call it "the suicide disease."

strikes without warning. There are few truly effective unteer research foundation. treatments, and it is currently incurable.

and reporter on the WGN Morning News in Chicago. He is also a stand-up coannual comedy night fund-(FPRF).

and they are getting close.

Each year in the past, suffering from Trigeminal LYFO was held as a live show, Pat Tomasulo shared show in Chicago. Due to that during the live airing of

of the worst pains known 6th Annual LYFO went viraround the world, so others Trigeminal Neuralgia could learn about the disease and donate to the vol-

As the volunteer fundraising coordinator for the Amy Tomasulo is a TN FPRF, I decided to host, patient. Her husband, Pat along with my husband Tomasulo, is a sports anchor Bryan Sharp, an outdoor watch party at our home at Creekside Senior Estates. We borrowed an eight foot median. He and Amy are by eight foot outdoor prothe geniuses behind Laugh jection screen, prayed for Your Face Off (LYFO), an good weather, secured donations for a silent auction raiser to benefit the Facial and penny auction, and Pain Research Foundation held a 50/50 draw. And what a success it was! From The FPRF is the only my community alone, we of food, a kiss from a loved foundation dedicated to raised \$2,020. I am humraising money to fund re- bled by the generosity of my search for a cure for TN, friends and neighbours here at Creekside Senior Estates.

At the end of the virtual order doctors classify as one the pandemic this year, the LYFO, more than \$300,000



Bryan and Brenda Sharp attended the 2019 LYFO event in Chicago. (Photos supplied)

in. And the donations con-raiser to date. tinued to arrive at the FPRF the following day.

pandemic, ended up being cure going, is encouraged to dinator for FPRF.

We are so grateful for What started out as a with a desire to learn more last-minute decision to keep about TN, and how they can the event going, despite the help keep our research for a

in donations had been sent our most successful fund- visit www.facingfacialpain.

St. Davids resident Breneveryone's support. Anyone da Sharp, a sufferer of TN, is the support group leader for the Niagara Region and a volunteer fundraising coor-



The Sharps held a showing of the 2020 LYFO event at their home in St. Davids.



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Issue Dates: First of every month

Deadline: Mondays at noon **October 1, 2020**

THE NOTL LOCAL

Young musicians learn performance skills online

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

This summer's Music Niagara Performance Academy was forced to be delivered via a virtual format for the first time.

According to academy director Barbara Worthy, to the pandemic actually of opportunities that pre-

vious in-person sessions with students usually did

Worthy, a writer, performer, producer and teacher who has had a long association with both the Shaw Festival and CBC Radio, has been the director of the Performance Academy for this novel approach due seven years. The academy brings together a faculty offered a whole new set of world-class musicians to offer a unique summer



Performance Academy director Barbara Worthy (top left) and Music Niagara artistic director Atis Bankas teach performance skills to young, gifted musicians. (Screenshot)

LOCAL HAPPENINGS



NOTL ROTARY VIRTUAL TASTING AT CAROLINE CELLARS

October 6 @ 7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Virtual Wine Tasting Tour will be held every Tuesday in October, commencing Oct. 6. It will showcase Caroline Cellars, Strewn, Hare and Between the Lines, with a different charity as the recipient each week. Wine packages are \$65 per ticket and include tasting notes, descriptions and characteristics of the selected wines, as well as recipes for food and wine paring. The wine will be shipped directly from the wineries to the participants prior to the event. These events will be featured through a Zoom link which will be sent to the participant's email on the day of the event. For more information visit www.niagaraonthelakerotary.ca

VIRTUAL WAR OF 1812 TRIVIA NIGHT

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

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

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE LIONS CLUB

Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser

Pick up at Cornerstone Church Town Campus (Virgil Site) Thursday, Oct. 8, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Frozen homemade pies made with local fruit that can go straight into the oven. Pies available: peach, peach rhubarb, apple and sovereign coronation grape

PIES ARE \$20 EACH • CASH ONLY

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT **COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE**

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo! Prices starting at \$20. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335 or email: classified@notllocal.com

violin, piano and cello. The 2020 faculty included pianists Dr. Victoria and Michael Berkovsky, academy alumni violinists Bora Kim, Emma Meinrenken and Jasmine Lin, and cellist Matthew Christakos. Of course, Music Niagara artistic director Atis Bankas is also involved in the sessions.

Worthy is quick to point out, though, that there is a good reason it is called a "performance" academy. Each year she and fellow Shaw veteran Patty Jamieson run ses-Drama.

of the academy," Worthy explains, "adding performance arts and skills so that they get a fully-rounded arts approach to their learning and their presentation skills."

For the gifted young musicians, these sessions year. are key to their development as performers. mentary arts."

skills, in an effort to build channel.

experience for specially confidence in themselves gifted young performers. at a young age. It is one Each August, students of the aspects that makes learn from masters of the the Music Niagara Performance Academy unique experience.

"When they present as well. Korchinskaya-Kogan their music," Worthy continues, "they then have the strong physical presence, and with the vocal skills, they can also speak and be understood. When you study the perstudy interpretation, the same as you do in music. Studying interpretation in music."

the Drama sessions also aim to build their "joy sions called Now Add the of play," through theatre she adds. games and vocal training, "It's always been a part which they can then apcation.

Those efforts to instill confidence, and a sense formance sessions. This of joy, have certainly paid off for at least two of the students, aged 10 to 18, academy alumni who took part in the academy, joined the faculty this seven of whom were able

old respectively, Emma "They grow up with just Meinrenken and Jasmine playing music," adds Lin came across as con-Worthy, "but they don't summate professionals get experiential expo- in their live performancsure to some of the other es for Music Niagara's At whom Music Niagara has arts. One of the things we Home Series this sumwant to do is give them mer. The two joined toexposure to the comple- gether as one half of the

Worthy took special pride in seeing Meinrentake the next step in their development as mentors to the younger musicians,

"Atis did a wonderful job using them as instructors this year," she says. "They bring their level of knowledge, what they've learned at Julliard, Yale and the Curtis Institute of forming arts skills, you Music, they share it with our young students, and amazed at how much that is priceless."

"The students (who in text can inform how participated) identified they study interpretation with them, and could see where they could go. They Worthy says Now Add were mentoring them, and teaching them, and showing them the path,"

The daily sessions were about seven hours long, ply to their musical edu- and included instruction specific to their instruments, as well as the peryear, 13 musically-gifted to have the opportunity At only 20 and 21 years to participate from their own homes in Mexico.

The Mexican students were all from the Conservatory of Music and Arts of Celava in Mexico, with developed a partnership.

fans to sit in and observe. throughout the year.

"Atis has always been really keen on having ken, Lin and Bora Kim his audience be able to see behind the scenes," explains Worthy. "That's been a part of his mandate for years. Even when we were live (in-person), he would always invite supporters to certain workshops. It's all part of peeling back the covers behind the music, so you can see how it gets done."

> Worthy says she is she learned this year through the Zoom sessions. "Watching these young instructors pass on their knowledge to the students, and then informing things to Atis that even he didn't know, the teacher was learning from the student, that was really important. And I think he (Atis) was deeply respectful of that as well."

> Using the online format, it was also quite easy for the full sessions to be recorded for future use. In fact, three of the performance academy sessions can be viewed in their entirety via the website and YouTube channel.

One other opportunity has arisen due to the online version of the academy this summer. According to Music Niagara Worthy says noth- Festival general manager ing seemed to have been Karen Lade, the sessions Kiri Quartet for a per- lost in the Zoom format, went so well, they are That includes exposure formance that can be en- which included a few looking into ways to be to spoken-word, perfor- joyed via the Music Niag- chances for Music Niaga- able to extend the acadmance and presentation ara website and YouTube ra Festival supporters and emy to offer instructions





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

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THE NOTL LOCAL

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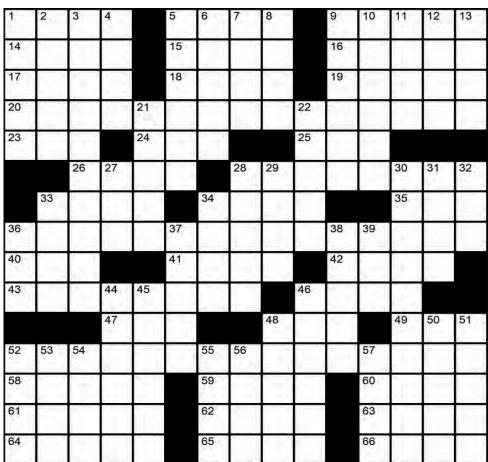


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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



Across:

- Wander
- 5 White or Blue African river
- 9 Ahura ---, Zoroastrian Supreme Being
- "... Marching --- war ..." (Sabine Baring-Gould)
- 15 Downright dastardly
- 16 Sherlock seeks them
- 17 Supercelebrity
- 18 Immeasurably long periods
- 19 Heavenly supporter 20 Causes house moves in
- California? " ... Venus sets --- Mercury
- can rise" (Pope)
- 24 Some
- 25 For each
- 26 Piece on earth?
- 28 Timber management
- 33 Lay
- 34 Wedding attendant
- 35 Weeding implement
- 36 Ironclad Mrs. Rice encrypted some FBI database entries
- 40 GWB, to GHWB
- 41 Quaintly ancient
- 42 Flag
- 43 Really?
- 46 "In your dreams!"
- 47 It never gets off the ground

- 48 Home to Jaguars but not Panthers
- 49 A decade
- 52 Sub rosa
- 59 "Battle Hymn of the Republic" author
- 60 Pennsylvania resident famous in February

- 65 Century note

- 1 Elevate
- Pet Antonio fusses about sometime
- Nat King Cole's "--- Lisa"
- "Well You ---" (Thelonious Monk)
- Trade in the elephant variety
- software
- 10 Tables with frontals
- 11 Bantu language

- 58 Found in rings and bulbs

- 61 Fatty acid, for example
- 62 And the rest
- 63 Kansas movie barker
- 64 Corporate bigwigs
- 66 Double-click, perhaps

Down:

- Half of "The Odd Couple"

- is illegal
- Short note
- "Lohengrin" heroine
- Big name in antivirus

- 12 Distribute cards 13 Helper, for short
- 21 Model --- Campbell
- 22 Bender
- 27 "Solaris" author Stanislaw ---28 Golfer who won three British Opens and three Masters
- 29 Giant people-eater
- 30 Place to find a bargain
- 31 Staffs
- 32 Triumphant cry
- 33 28 Down is one of them
- 34 Friends
- 36 "---: Miami" (CBS hit)
- 37 Still in dreamland
- 38 Superior herring? 39 "Halt! --- fire!"
- 44 Valiant
- 45 They're made in reparation
- 46 Far away from home
- 48 Up in arms
- 50 Cream of the crop
- 51 It can run while you walk
- 52 Flat-fish
- 53 Multi-user computer operating system
- 54 About to go off?
- 55 "--- Call Me MISTER Tibbs!"
- 57 "He's --- no good"

BUT 6 FEET APAR

YARD SALES

YARD SALE

Saturday, Oct. 3rd 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. (rain day Sunday, Oct. 4th) **Corner of Shakespeare** and Luther Aves., NOTL

Fabulous loot! Mid-Century treasures and vintage finds. You don't want to miss this one!!

Please bring your mask!



IN MEMORIAM



May the peace that comes from the memories of a love shared, comfort you. Remember them with a Loving Tribute.

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Sudoku solution from **September 24, 2020**

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Elite, 51 Mylon, 52 Sole, 53 UNIX, 54 Ripe, 55 They, 56 lota, 57 Cisco, 39 Or I, 44 Heroic, 45 Amends, 46 Afield, 48 At war, 50 shop, 31 Rods, 32 Yes, 33 Pros, 34 Pals, 36 C S I, 37 Not up, 38 Asat, 21 Naomi, 22 Spree, 27 Lem, 28 Faldo, 29 Ogre, 30 Thrift lvory, 7 Line, 8 Elsa, 9 McAfee, 10 Altars, 11 Zulu, 12 Deal, 13 Down: 1 Raise, 2 Oscar, 3 At one point, 4 Mona, 5 Needn't, 6

61 Lipid, 62 Et al, 63 Toto, 64 Execs, 65 Yard, 66 Open. 48 A F C, 49 Ten, 52 Surreptitioualy, 58 Onion, 59 Howe, 60 Phil, records, 40 Son, 41 Olde, 42 Iris, 43 Is that so, 46 As if, 47 Emu, Per, 26 Plot, 28 Forestry, 33 Poem, 34 Page, 35 Hoe, 36 Criminal Icon, 18 Eons, 19 Atlas, 20 San Andreas Fault, 23 Ere, 24 Any, 25 Across: 1 Roam, 5 Nile, 9 Mazda, 14 As to, 15 Evil, 16 Clues, 17





PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER



October 1, 2020 THE NOTL LOCAL

ibrary books for kids heading to Jamaica

Jane Andres Special to The Local

Godwin, her 12-year-old daughter Leah and I had the opportunity to visit Jamaica.

The purpose of the trip was to meet the families of the men who worked on farms in our neighbourhood back home. It had been a whirlwind tour, and after 10 days we arrived in the parish of St. Mary.

Slightly disoriented after a dizzying day of traveling on winding country roads, we climbed the school across the road.

rocky driveway to the church manse.

In February, 2012, Jodie hall, I was greeted by a glorious sight — cue the angelic choir and beams of light — a stack of peach masters imprinted with the very familiar Epp Farm logo. It was both a comfort and a curiosity to be welcomed by this unexpected, but familiar product so very far on throughout the years. from home.

> books to her church to in 1969. distribute to the primary

Epp began hiring men from Jamaica to work on his Stepping into the front modest peach farm in the mid-1960s. Starting with four men, his work force grew as each year his operations expanded, to eventually become one of the largest peach farms in Canada. Some of the friendships forged with crew members in the early days continued

One of those men was Rev. Alice Blair ex- Uton Bell, who Mr. Epp had plained that Abe Epp had first visited in Bell's home used the boxes to ship town of Ginger Ridge back

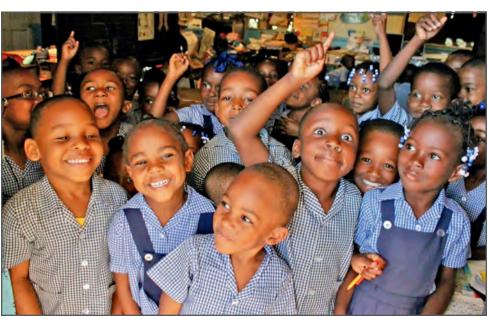
> In 2009, Epp asked for Bell's help in arranging a tour for friends and relatives who had stopped over in Jamaica while on a cruise. Travelling in a 10-passenger van on those treacherous mountain roads was not for the faint of heart. When the van reached Garden Hill School, high up in Juan Del Bolas district, the group was invited in for a tour.

Niagara residents Margie Enns, a supply teacher, and Marg Heinrichs, a librarian with the Lincoln County board of Education, struck up a conversation with principal, Marva Rhule, asking what the rural school's most pressing need was.

"Books!" was the em-



Dave Hunter, Abe Epp, Betty Knight and Kent Gray have books ready to ship to schools in Jamaica. (Photos by Jane Andres)



A group of students are happy recipients of books at Gossen Primary School in Jamaica.



Betty Knight and Garfield Martin wrap up books ready to be

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phatic response.

Enns and Heinrichs enthusiastically began scouring yard sales, and book is currently vice-chair, exsales at the local libraries. Epp offered to take care of lect books from seven Nithe shipping costs, and the agara Region libraries. project took off.

in Jamaica and had the and Elkanah Rhule) that all opportunity to meet with of a sudden the project re-Marva Rhule and her husband Elkanah, both for- have not only raised literamer principals at Garden cy levels, we have actually Hill School when the book helped young people toproject was launched.

enthusiasm as they recalled says Hunter. the joy of receiving the first their parents would come Public Library board, has the faces of the children in in an hour before school also joined. She has years the photographs, forever started to get some reading of experience in education impressed in his memory. time in before classes. For projects in developing nathe first time, they could tions, and is also responalso select books to borrow and take home. Interest in and choosing the ones best improving their own literacy grew quickly among the parents, and reading together as a family became a Garden Hill, and, for the cherished activity in many first time, the Pringle of the homes.

literacy level, an accomthe books stimulating their passion for reading.

collected, Epp and his emhis farm for shipping.

Eight years ago, a Upon returning home, member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake library board, Dave Hunter, who panded the project to col-

"It wasn't until I watched This past March, I was the interview (with Marva ally came alive. I mean we ward careers that take them They bubbled over with beyond their rural villages,"

shipment. Students and er member of the NOTL lighting up as he recalled sible for sorting the books suited for different levels.

This year, books will be shipped to two schools: Home For Children in St. Within the first year, Mary. They are excited to the students at Garden be partnering with Rachel Hill achieved the national Pellett, the assistant director at Pringle Home, who plishment they accredit to is also passionate about literacy. Pellett worked with MCC (Mennonite Central The project became an Committee) in Niagara in annual event. Every Au- 2013 and 2014 as a comgust, after the books were munity engagement intern, creating connections beployees prepared them at tween local churches and the Caribbean workers.

Last Monday, we gathered at the Epp farm to wrap and sign off on the books loaded for transport.

As Garfield Martin carefully maneuvered the pallet on the tow motor into the shipping van, Epp came over to me, waving a sizable stack of letters. They were all hand-written by children who appreciated the books he had sent over the years. On one occasion, he was even invited to a graduation ceremony at one of the schools, an invitation he gratefully accepted.

"These letters are trea-Betty Knight, anoth- sures," he says, his face

This year marks 10 years of support for the book project, and Epp is retiring after his many years of enthusiastic service.

Thank you Mr. Epp for your dedication to this worthwhile project, bringing hope and a passion for literacy to these rural schools.

The group hopes that participation by more libraries in Niagara will build on this success and increase the support for rural schools and libraries in Jamaica.

For more information, or if you would like to be involved, please contact Betty Knight at Bettyinnotl@gmail.com.