Explore Queenston, Willowbank Studio

Sharon, who has roots in Niagara, began studying art history and restoration in Florence, and then producing oil paintings for gallery exhibits, and commissions for private clients and collectors. In 2012, they made the decision to return to Canada, and chose Montreal for their next studio, thinking that of anywhere in this country, it would have the most European feel.

Their next stop was Paris, Ont., but recently, were encouraged by their friend, Brett Sherrlock, to come and have a look at their hometown of NOTL.

When they discovered Queenston, the Willowbank Estate, and the Willowbank Lower campus in the former Laura Secord building, it was love at first sight — they knew they had found their next studio space, “a romantic, magical place,” says Adam. It was a difficult time between presenting their proposal to the Willowbank board, and receiving a positive response.

Continued on page 3

Niagara Foundation concerned about development

Penny Coles The Local

The Niagara Foundation has been quietly preserving Niagara on-the-Lake’s heritage since 1962. It’s been a little less quiet lately, wanting to be more active and speak out about concerns over current residential developments working their way through the town’s planning process, says Foundation president Janice Thomson, speaking for its board.

The Foundation, established as a voluntary charitable organization to promote the history, traditions and culture of the community, has accomplished much during its decades of dedication to heritage preservation. Its list of initiatives begins with its restoration of The Apothecary on Queen Street, which it purchased in 1965, with the support of Ontario Heritage, now owners of the building.

Other projects include the restoration of St. Mark’s Church Manse, the steeple at St. Andrew’s Church, the William Stewart House, the William Gogolop House, and the Foghorn House, on the Niagara River, renovated by the Foundation, upgraded for vacation rental accommodation. It is now owned by the town, with rentals handled through a vacation rental company.

It has also restored two 19th century carriage houses, and obtained a hearse which was manufactured locally. Ownership was transferred to a local funeral home, and it has been restored and is available for use.

Foundation members have recently turned their attention to two large-scale residential developments proposed for significant heritage properties, the former Parliament Oak Block and Solmar’s application for a subdivision on John and Charlotte Streets, bordering the Rand Estate property.

Regarding the King Street property, a letter from Thomson and all board members asks council to examine the zoning issue, which shows the block as open space and community facilities in the Official Plan, which allows for active and passive neighbourhood parks, elementary schools, health care facilities, churches, day care centres, cemeteries, museums, historic sites and similar community-servicing uses. Secondary uses would include minor sports fields, playground equipment, associated parking areas and small concession stands.

Again, according to the

Continued on page 2
Lots of time to comment on proposals, Lord Mayor says

Continued from page 1

Official Plan, the Foundation points out, the property may be rezoned for low density residential use, subject to a site specific zoning bylaw amendment.

But “how does the current proposal qualify as low density residential,” the Foundation board asks.

That was a question also raised by residents who were given a glance at the proposal in June, which included, a dozen semi-detached, 1.5 storey homes, plus a three-storey apartment building on the block bordered by King, Gage, Centre and Regent Streets.

“Look forward to engaging in public discussions with council on this matter and wish to emphasize that the intention of The Niagara Foundation is to see appropriate development that maintains and complements the town’s special heritage and architectural elements, with a clearly expressed policy that allows both applicants and Town staff to meet established requirements,” the Foundation letter states.

In connection with the 191-unit subdivision proposed for portions of the Rand Estate, the Foundation board believes the property to be “one of the last remaining and most important estate lots in Niagara on the Lake, and strongly objects to this proposal for several reasons,” including its heritage features of local and provincial significance; the mature and possibly heritage trees on the property, 100 of which may be removed; and the proposal to elevate a portion of the site by up to 10 feet.

“We have seen calculations suggesting that 10,000 truckloads of soil will be required to accomplish this elevation change, an action that will surely decimate any remaining cultural heritage landscape features on the site,” says the Foundation letter.

It also raises concerns about the flow of water into One Mile Creek being impacted, the possibility of flooding, and access to the subdivision from 200 John Street that crosses elements of the historic Dunington-Grubb designed landscape.

“Overall, The Niagara Foundation believes the subdivision proposal should be reviewed from the perspective of the community; namely, how will the subdivision connect with and affect the historical and natural heritage of the community?”

Previous development of the Rand properties, including Christopher Street and Weatherstone Court, were well-integrated with adjacent properties, did not require site elevation changes of this magnitude, and respected existing tolerances for density.

The Foundation urges the town to seek a type and scale of development appropriate to the cultural history of NOTL, and one that “complements, not overwhelms, the neighbouring residential areas and meets all legislative requirements.”

Many of the same concerns have been brought up by residents about both properties, and in the case of the Parliament Oak proposal, the developer has gone back to the drawing board as a result of those comments.

The intention of the letters was to “remind people of what is important to keeping community values intact,” says Thomson.

Board members hope to be involved in future discussion of those two proposals, with the intention of seeing “appropriate development that maintains and complements the town’s special heritage and architectural elements, with a clearly expressed policy that allows both applicants and town staff to meet established requirements.”

They also look forward to seeing the report on the closed-session planning workshop councillors attended last week, which should give some indication of how applications such as these two will be dealt with in the future, says Thomson.

What was discussed at the workshop, says Lord Mayor Betty Dosiers, had to do with the abilities and limitations of staff and council when dealing with planning issues. The discussion had to take place in a closed session because “there could be legal rami- fications going forward.”

Council has not seen reports from staff on either development proposals, she says, and she’s not sure when they will. “But there will be opportunities for the Niagara Foundation board members and the public to be involved” in future open house and planning meetings.

---

Don’t miss out on Girl Guide cookies

Emily Ferguson, Emilia Epp and Emmie Cherney, members of the NOTL Brownie unit, were at Emilia’s house recently selling Girl Guide cookies and lemonade. They made some signs and not only had a blast but were extremely successful.

Everything the members to be, as the saying goes, no box of sea raves.

Selling Girl Guide cookies

If you think this would be an enjoyable adventure, let’s talk. Send details of your background and a character reference to: elderlyman3788@gmail.com

---

Falls Family Dental

Dr. Anthony Vecchiarelli, Dr. Josh Garcia, Dr. Ernie Philpott, Dr. Greg Hooper

Mon-Sat from 7:30am-9pm

Emergency Care 24/7

289-296-8880 • 3486 Portage Rd • Niagara Falls
Artists will welcome visitors to Willowbank Studio

Continued from page 1

Adam says, and worth the wait. For the first time in their careers, they have a home in one place — at 1401 on the winding citizens to build up enough of their and Scott Street — and the studios in a location that is not also where they live. Adam says they’re enjoy-

ing the beautiful 15-minute drive to Queenston, an tranquil rural roads that de-

line between their home and work space, now named the Willowbank Studio, and find most days they’re ac-

complishing more than they might have otherwise.

The connection to the Willowbank Estate and School of Restoration Arts just up the hill, and having a couple of downstairs classrooms in the Walnut Road building used by Willowbank students, is a great fit for them. And they have the entire upstairs to themselves, for each to have large studios themselves, with enough room for the classes that are so important to them, and also space for Adam’s paint grinding.

“It feels like there is something special that keeps us feeling attached to our roots,” says Sharon.

There is still some work to be done to complete the con-

version from an old elementary-

school with history, to a cul-

tural centre that respects that history. As Willowbank ren-

ovations are finished up the hill, that is expected to free up some classroom space in the lower campus that can be used by other artisans, “through a slow, organic process,” says Adam. “We have high hopes for this building. We’re hoping for a makery space, and it’s already happening.”

When they’ve had time to build up enough of their own works, Adam and Sharon see using their studios to host their own exhibitions, but they have no plans for a public gallery. Sharon is already offering classes in oil painting, teaching experienced artists a 16th cen-

tury “sight-size” technique —

she demonstrates a group of items, arranged close at hand beside an artist’s canvas, allowing the subjects to be painted at their actual size. Adam is using his top floor workshop, which he has converted from a former staff room, using materials found in the school, for stretching canvas and grinding paint, a skill he plans to teach. His large studio, one of two former upstairs classrooms, gives space for his large, bold, more abstract paintings using the oil paint he mixes. He also has a large woodworking space downstairs, where he designs and makes custom furniture.

The couple say they oc-

casionally have locals drop by, who know the building is occupied, and are anxious to share their memories of when it was the village school, and curious to see how it’s being used.

They expect more of that during an upcoming Open Doors event on Saturday, Oct. 16, planned on an Explore Queenston day, when they will welcome visitors to their private studios to see their work in progress. Adam will also demonstrate the art of making oil paint, which they both use for their art.

The Princess floor to the upper floor will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information visit www.sharonokun.com and www.adammarkovic.com.

RiverBrink Art Museum, Willowbank Estate and The School of Restoration Arts, as well as Brock’s Monument and Queenston Heights, are all participating in the day, including all the artists visit www.sharonokun.com and www.adammarkovic.com. Willowbank Studio is part of a cultural, heritage, history, and community.

RiverBrink, at the corner of the Niagara River Parkway and Queenston Street, features exhibitions of historical and contemporary art, with supporting exhibitions from its permanent collection.

During Explore Queenston, RiverBrink will hold a fund-raising sale of donated trea-

sures to support exhibitions and programming, and will offer scheduled gallery tours, and an plein air painting work-

shop. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and light re-

freshments will be available for purchase. For more in-
formation visit http://www.

rivrbrink.ca/

Willowbank Estate (1834), at the Niagara River Parkway and Dee Road, is a National Historic Site and home to the School of Restoration Arts, with a unique three-year di-

ploma program in heritage conservation — the only program of its kind in Cana-

da. The house, grounds and woodshop will be open to vis-

itors, who can also chat with students and staff. Some of the students will be working on projects, demonstrating different techniques, or sell-

ing their work. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information visit www.willowbank.ca.

Brock’s Monument National Historic Site, at Queenston Heights, will have the Friends of Fort George offering featured talks at noon and 2 p.m. on the Battle of Queenston Heights. For more informa-

tion visit http://friendsoffortgeorge.ca/brocks-monument-index.html.

St. Saviours Anglican Church, at 12 Princess St., was built from 1877 to 1879, con-

structed of local limestone. The Brock memorial window on the west side, above the altar, commemorates Brock’s death. Due to COVID, the church will be closed, but vis-

itors are invited to walk the grounds.

Also partnering for the event is the Queenston Resi-

dents Association, with nine families holding yard sales around the village, beginning at 8 a.m.

There is no charge for en-

trance to Queenston landmarks, but donations will be accepted. Participants are asked to follow provincial COVID-19 health guidelines. For more information, please visit https://covid-19.ontario.ca/

Enjoy the long weekend!

Together we achieve more

We provide our clients with an exceptional, personalized service like no other. Everyone deserves the extraordinary, because luxury is just about price point, it’s about an experience. 

RICHARD MELL
Broker
289-210-0014
rmell@sothebysrealty.ca

DONNA D’AMICO
Sales Representative
905-525-1757
ddamico@sothebysrealty.ca

Sotheby’s International Realty Canada
Sotheby’s International Realty Canada
Sotheby’s International Realty Canada

PUBLIC NOTICE

Resident parking permits and dog licenses are now available for purchase/pick-up from Town Hall, at 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre, at 14 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Please note: Town Administrative buildings are currently closed to the public. Town Staff is available to serve you online, over the phone, and by appointment between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

Please fill out the appropriate application form from the Town website (www.notl.com) and deposit the completed form, along with your payment, in the drop box at Town Hall or mail it to 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, PO Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0. You will be called when your permit and/or license is ready for pick up.

*NEW: Dog licenses can also be obtained through an online application and payment process at www.notl.com/content/doglicenses.

RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS

Parked Permits are available exclusively to residents of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and entitle the holder to one hour of free parking at any parking machine in the Heritage District. Please note a valid piece of identification must be shown as proof of address in order to obtain a permit. Permits are only valid for the vehicle identified by licence plate number shown on the face of the permit and are non- transferable.

Permits issued are valid from January 1 to December 31 of any given year. Residents must therefore renew the permit each year.

The current resident parking permit fee is $20.00. This fee is subject to change effective January 1, 2022.

DOG LICENSES

All dogs must be licensed by January 1, 2022. If you purchase a dog licence before December 24, 2021, you will receive a $10 discount off the annual licensing fee. Save an additional $10 by providing proof that your dog has been spayed or neutered. You must provide proof of current rabies vaccination at the time of purchase to obtain a license.

The current annual licensing fee is $22.00 for an altered dog or $32.00 for an unaltered dog. These fees are subject to change effective January 1, 2022.

St. Saviours Anglican Church, at 12 Princess St., was built from 1877 to 1879, constructed of local limestone. The Brock memorial window on the west side, above the altar, commemorates Brock’s death. Due to COVID, the church will be closed, but visitors are invited to walk the grounds.

Also partnering for the event is the Queenston Residents Association, with nine families holding yard sales around the village, beginning at 8 a.m.

There is no charge for entrance to Queenston landmarks, but donations will be accepted.

Participants are asked to follow provincial COVID-19 health guidelines. For more information, please visit https://covid-19.ontario.ca/

Sharon Okun in her studio on the top floor of the former Laura Secord Memorial School in Queenston. (Photos by Penny Cokes)

Adam Markovic will demonstrate the art of paint grinding, using some of the tools of the Old Masters, during the Queenston Open Doors event.
Trailblazers named on plaque at start of John Street trail

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake community has been so supportive of the Heritage Trail, there was not enough room on the plaque unveiled last Wednesday to recognize all the donors.

There are more than 100 trailblazers listed on the plaque that greets people as they begin their walk, jog or bike ride at the John Street entrance, but there are at least two more plaques planned, those gathered at a small unveiling ceremony were told.

While officials and trail committee members wait to unveil the plaque mounted on armour stone, cyclists, parents and grandparents, with children and dogs were making use of the newly refinished recreational path, made possible by donations from a very generous community.

Mayor Betty Disero called the occasion to thank trailblazers and donors “exciting, but a long time coming.”

She praised and thanked heritage trail volunteers and staff, led by town operations manager Kevin Turcotte, for the vision and hard work it took to see the completion of the first phase of the project.

MP Tony Baldinelli told the small crowd it was “a pleasure for me to be here, for many reasons,” drawing a laugh, as he mentioned his recent re-election.

“We’re here to celebrate community, its impact on raising funds, and importance to the trail, going back to its beginning.”

But it’s just the first phase, and we have more work to be done as we go through to Queenston and York Road.”

MPP Wayne Gates also thanked those who donated, stressing the trail’s heritage significance, and its importance to the overall health of the community.

However, he added, “this is wonderful, but I guess what they’re short of is money.” He told the crowd that to celebrate Baldinelli’s election win, “I thought I should wear my blue socks,” and he did.

“Our offices already work close together,” he said of the federal MP, and suggested, together, as elected officials, they should be doing everything they can to get the funds needed to finish the trail.

“If we make sure the people in Queen’s Park and in Ottawa know how important this is to the overall health of the community, I think we can do that. I’m saying today I think we can make this happen.”

Gates said the trail is important to the town’s heritage, “and we don’t want to lose it to development.”

To the applause of those gathered to hear his promise, he committed to working with all levels of government to get the project finished.

“If money is a stumbling block, we can do it together.”

“You can’t always go to the community,” he added. “Politicians have a role to play here too.”

Regional Coun. Gary Zelepa walked along the trail to the meeting, and said he used to walk it when he was a teenager.

“It’s changed a lot, for the better,” he said, offering to work with the region and other levels of government for more resources for the completion of the project.

Coun. Allan Bisback, a member of the trail committee and also chair of the town’s budget committee, said he was pleased to hear support for funding for the remainder of the work, fulfilling the vision of going all the way to St. Davids, and promising to get there.

In 2017, said committee chair Rick Meloen, “I wasn’t sure what kind of interest or support this project would generate.” The response, he said, was “overwhelming.”

The idea of keeping the railroad alive is very important to him, he added, and became even more so when he had some health problems this summer, and was advised by his doctor to start walking every day.

With that thought in mind, “the trails in town took on a different significance. I understood better the value of having a venue like this for the residents of the town. This is another trail, another venue for more people to have more opportunities to get out more and exercise more, and I don’t have anything more to say,” he ended with a laugh.

Tony Chisholm, vice-chair of the committee, said there are about 130 donors who need to be thanked and there will be a second plaque at the Charlotte Street entrance.

The fact that the work was completed “with local people’s money, is really pretty significant.”

A third one will recognize corporate donors, he added.

The committee is about to begin working on the cost of the next phase of the trail, but so far, the cost has been about $100 a metre, and that’s likely to be the case for future work, Chisholm said. About $100,000 to $120,000 was raised through donations, as well as a generous gift of $40,000 from Canopy Growth.
From Cathy’s desk: library helping farm workers

As mentioned in last month’s column, we’re implementing our four-year strategic plan and this month, I’m highlighting library staff serving our migrant worker community. Bringing library programs and services to all areas of the municipality, community events and to those who cannot come to the library is one of the goals of our second strategic direction, “build community.”

Community engagement coordinator Debbie Krause has been going out to the migrant worker community over the last few years to better understand their needs and how best to meet them.

This year, thanks to an expanded Young Canada Works program, we were able to hire Mariana van Berkum on contract to assist Debbie. Mariana moved with her family to NOTL from Colombia in 2008, and attended parliament Oak and St. Michael Catholic elementary schools, Holy Cross Secondary School and is currently a fourth-year criminology major with a minor in law and society at Wilfrid Laurier University. Mariana knows the community and is fluent in Spanish, which has been a huge help building rapport and gathering information from Spanish-speaking workers. As Mariana explains, “after doing some research, I created a flyer with information about local services and agencies that advocate for and help migrant farm workers. Debbie and I wanted to set up in a location where the workers could easily reach us, so we could create a bond and discover what services the library could provide. With the opening of the Migrant Worker Hub, run by Julia Buxton-Cox, it gave us a great location where we could connect and do outreach work.”

When I asked Mariana what kinds of services migrant workers need, she explained the first thing they asked for was help printing and laminating vaccine receipts. Laminating receipts for over 500 workers opened the door to conversations about their needs and what the library could do for them. Max Ramos, who has worked as a student page at the library since 2016 and is currently in his fourth year of political science studies at Brock University, also works at The Hub and explains vaccine receipts are needed to return to home countries. Max, Mariana and Debbie set up an internet hotspot, printer and laminator every Thursday at The Hub and Communities in Bloom volunteers provide produce from our community garden for the workers to take free of charge.

Over the summer, Max saw some of the farm workers from The Hub at the library. “They used the printer/copier to create copies of their work schedules for themselves and other workers that lived with them. The main obstacle preventing more migrant workers from coming to the library is transportation and free time. They have the money to pay for printing/copying services and have a need for Wi-Fi but the library is a significant distance from most farms, and they almost only rely on bikes. Additionally, since they have limited hours off work, many don’t want to spend the majority of those hours commuting to and from the library.”

After a few months at The Hub, staff and migrant workers got to know each other and, as Mariana describes it, “we realized it was very important to have some kind of connection with the workers, and they became more comfortable, they began asking for help filling out applications, printing documents and translating forms. Each week we realized the library offered services workers needed but lacked accessibility to, so it was great that we were able to go to them.”

In addition to working directly with migrant farm workers, Debbie also works with library, church, health and social justice organizations who support the workers. She is pleased to report these groups are now working more closely together. She also shared some of the things we’ve learned from our time at The Hub:

• There is a lack of safe transportation from most farms to services like The Hub, library, grocery stores, post office, etc.
• Both Spanish and English-speaking workers want English literacy classes.
• Many requested assistance filling out government forms for things like pension and immigration.
• Many do not know where other farms are located — farms where they have friends and family — and there’s a general lack of geographical knowledge about the area.
• Many had no idea how to navigate the health care system — in fact, they were unaware they had a health card number.

Mariana also saw the need for literacy classes and for recreational classes, such as painting, “something they could do aside from work, in a different but safe environment.” Max sums up his Hub experience this way: “I was really happy I got to help with the program this summer. I learned a lot about the migrant worker community and think this community is often overlooked or ignored in conversations about Niagara-on-the-Lake. This experience helped me to understand the major role that they play in the community.”

Library staff and volunteers, such as Jane Andres, Julia Buxton-Cox, Terry Weiner, Mark Gaudet and many more, are making sure the migrant farm worker community isn’t overlooked, and is better served. We are honed to work with them.

Cathy Simpson
NOTL Library CEO
Special to The Local

Evel Gardner, with library staff Mariana van Berkum and Max Ramos, who helped out at the farm workers Hub.

Library staff Sarah Bower and Debbie Krause help laminate vaccination certificates for farm workers when they fly home. (Photos by Jane Andres)
Let's see what we can accomplish before Sept. 30, 2022

Nature can’t be blamed for some crazy names

Owen Bjorjan Special to The Local

Across the natural world and our names for other living things, there exists a slough of both fictitious and humorous names for our fellow species.

For a moment, we must recognize that none of the following trees, fish, fungi or amphibians chose their names. They simply operate on a tangent of success for survival and reproduction. Unlike people, they remain unharmed by nicknames and official names alike, as they are separate from our musings on paper and conversation.

Mind you, if you were asked a lake clubbucker, odds are it would raise some eyebrows from your peers. This endangered and nationally rare fish, despite its name, is often found in warm but healthy streams across extreme southern Ontario. As touched upon in previous articles for The Local, by being in the southern Ontario, we happen to live in a region of unparalleled biodiversity compared to the rest of Canada, known as the Carolinian Forest zone. This fish exists nowhere else in the country, let alone the province.

This comes at a cost for the lake clubbucker. This small, or dory-looking, bottom-feeder is running out of warm and healthy ecosystems in the Niagara Region and its rapidly expanding developments. Similar in appearance to a carp, but much higher in unique significance, this fish is affected by habitat loss and increased sediment input into local streams. It’s almost like being intentionally bullied for its name.

Continued on page 7

Donald Combe Special to The Local

“on the verge” of middle crises. Each of them doing her best, but not quite making it, however, each supported by the other three. Interesting.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he reimagines going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet” exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.
Coffee trees now in Virgil

Continued from page 6

Perhaps, once upon a time, before European settlement on the Niagara Peninsula, the threatened lake chub sucker would have swam by the Ken-

tucky coffee tree. I know — it sounds like a strange nursery rhyme or childhood story destined for replication across generations. However, the Kentucky coffee trees unusual name represents just how un-

usual it is in Canada.

Earlier this year, a love-

you couple attended one of my eco-wise hiking tours. Through small talk during the tour and after a couple of

ips, I told them about the 30 native tree species I had plant-

ed as a personal reforestation project on the outskirts of Vir-

gil. They then told me about a Kentucky coffee tree, a species

found between Niagara and Windsor and nowhere else

across our great nation, that was growing and sprouting suckers (young trees that form off of the parent tree nearby) in their backyard. They of-

fered to transport the suckers, now saplings, to my farm to add to the species richness of the landscape. I excitedly

obliged and thanked the day-

lights out of them for such a

obliged and thanked the day-

light shining through the leaves of the tree and expressed their gratitude for the tour and my work in protecting and promoting Kentucky coffee trees as a native tree species.

The Kentucky coffee tree, with its unusual alternate

leaves and gangly stature, is more common in the southeastern states, but they can survive on minimal envi-

ronmental standards up here in southern Ontario.

This adds to the minu-

uous biodiversity of our area.

Just today, hours before writing this article, I found one of these trees as a stand-alone relic in Short Hills Provincial Park for the first time in my life. It ap-

pears to be the only recorded location for this tree across the peninsula, and now, there is a small family of them in Virgil.

These trees will not be com-

peting with Timmies for cof-

fees sales, though, yes, you can make a hot beverage out of the seeds in its pods, but you must roast them properly or else the beans are toxic to consume. Given that fact, plus the spe-

cies rarity, it is simply a tree to admire as a national gem when you encounter it. To me, there is nothing cooler than a unique

DNA arrangement existing in limited locales. It is a peculiar

but honest sign that life has boundaries but can succeed within them.

Another fun and unusual-

ly linguistic name goes to the sassafras tree. Its leaves grow imperfectly and unpredictably. Sometimes, the leaf of this small but explicit tree species, once again unique to south-

ern Ontario, grows as a unified lump, or sometimes as a thre-

eed dinosaur footprint.

Bouncing from sassafras to

sassafras might be a small, grey and white bird known as yourer dark-eyed junco. If you find one of these in a back

alley of the big city, I’d run from a dark-eyed junco, too. Lucky-

ly for you on your walk along the Niagara Escarpment and its stand of sassafras trees in Queenston, this small yet beau-

tiful sparrow is far from a worn out drug dealer. It bounces

gingerly above the very forest landscape in which wild ginger still grows, looking for seeds and small insects to fulfill its

perpetual diet. Blindly un-

aware of the loaded name our society has applied to it, Oh, to be a dark-eyed junco and exist in perpetual peace.

I think it’s funny to sit back and think about the names we have given to plants and animals (and don’t even get me started on fungi, like dead

mansi fingers). The various

species that fly, swim, slither and grow in our surroundings are just innocent, collateral dam-

age of our developments and name-calling alike.

All I know through my childhood and biology studies is that we should never judge a book by its cover, or an element of nature by its name.

The Niagara Foundation was established as a charita-

table organization in 1962 to promote the history, tradi-

tions and culture of the Ni-

agara area.

Historical buildings, landscapes and viewscapes have always been a focus of the Foundation. In some in-

stances, this has involved ad-

vocacy for the preservation of buildings endangered through development. Oth-

ers were buildings threat-

ened by deterioration and lack of use. Over the years the Foundation, along with other heritage groups, have made presentations to vari-

ous levels of government, commissions, committees etc., promoting the preser-

vation of the architectural, cultural and environmental integrity of the entire town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

It is with this in mind that we appeal to council to approach the planning workshop discussions you are currently engaged in with a view to determining im-

mediate steps to be taken to retain the precious heritage and architectural character of Niagara-on-the-Lake. We look forward to council express-

ing a clear and strong commitment to our towns special character through the options you have available to you — zoning bylaw amend-

ments, a return to contextu-

al zoning that manages our streetscapes and develop-

ment of community plans.

We understand that the
town’s Official Plan will not be reviewed for approval by the region until the region’s Official Plan review is com-

pleted (estimated to be July 2022). Council should be seek-

ing immediate solutions from the experts conducting your planning workshops.

We look forward to hearing the outcome from the work-

shops and to hopefully be-

ing invited to participate in a public session.

The Board of The Niagara Foundation

Jane Dagg, Victor Elliott,

Michael Fox, Lyle Hall, Richard Merritt,

Brad Nixon, Sam Rideais,

Albrecht Seeger, Paul Shepherd, Gabe Takash, Janice Thomson

The Niagara Foundation hopes for input in planning decisions

Lawns can be harmful to the environment

In this day and age of environmen-

tal responsibility, it is disheartening and angering to see that peo-

ple continue to water their

lawns, let alone during a rain-

fall!

On a recent walk, one

such home on Queen Street had multiple sprinklers going at full blast, and yet, there was no need, since it was raining and we are in the month of October.

Every year across the county, lawns consume approximately one-plus trillion gallons of water a year, hundreds of millions of gallons of gas (for all that mow-

ing), and 50-plus million pounds of pesticides. And for what? Lawns provide virtually no habitat for pol-

linators and other animals and plants that make up a healthy, diverse ecosystem. In fact, these lawns can be substantially harmful to the environment and to both vertebrates and insects.

A manicured lawn, in my opinion, is nothing more than a sign of vanity. We live in a planet where some Indigenous communities continue to be without clean, running water. And yet, in privileged communities like Niaga-

ra-on-the-Lake, we are be-

ing frivolous and wasteful.

I believe it is high time that elected officials look into making lawn watering a thing of the past.

Thank you for taking the time to read my rant.

Catherine Butler

NOTL

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.

Feature your business in our

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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

NOLT Businesses contact

Karen at 905-641-5335

karen@notllocal.com

Julia at 905-934-1040

julia@notllocal.com

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Local

The Trusted Voice of our Community

The Eymanns and
the Eymanns and family.

As time passed, all bonds with each other.

they were neighbours, located, had been un-

derelict building. One

unique, quality restau-

rants and drive to open a

restaurant and the re-

estaurant.

The kitchen would

showcase their passion

and drive to open a

restaurant. Becoming welcomed into their

home.

warm and welcomed, as

a restaurant in which
drinks and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.

The desire to pro-

mote local wine

showcase local live en-
murals and drive to open a

restaurant.

By the best in local wine

and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.

The desire to pro-

mote local wine

showcase local live en-
murals and drive to open a

restaurant.

By the best in local wine

and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.

The desire to pro-

mote local wine

showcase local live en-
murals and drive to open a

restaurant.

By the best in local wine

and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.

The desire to pro-

mote local wine

showcase local live en-
murals and drive to open a

restaurant.

By the best in local wine

and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.

The desire to pro-

mote local wine

showcase local live en-
murals and drive to open a

restaurant.

By the best in local wine

and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.

The desire to pro-

mote local wine

showcase local live en-
murals and drive to open a

restaurant.

By the best in local wine

and sports fans to come

vide the perfect meeting

spot for sports teams.
Overhead Door Company of St. Catharines

The red ribbon means you’ve found everything you’re looking for in a garage door – reliable performance, innovative design and a range of styles and options to fit any home.

Overhead Door Co. St. Catharines
13 Seapark Drive, Unit 1, St. Catharines
905-682-5591

Call for your quote today!

John Foreman
President, NOTL B&B Association

There has been a flurry of articles in the NOTL press over the past few weeks concerning short-term rentals (STRs). The negative bias and misinformation in some of these articles is very disturbing, especially the casting of STRs as a blight on the town, and the calls for their elimination.

First, I would like to provide a bit of background. My wife and I moved here four years ago, purchasing a house in the Old Town which had been a B&B for the past 20 years. Our plan was to run the B&B for some number of years as a semi-retirement opportunity, prior to fully retiring in the Niagara Region for over 50 years. For the town, the percentage numbers have gone up (especially as the popularity of Airbnb has grown). Where there were approximately 300 B&Bs. Now it is estimated there are over 1,000. In NOTL (and this has likely been the case for many years), there were over 15 per cent of NOTL’s STRs assumedly account for a significant number of tourism rentals. Furthermore, the calls for their elimination, especially the casting of STR owners as greedy out-of-town investors is overstated. If unhosted STRs account for just over 1 per cent of property values, they assume a significant share of the real estate transactions each year. It would seem unlikely that STRs are the main driver behind high real estate prices in NOTL.

One of these is a B&B (ours). B&Bs and other rental properties are a significant part of the tourism industry. From my perspective on STRs, one of the main concerns regarding STRs is the issue of STR owners as greedy out-of-town investors. To me, this is a very popular place to live and there will always be a strong demand for people looking for vacation homes or retirement homes in NOTL. As a result, prices will always be higher than the average.

In a nutshell, STRs are a significant number of homes in NOTL, and this has likely been the case for many years. In NOTL’s 2013 STR count, approximately 10 to 15 per cent of NOTL’s properties were classified as STRs. In 2014, 20 per cent were classified as STRs. In 2015, the number was similarly high (or higher). In 2016, 30 per cent were classified as STRs. In 2017, the number was over 50 per cent. In 2018, the number was over 70 per cent. In 2019, the number was over 80 per cent. In 2020, the number was over 90 per cent. In 2021, the number was over 100 per cent. In other words, STRs are a significant number of homes in NOTL, and this has likely been the case for many years. In NOTL (and this has likely been the case for many years), there were over 15 per cent of NOTL’s STRs account for a significant number of tourism rentals. Furthermore, the calls for their elimination, especially the casting of STR owners as greedy out-of-town investors is overstated. If unhosted STRs account for just over 1 per cent of property values, they assume a significant share of the real estate transactions each year. It would seem unlikely that STRs are the main driver behind high real estate prices in NOTL.

On a related note, a particular concern of mine (living in a historic home as we do), is that eliminating STRs would result in the loss of many of our quaint older properties being sold as private homes and being either renovated or replaced with modern-looking homes. I can see examples of...
Continued from page 8 this today as I walk around the Old Town. I believe the disappearance of the small, quaint older homes once so common in the Old Town is a great loss for the town and would be accelerated by eliminating cottage rentals.

To be clear, I am not trying to downplay the concerns of residents regarding STRs. There are certainly issues to address. But I do believe that STRs in all their forms add value to the town and to the movement to eliminate STRs hurts the tourism industry and ultimately hurts the town. I believe that it is worth seeking solutions that address legitimate concerns while allowing STRs to survive and thrive. I don’t deceive myself into believing there are perfect solutions to these concerns, but I certainly believe there are good ones. For example, implementation of a “principal residence” requirement, whereby STRs must be owner-occupied, would essentially eliminate cottage rentals. Cottage rentals are a feature of NOTL for many decades. They do not only provide an alternative for families and groups for whom hotels are not a viable option, they also help reduce the cost per day of a stay in NOTL (especially by not having to eat out for every meal), and allow visitors to stay longer and participate in more activities. Their disappearance would be a great loss for the town.

I would like to suggest three cornerstones for successfully addressing concerns around STRs: licensing, bylaw enforcement and stakeholder consultation.

The first cornerstone is licensing. The precise number of unlicensed cottage rentals is unknown, but it is estimated by some to be comparable to the number of licensed cottage rentals. It will be impossible to address the concerns around STRs unless the unlicensed properties are accounted for. I believe that account for a disproportionate number of the issues, can be brought into the fold. The town has hired the firm Granicus Host Compliance to assist with this. It is early days, but I believe that last month’s progress was significant.

The second requirement is fair and consistent bylaw enforcement. Historically, the town has not had the ability to effectively enforce its STR bylaws, especially with regard to noise complaints, with the result that people come to believe that more rigorous bylaws are required, when in fact what is required is more rigorous enforcement of current bylaws. That said, it is important that the bylaws be fair, enforceable and effective, which leads to my next point.

My third recommendation is for consultation and collaboration with stakeholders. The fall of 2020, council was presented with a revised STR bylaw package that included many terms that would have been very punitive for STR owners. These terms were put forward in response to feedback from some citizens with some very specific issues, but the proposed remedies were heavy-handed and overly severe.

At the suggestion of the B&B Association, a temporary STR committee was formed, including councillors, tourism industry representatives and NOTL citizens. The committee investigated the issues thoroughly and objectively and proposed solutions back to council that would serve the needs of all stakeholders. That committee is on hold for now, having fulfilled its purpose, pending presentation of its recommendations to council. We believe the work of the STR committee has led to a more fair, enforceable and effective STR bylaw and provides a model for dealing with future issues with some very specific issues, but the proposed remedies were heavy-handed and overly severe.

At the suggestion of the B&B Association, a temporary STR committee was formed, including councillors, tourism industry representatives and NOTL citizens. The committee investigated the issues thoroughly and objectively and proposed solutions back to council that would serve the needs of all stakeholders. That committee is on hold for now, having fulfilled its purpose, pending presentation of its recommendations to council. We believe the work of the STR committee has led to a more fair, enforceable and effective STR bylaw and provides a model for dealing with future issues with some very specific issues, but the proposed remedies were heavy-handed and overly severe.

We may not have to wait for the opportunity to participate in such an activity. I believe STRs add to the character of NOTL and provide forms of accommodation that a significant number of tourists are looking for. STRs have been part of the tourism ecosystem in NOTL for many decades. For my wife and I, and for many others, they are a part of the charm of the town and, in our case, a significant part of the reason we are here. While there are legitimate concerns to address regarding STRs, I certainly believe that on balance they add to the town, and that proposals to eliminate STRs are misguided and would ultimately hurt the town. It would be far better to leverage the proven approach of consultation and collaboration to find solutions that serve all stakeholders.

We in the Bed & Breakfast Association hope that the talents and creativity of the many stakeholders in NOTL’s success can be brought to bear to address the issues of concern while preserving this very valuable asset of our community.
Learn & Live: enriched learning opportunities for all ages

Cindy Grant
Terry MacTaggart
Larry W. Chambers
Special to The Local

The Learn & Live program is a new initiative that arose from one of the recommendations in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Wellness Committee’s report to council. A small steering committee of local people has been meeting since the spring of 2021 to develop this initiative; the program will present a curricu-

ulum of themed seminars and discussion groups around a va-

riety of topics delivered over a series of in-person and virtual sessions.

The three sessions are:

- October 12: The Emotional Wellness of Learning, led by Dr. Ron Clavier
- November 9: Reduce your Risk of Dementia, led by Dr. Larry W. Chambers
- December 14: Aging Well, led by Dr. Sam Thrall

Dr. Clavier, brain scientist and clinical psychologist who lives in NOTL, will describe how learning is our most pow-

erful tool to reach emotional wellness. Even in the best of times, money, food, employ-

ment insecurities, housing problems, and family turmoil are just a few of the threats that can leave us feeling anxious and depressed. These feelings are often worsened significant-

ly during times of socio-political upheaval, climate change, and a global pandemic.

Dr. Clavier acknowledges that we may not be able to eradicate such threats. But he will introduce effective neuro-

science-based learning strate-

gies that identify and challenge the negative self-images and attitudes that these threats can engender. Importantly, these strategies can be learned in early childhood, by reward-

ing healthy brain functioning, they work for people of all ages.

Learning is the gift that frees people to change their minds about their personal situa-
tions and gives them hope that things can, indeed, improve.

Dr. Chambers, former sci-

etific advisor to the Alzheimer Society of Canada and Research Director of the Niagara Regional Campus of the McMaster Uni-

versity’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, will speak on how we hear many people and care providers talking about “confused older people,” but these people talking about old-
er people are confused. There is widespread confusion about, for example, the relationship between normal aging and de-

mentia, and the relationship between dementia and Alzhei-

mer’s disease.

In addition to this igno-
rance, there are many wrong beliefs about dementia and normal aging. Almost all of these errors sustain the belief that until a drug for Alzhei-

mer’s disease is developed there is nothing that an individual or society can do about demen-
tia. However, there is strong evidence: first, that the brain is plastic, not static, and can improve at any age; second, that action can be taken by both in-

dividuals and society to reduce the risk of dementia. Research and development on interven-
tions to prevent or treat Alzhei-

mer’s is of vital importance, but there is strong evidence that other causes of dementia can be prevented or reversed.

Dr. Thrall, geriatrician at Niagara Health and an Asst-
tant Professor, Niagara Re-

gional Campus, McMaster’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, will address ques-
tions including: What is healthy aging? What does it look like? Can we stave off frailty, depen-
dence, and cognitive impair-

ment, or are they inevitable? What can you do to age well?

Come and hear what a physi-

cian, who specializes in the care of older adults with complex issues, has to say about these important questions.

If you have questions about the program or suggestions for future programs, please con-
tact Cindy Grant Cgrant36@cogeco.ca or Terry MacTaggart mact@bell.net

We look forward to seeing you on Oct 12!
As we age, many of us realize that we may lose some strength and flexibility. But staying active and healthy as you get older can prevent this and is easier than you think. All it takes is keeping a few lifestyle and wellness tips in mind:

**Exercise your body**

Getting at least 150 minutes of exercise a week including light cardio and muscle- and bone-strengthening activities is recommended and helps maintain your posture and balance. These exercises could include climbing stairs, walking, dancing or simple yoga poses, all of which you can do outdoors or indoors as the weather cools in the fall. Even practicing a few new stretches or balance exercises, such as standing on one foot, can make a difference.

**Learn something new**

Research shows that trying your hand at something new helps your brain forge new pathways and keeps your mind and body engaged, which is key to maintaining one's overall well-being. Consider learning tai chi, which is a gentle way to reduce stress and anxiety while improving flexibility and balance. Or you can take up a new language to exercise your mind — there are apps that even turn it into a fun game.

**Have a backup plan**

“Accidents can happen to anyone, even to healthy and flexible people in their sixties, so it’s important to be prepared and think ahead in the event of a fall or other accident,” says Dr. Samir Sinha, director of health policy research at the National Institute on Ageing. “Yet more than 30 per cent of older Canadians report not being prepared to manage medical emergencies when alone.”

To help stay safe in an emergency, older Canadians can also use discreet and wearable technology that can connect you to 24/7 live emergency support and even provide automatic fall detection. It offers peace of mind at home or while on-the-go and can be worn discretely on your wrist or around your neck.

*Source: newscanada.com*
Local writer works with ‘street cop’ on memoir

Penny Coles
The Local

A retired RCMP officer from Nova Scotia has chosen to pick up about some of his experiences during his career, what it’s like to struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder, and how he is dealing with early onset Alzheimer’s.

To do that, he has been receiving assistance from Beverley Hotchkiss, a Niagara-on-the-Lake woman who has edited and co-authored two other books.

She was isolating during COVID, she explains, and looking for work she could do from home, when she saw an advertisement from Patrick Guy Roy, looking for someone to help him write his memoir. He wanted to share his life story and leave a legacy for his children, and was also hoping it would exercise his brain and strengthen his memory, delaying the progression of Alzheimer’s.

Hotchkiss thought it was timely she would be interested in doing, and they spoke by phone and hit it off. A few days later she was offered the job, and was happy to take it.

Hotchkiss has yet to meet Roy in person, but has had nine months of phone conversations and virtual meetings when they’re working, as well as sharing personal life stories over beers and relaxing while playing board games, building a close friendship alongside with a productive working relationship.

She compares Roy’s fear of Alzheimer’s as taking him into retreat, unable to socialize in the way he was accustomed to, as somewhat similar to going into isolation during the pandemic, “except we know we’re going to come out of it. He isn’t. He’s going deeper into it.”

Roy is 62 years old. When he was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s two years ago, he decided he wanted to write about his career as a police officer, and the incidents that led to his PTSD, by putting the experiences, knowledge of PTSD, and that openness and understanding that was needed for them to work together.

There was much they shared that isn’t part of the book, but helped develop not only a friendship but furthered her understanding of policing, and what Roy, his fellow officers and all police experience, dealing with sexual predators, people with homicidal schizophrenia, domestic violence, drugs, international kidnapping, and a “litany of life-threatening situations, in a career that historically negates male sensitivities and emotions.”

Although the book was originally meant for Roy’s family, Fighting the Good Fight has turned into a story with a much wider audience, says Hotchkiss, including active and retired men and women in policing across the country, those who are suffering from PTSD, and people with Alzheimer’s, especially other men. It’s become a book that will help others in society, she says, not only those dealing with similar issues as Roy, but their families as well.

“We realized it had branched out and will attract a much larger audience. It is tapping a much bigger audience than a memoir for his kids.”

In doing research, she says, she learned there had been very few news stories and few publications from a street-cop perspective that deal with the lasting effects of PTSD, and that there are more than 747,000 people living with Alzheimer’s in Canada, “in my market research I was unable to find a single book written by a man with Alzheimer’s.”

There has been much written about Alzheimer’s, by medical experts, and by women who are in the early stages of the disease, but not by men, who tend to be hesitant to share their thoughts and emotions, she says.

During the course of working with Roy, Hotchkiss spoke to his three children, his current partner, his brother, and some of his policing friends.

There have been evenings, she says, when she, Roy and one of his buddies, “would grab a beer in our respective locales and chat.”

That experience has transformed her understanding of these men, their profession, and “the pain and sensitivity that they carry.”

Her work became taking Roy’s writing — he would tell his stories, but they would read like a police report, she says — and through their follow-up conversations, she could fill out the stories, add dialogue and bring them to life.

“It is his voice, and his story,” she says, with her name on the book as editor.

With the writing behind her, Hotchkiss says, “I’m not sure what the universe holds for me next,” she has had her own personal struggles in recent years — a divorce, having to give up her share of a business she had built with her former husband, and then a battle against breast cancer which completely changed her attitude toward life, she says. It made her realize that life can’t be “just about good or bad experiences, there are always some of both.”

She describes her experience with cancer as “a pretty intense ride.”

A person who felt she had to be in control of every aspect of her life, cancer taught her to relinquish that control, and live for the moment. “I used to try to control life. Now I feel like it will bring me what I need.”

“My role is to listen, to be active and open to what will come next.”

She does that now as a writer and an artist, and discovered during the pandemic she had to “hustle for work,” but that it is work she loves. She also loves her NOTL community, who rallied around her and surrounded her with love and support when she was battling cancer, she says.

She has taught at Niagara College, and hopes there will be an opportunity to teach again in the future, she says, enjoying the mentoring aspect of working with young people.

Hotchkiss also hopes to one day meet Roy in person, and that their friendship will continue. With the book now in the hands of publishers, her current goal is to have it published and in Roy’s hands “before the impact of Alzheimer’s strips him of that awareness.”

And maybe to pitch it as a Netflix series, she adds — Roy’s story one that would resonate with viewers.

Hopefully Patrick Guy Roy’s memoir, Fighting the Good Fight, will be in his hands soon, before his memory deteriorates further.

Beverley Hotchkiss has written and painted her way through COVID, and isn’t sure what’s next — just that whatever it is will find her. (Photos supplied)
Photographer David Gilchrist came across a local grape harvesting recently on Concession 1, showing Watson’s Farms’ mechanical harvesting operation.
Interview with Ben

Ben Van Veghal-Wood, 12
Grade 7

Ben in NOTL?

I like Garrison House. I like
eating in Niagara-on-the-Lake
and going there when they
are being serious. I
like their fries and
design a lot.
I think it would be waking
up and going to Stagecoach
for a little breakfast. Then
going to the beach and hav-
ing a Bluewater (Bakeshop)
day at the beach. And of
course I’ll have to do Fitters
on the Lake for a little treat
after. I’ll go to the shop that
sells all the Canadian stuff.

What is your favourite
book?
A. My favourite book is Among
the Hidden by Margaret
(Peterson) Haddix. I like it
because it’s a mystery about
a shadow child. It’s a little
scary, but the chapters are
short so it’s not overwhelm-
ing and it’s not boring.

There’s always an event.

What do you do to help
others?
A. I try to help people in
my class as much as possible.
I try to help them with their
math and language. I’m good
at reading social cues so I know
when someone is joking and
when they are being serious.

Q. What’s that certain
thing that makes you special?

A. When I was four my
mom got me an American Girl
doll. Instead of playing with
it, I usually did her hair.
And ever since, I have just
done so many hair styles.
Now I’ve given all the dolls
away and I am working on
professional marinquekis. I have
my own hair salon in my
basement. I have my own
chair, I have my mirrors,
I have my rolling cart.

Riddle me this...

Riddle: Sam and Jenna who were outside in
the rain without an umbrella or hat didn’t get
wet.

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and inter-
acting with the community in a positive way.
We welcome
submissions for all categories from kids of any age.
Please keep
the reviews positive and all submitted content appro-
priate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to
joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please
put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.
Local artist downsizing her world of miniatures

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Cindy Carter’s houses are for sale. And a few of her shops, restaurants, and even a live-in pumpkin.

“They are all part of a miniature world filling a 264-square foot room in her Old Town home. Every corner is filled with dioramas of both real life and fantasy. Three- and four-story dollhouses sit in the center, each room depicting everyday life from days long gone. There’s an enchanted garden decorated with detailed purple wisteria vines and a tree made out of hat boxes. A sewing room is housed in a cardboard box decorated to look like a Singer sewing machine. And a room full of mace sit on a log waiting for Santa’s arrival. Every setting has an incredible amount of detail. She adds a mouse or some other animal to each one of her creations. And many of the special touches are representative of Carter’s whimsical sense of humour. One scene depicts a man with a drink and a stogie, sitting beside a bottle labeled "viagra," and another features an anatomically correct man soaking in a bathtub while reading a Playboy magazine. She’s quick to point out that she is an equal opportunity miniaturist, as another features an elderly woman in an outhouse reading an issue of Playboy. For the articles, of course.

Born in Port Colborne, Carter began making miniatures about 60 years ago. It’s a hobby she learned on her own, while growing up in nearby Dain City.

She says she never enjoyed art classes while attending high school at Welland Centennial and Eastdale Secondary Schools. Home economics classes didn’t appeal to her either. She loved to sew, but didn’t like her teachers telling her to do it their way. Carter’s mother taught her how to knit, and in her early 20s she started sewing her own clothes. When she had her two children, a boy and a girl, she often made clothes for them as well.

She attended Niagara College for social services, but didn’t finish the program. Carter’s mother taught her to record an itemized list of everything that she has created. That includes the amount spent on every little piece in each display. “I know exactly what I spent,” she laughs. "I keep good records. It has served me well over the years. Having the paperwork has prevented me from being scammed." She is not ready to part with the Rainbow Bridge, for instance, a tribute to the animal lover’s many, many pets she has cared for and lost through the years. She named them all — Mommie and Cheekie, her sheepherder Maggie, her cocker spaniel Coco, and dozens more.

Caleb’s Pub is reserved for her grandson, for whom it was named. Her grandchild, now teenagers, grew up loving the miniatures and played with them whenever they could. “They were really good,” she recalls. “I used to have a (doll) house in the living room for them, so when they came it was right there. They knew they could come into grandma’s room, but they weren’t allowed to play with anything. This was grandma’s playroom.”

“The Secrets of the Sorcerer, constructed with paper mache and styrofoam, with intricate items all hand-made except for a garboge and a couple of other small pieces, she’s saving for one of her dearest friends.”

“She has honed her craft, as another features a grandchild sitting in front of her family’s Port Colborne fireplace. And there’s a gotted table clock displaying a collection of family heirlooms. "I went to this flea market and found this clock, and it didn’t work," she says. "I ripped out all the insides and cut out the windows on the outside. I made the grandmother clock, and a grandfather clock, and all the clocks here are made out of my mother’s old watches.”

Some of her creations are not ready to part with. The two friends bounce ideas off of each other regularly, and Carter says annual visits during non-COVID times to miniatures shows, such as one in Hamburg just outside of Buffalo, have given her a wealth of new challenging ideas to try through the years. After seeing her organized supply closets, it’s no surprise to learn Carter keeps a book to record an itemized list of everything that she has created. That includes the amount spent on every little piece in each display. "I know exactly what I spent," she says. "I keep good records. It has served me well over the years. Having the paperwork has prevented me from being scammed." She determined to get a fair price for everything she parts with over the next little while, including the four-story Kentucky Victorian home that depicts a 1950s-era family doing a Victorian update from that era. "The sides of the house are open to view, protected by plastic sheets which serve the added purpose of eliminating the need to dust the tiny people and props populating the rooms. For Carter, grandma’s playroom is her refuge. “I can come in here and get totally lost," she tells The Local. “The world ceases to exist. I can come in here upset, and I’ll forget what I was upset about.” Though she is committed to selling off much of her collection, one might also think, while being given a tour of her miniature museum, that maybe, just maybe, she wants a bit more room to accommodate some new ideas. Carter welcomes inquiries from those who are serious about acquiring some of her work. She can be reached at 905-468-5063.

Cindy Carter has a room full of miniatures, some of which are for sale. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Music Niagara Festival fans will have the chance this week to experience a side of playwright George Bernard Shaw that is rarely on display at the theatre named in his honour. They will also enjoy a set of compositions that they likely will be hearing for the first time.

Before Shaw became one of the most celebrated playwrights in history, he wrote music criticism for various London newspapers. The trademark wit and acerbic humour that modern audiences still love was first brought to the music world.

As one might imagine, his expert use of the English language entertained readers, as he turned the art form on its head. He once said, “I purposely vulgarized musical criticism, which was refined and academic to the point of being unreadable and often nonsensical.”

The Saturday, Oct. 9 on-line presentation of Shaw and Music focuses on this aspect of Shaw’s writings, matching his words with music from Mozart and another composer, German Hermann Gustav Goetz, who was soon to be forgotten.

Long-time Shaw cast member Guy Bannerman returns to Music Niagara to give voice to words written by Shaw in the early 20th century.

“It was a significant part of his biography,” Bannerman tells The Local, “writing music criticism for a decade and a half before he started catching on as a playwright.”

Bannerman has no doubt that this period of Shaw’s career influenced some of his plays. “We’d like to think that a lot of his observation and critical faculties were developed through all his music criticism and that’s part of what had him so successful as a playwright.”

More specifically, Bannerman adds, “You see some of the same themes in his plays when they culminate in what amounts to an aria. Someone sums up their whole life and situation in one long dunciad. It’s an interesting way to deal with big emotions and big personalities, which he was certainly drawn to.”

Though not formally trained in music, Shaw was indeed musical. His mother was a singer in Dublin, and became an assistant for her vocal teacher G. J. Lee. With the hope that his sister would embark on a career as a singer, the Shaw women followed Lee to London. Perhaps influenced by them, Shaw taught himself to read scores and play the piano, and convinced a musician friend to teach him the basics of music theory.

As one might expect, when he wrote about music, he pulled very few punches. Take for example the 1891 assessment of Mozart on the occasion of the composer’s centenary.

“The critic’s task is not so easy. The word is admirable, admire, but unless you frankly trade on the ignorance of the public and cite as illustration of his unique genius, creativity and feats of melody, that also come easy to dozens of organists and whistling choir boys who never wrote or will write a bar of original music in their lives, or representing him as composing spontaneously as a bird sings, because it was his habit to perfect his great compositions in his mind before he wrote them down, unless you resort to these well-worn dodges, you will find nothing to admire.”

During the hour-long Music Niagara Festival At Home Concert Series performance, Bannerman breathes life into these words and many others written by Shaw. The playwright’s criticism of Mozart follows a performance of the composer’s “Divertimento à 3 for Piano Trio”, played expertly by Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas on violin, Victoria Kogan on piano, and cellist Dobrochna Zubek.

“Much of the other music, though, will be heard for the first time by Music Niagara fans, coming as it does from the pen of the little-known and rarely-heard Goetz.”

Goetz lived a short life, dying in 1876 just four days short of his thirty-sixth birthday. He had moved to Switzerland in 1863, where he worked as an organist and created his compositions. And, like Shaw, Goetz also wrote music reviews.

Shaw was a Goetz admirer. His review of an 1893 performance of the composer’s “Symphony in F” was entitled Goetz: Über Alle. In it, he writes that the work was “‘the only real symphony written since Beethoven died’ placing Goetz above the likes of Mendelssohn, Schumann, and Brahms.”

Later, Bannerman, as Shaw, wonders why masterpieces such as Goetz’ “Taming of the Shrew” were shelved for operas by Rossini.

“Better for worse, Shaw thought this was the second coming of Beethoven,” Bankas says. “He [Goetz] was a talented composer. There are a few recordings of Goetz music, but which he was writing, sheds light on how audiences at the time were reacting favourably to some of the composers who have since been lost to time.”

Reading aloud Shaw’s writings on music was a lot of fun for Bannerman.

“It makes you excited to think about what the musical scene was like,” the actor marvels. “There were things going on virtually every day. And Shaw was always surprising, sometimes because he is grandiose, and sometimes because he is petty and competitive, and will not let a bone go by that hasn’t been thoroughly chewed.”

Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas on violin, Victoria Kogan on piano, and cellist Dobrochna Zubek perform in Shaw and Music. (Screenshot)

The Shaw and Music performance will be available at musicniagara.org and via the Music Niagara YouTube channel.

Music Niagara Festival is also raising funds this month through a 50-50 draw. The winner will take 50 per cent of all proceeds. The funds raised are intended to allow the organization to continue educating, entertaining and inspiring diverse audiences, while building Niagara’s cultural infrastructure for a more vibrant and artistic tomorrow. “The draw will be held Friday, Oct. 29. Visit raffle.box.ca/raffle/musicniagara for information and tickets.”

The Shaw and Music performance was written by Shaw and Music

Shaw and Music matches playwright’s words with Mozart

Odin Quartet

A Brahms inspired virtual performance by Odin Quartet was filmed at Niagara Oast House Brewers. Watch this amazing performance on MUSIC NIAGARA’s YouTube Channel while you enjoy Oast’s Brushfire Oktoberfest Feast for 2 on October 28 at 7 P.M.

Tickets are $110/couple + HST

Tickets on sale now at: musicniagara.org/brahms-oktoberfest/

MUSIC NIAGARA presents BRAHMS OKTOBERFEST

Buy Oast’s Oktoberfest Feast and choose from a selection of beers at musicniagara.org.

Pick up your Feast on October 28th at Niagara Oast House Brewers.

Brushfire Oktoberfest Feast for 2 includes:

• beef & cucumber salad
• chocoutre garnie with Bannarisraised cabbage • garlic dill potatoes
• beer mustard cream

OastHouseNiagaraON.com

Oast House

VETTERN

SUN

VIKTIGT!

Vi håller på att bli full av folk. Starta räfflet nu och inte bara när räfflet är färdigt.

16
October 6, 2021
notllocal.com
Comedy raises funds for debilitating facial pain disorder

Brenda Sharp
Special to The Local

The irony is not lost in the fact that this fundraising event name evokes fun and laughter, when in actuality, it is to support the most painful disease known to mankind.

Seven years ago, Pat Tomeny, a sports anchor and reporter on the WGN Morning News in Chicago, along with his wife Amy, started Laugh Your Face Off, a stand-up comedy night fundraiser to raise money for research to cure trigeminal neuralgia, a debilitating facial pain disorder that Amy has suffered from since 2007.

Trigeminal neuralgia (TN) causes extreme, sporadic, sudden shock-like facial pain that can drop you to your knees. The intensity of the pain can be physically and mentally incapacitating, and TN is commonly referred to as the “suicide disease,” for reasons you can just imagine.

For Amy, it “was a beautiful sunny day, and the ride was amazing.” This year she not only had the very visible Pedal Pusher team riding for the cause, but two Pedal Pubs of onboard supporters, helping to raise awareness and funds for palliative care.

The money raised from this event will fund a new massage therapy program which will see a registered massage therapist offering massage therapy treatments to the service’s clients within the three long-term care homes in NOTL, clients at home, and even their caregivers, free of charge, as are all palliative care programs, says Bagnulo.

Donations can be made until Oct. 15, at http://www.notlpc.com/community/healing-cycle-ride-2021/

Neighbours and friends attended an outdoor viewing of the comedy show, with a $50/50 draw, silent auction and penny auction.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and palliative care volunteer Trish Anthonys dancing to Ukester tunes when the Pedal Pub and Pedal Pushers stopped for a short break at Upper Canada Lodge.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and MPP Wayne Gates rode the Pedal Pub to help raise awareness and funds for palliative care.

Medicines, nerve destructive procedures and brain surgeries help some patients manage their painful episodes, but to date, there is no cure.

Laugh Your Face Off was started to raise funds for the Facial Pain Research Foundation (FPRF), the only organization in the world dedicated to funding research to cure this excruciating pain. The foundation is supporting projects focusing on repairing the fragile coating of a nerve, deciphering the role DNA plays in facial pain, using stem cells to rebuild and repair the nerve, and mapping pain pathways to the brain in order to block pain signals. If successful, these therapies have the potential to impact not just those who suffer from TN, but those who suffer from any nerve pain.

Pre-pandemic, LYFO was held live in Chicago, and attended by TN patients and their families. Last year they went virtual to reach their audience. This Saturday, they once again live-streamed their show from Chicago around the world.

As a local TN patient, I hosted a “watch party” at our home in St. Davids. Sixty neighbours and friends joined us for an outdoor viewing of the comedy show. We held a 50/50 draw as well as a silent auction and penny auction.

And what a success!

Donations are currently around $3,500, with more coming in each day.

Dominic Pizzi in NOTL helped out by offering a special-order coupon for the date of the event that provided $5 from each order to our foundation. And they even donated all the pizzas for the night! I would like to thank everyone for their support. We will continue to collect donations until Oct. 7, which is our International Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day. That’s the day that 200 landmarks around the world will light up teal to bring awareness to this disease. Locally, you can see Niagara Falls, the Peace Bridge and Welland Bridge light up teal.

If you would like to help our cause, and contribute to our fundraising event, please contact me at brendasharp55@gmail.com or 289-929-6395.

Thank you for helping us find a cure for trigeminal neuralgia!

Brenda Sharp is a TN Patient, TN Support Group leader, and volunteer fundraising coordinator for the FPRF.
Whitney Fowler’s new musical persona is a way for her to step away from herself in a positive way. “Promising songs for you, songs for your kids and mostly songs for the kid in you,” the artist formerly known as Whitney Pea announced Sept. 11 via Facebook that she will now perform as Singing Hen. “In order to gain a broader freedom with my creativity,” she says from the Cayuga farm she shares with her husband Jordan and children John and Melody, “something about dropping my own personal name allowed me to step into a more imaginative space.”

The choice of the new moniker came naturally, as she had been using Singing Hen as her Instagram tag for years. “I just felt that it was me,” Fowler laughs. “I saw myself as this flightless bird that has a lot of adventure-seeking personality, that loves to sing. I don’t think of my voice as this pure, singerly voice. The name humbles it down to the chicken. We don’t think of chickens as being particularly good singers. They squawk.”

Selling herself short, Fowler insists that as far back as her high school days, her love of singing far outpaced her ability to do so. But anyone familiar with her albums With a Heart Intending Forward (2012) and All A Feeling (2014) would surely argue that point. Her next release, scheduled for some time around Christmas, will maintain the whimsical, earthy charm of her earlier music, but will be of specific interest to the younger crowd. “I am writing a bunch of kid’s songs,” she says. “It’s kind of like the Moem musical version of me. I have really wanted to take the Mom version of me and the musical version and put them together. For a long time it felt like two separate worlds.”

Since John was born five years ago, she has felt that she couldn’t pursue her music in the same way. Late night gigs were out of the question, and regular casual jam sessions with her musical friends became harder to arrange, especially since the move from Niagara-on-the-Lake six years ago. But she knew she needed to continue to make music. “So many parents speak about the shift that happens when your child comes into the world,” says Fowler. “It’s no longer about you, and it’s a beautiful thing. My hopes and dreams, and all my love gets poured into this being that is there, that I’m nurturing. You get to see this part of your ego.”

Whitney Pea’s music always had a gentle feel. Her original songs were folk-based, weaving sounds of nature into her melodies on songs such as Cold Winter Ground, Oak Forest, Yellow Finches and Earth Wisdom. There is an innocence to much of her music, a childlike sense of wonder, so it’s not a stretch for her to push into this new direction. “I think I’ve always written from a very young place,” Fowler tells The Local. “I’ve always found access to creativity that connects me to my inner child.”

Working out of their bedroom, her husband Jordan has been recording some of her new music. Using a minimal set-up of equipment, they started in the spring but took a bit of a hiatus as the farm and their Cayuga eatery, the Carolinian Cafe, began to once again take much of their energies. Fowler buzzes with excitement as she describes the new songs, beginning with one dubbed Combinations. “It’s about things that go together,” she explains. “Like blanket forts and books, puddle boots and rain, strawberries and cream, and why these things go together. The chorus is kind of funny. It talks about things that don’t go together, like pool parties and snow, a kite without the sky, silly little things that I felt compelled to write about.”

Fowler has drawn on the other aspect of her creativity as well. She has created some animations for a future video to accompany that track and plans to weave footage of her own children on their farm with her artwork for a song called Seeds. “That one sounds like a natural for the farm girl. It’s about going out and planting seeds, and the hopefulness and excitement that comes from waiting to see them sprout and grow. She describes it as a fun little ukulele song.”

And then there’s M-e-o-d-y, named after her adorable three-year-old daughter. On a recent live streamed performance on Facebook, Melody’s face lit up as she and her Mom sang the song in front of a camera. “She knows it’s her song,” says the 34-year-old, “and every time I sing it she seems to learn more words. She’s only learning how to speak, so it’s really special to see her sing along. It’s about her little spirit, the way she is.”

Fowler says she has made a conscious effort to think not just of her own kids, but also about the children of her friends with whom she has formed a bond. Living away from the network of Niagara musicians she played with for many years, writing the new songs has given her a renewed purpose to pick up the guitar and sing and play. “There’s something different about the atmosphere when children are present,” props Fowler. “You kind of feel more at service. I really want to be more at service with my music. I feel so much more fulfilled with that in mind.”

She’s not ready to become solely a children’s musician, though. Fowler says she would like to become a drum circle facilitator some time in the future, a desire surely sparked by her earlier days in NOTL as a huge fan of Penner McKay’s band, Mattinee Slim and the Ultra Light Orchestra. “In Niagara style, they just brought everybody out and you had these parties. I remember going to see them when I was 16, maybe. My brother shook me into the Angel Inn. The place was so packed you couldn’t move. I became friends with Andy (McKay), and I took drum lessons from Penner. And I was involved with the Drumming Fools for a while, too.”

Fowler says McKay’s musical efforts had a tribal element to them. She credits him as a major influence not just to her but to the larger circle of Niagara musicians. While she and Jordan slowly prepare her new compositions for release, the couple continues to work the land on their Cayuga farm. Jordan tends to a herd of sheep while they nurture crops of tomatoes, herbs and peppers that they tote to their cafe. There, they use the homegrown ingredients to prepare sandwiches, wraps, salads and soups to serve along with coffee and baked goods. For now, she continues to play and sing some of her new music, as well as her older songs and some covers of classic folk tunes (she and her Dad, Gary Peterson, recently performed a number of John Prine songs) every Sunday afternoon. To experience her next performance, or to watch her previous ones, visit the Singing Hen page on Facebook.
Three local riding students find competition success

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Despite the pandemic limiting the usual amount of preparation, Caitlin Darte of Benchview Equestrian Centre is not at all surprised by the success of three of her students at last week’s West Zone Provincial Silver Series in Erin, Ontario.

After all, the combined 30-plus years of riding experience of Paige Hoadley, Sydney Brousseau and Sarah Laughton, all under 18 years old, made them ready to handle just about anything.

“These girls have been riding since they were six or seven,” Darte, manager and coach at Benchview tells The Local. “They have worked hard. All three are performing at an intermediate to advanced level.”

There were three zones that were competing from across central Ontario. The girls qualified to move on to the next competition via their accumulated points throughout six horse shows this summer.

Hoadley, a 17-year-old A.N. Myer Secondary School student, won her division riding Bella, whose show name is A Fine Design. It was her first time participating in the competition, and the aspiring Olympian had to get over some first-day jitters.

“This was my first time showing her, our first time off property together,” Hoadley says. “Our first experience in the ring did not go quite as we planned. We didn’t know the course. There were more stops than expected.”

The Jumper competition, where the horse and rider are judged by how quickly they can complete a course of jumps with the fewest errors, or faults.

Brousseau, who is concentrating on riding during a gap year while also working at both Benchview and Great Wolf Lodge to help pay for Jude, says riding helps her calm her anxiety. She knows though, that when she steps into the saddle, Jude can sense whether or not she is feeling confident. That confidence resulted in a great year in competition.

“The fact that her first season, she came out almost on top of her class, she was just incredible,” Brousseau says. “We just worked a lot with each other on the ground, and it really helped our relationship, and helped with our training too. Once we got back into training we had a better understanding of each other.”

The pair qualified for the Hunter Championships coming up in late October. Brousseau, who is concentrating on riding during a gap year while also working at both Benchview and Great Wolf Lodge to help pay for Jude, says riding helps her calm her anxiety. She’s always so calm with me, but she senses anxiety, and I worked hard to calm myself as well.”

Laughton placed second in Caledon and fifth in one of the rounds in Erin, in which she was competing against 55 others.

“She’s been great,” Laughton raves. “Tough on us sometimes, but it helps us grow stronger and grow to be and to achieve what we want to.”

Like the other girls, Laughton had to mentally adjust to COVID-19 edits Darte’s encouraging words.

“Once we got there it was definitely much better. We settled in and just kind of looked around. Zoe is great. She’s always so calm with me, but she senses anxiety, and I worked hard to calm myself as well.”

Laughton placed second in Caledon and fifth in one of the rounds in Erin, in which she was competing against 55 others.

“Most of the divisions this weekend had up to 60 horse-rider combinations to compete against,” Darte explains. “It’s a great accomplishment to qualify and compete against such great talented riders. The pressure was real, and they handled it with professionalism and determination.”

Caitlin Darte of Benchview Equestrian Centre is not at all surprised by the success of three of her students at last week’s West Zone Provincial Silver Series in Erin, Ontario.

After all, the combined 30-plus years of riding experience of Paige Hoadley, Sydney Brousseau and Sarah Laughton, all under 18 years old, made them ready to handle just about anything.

“These girls have been riding since they were six or seven,” Darte, manager and coach at Benchview tells The Local. “They have worked hard. All three are performing at an intermediate to advanced level.”

There were three zones that were competing from across central Ontario. The girls qualified to move on to the next competition via their accumulated points throughout six horse shows this summer.

Hoadley, a 17-year-old A.N. Myer Secondary School student, won her division riding Bella, whose show name is A Fine Design. It was her first time showing her at the Benchview barn after a successful competition for all three. (Photo supplied)
Penny Coles  
The Local

As the sport of pickleball has grown exponentially in Niagara-on-the-Lake since the days of drop-in games in the community centre more than four years ago, so too has the skill level of those who were then just beginners in a sport that was new to them.

With 300 members in the club now, some prefer to playing indoors through the winter, without the sun and wind to deal with, and others make the most of the outdoor town courts in Virgil in the summer, and will likely continue to do so until the town takes the nets down, typically around the end of October.

A number of players have also chosen to compete in tournaments across the province, such as one held recently in Peterborough. Evidence of their level of improvement is in the medals they have brought home with them.

But whether NOTL Pickleball Club members choose to compete further afield or to remain playing at a local, social level, their enthusiasm and passion for the sport has never waned, says club president John Hindle.

“They love being out on the court, they love learning, and love playing with others. The joy we see everyday makes it all so worthwhile.”

Although the pandemic years have presented challenges for the membership, the outdoor courts this summer “were maxed out.” There were 24 people playing on the six courts and another six waiting to rotate in at any time during the club’s four scheduled hours each day, says Hindle.

Also, “thanks to the town’s foresight in building the best outdoor facility in the region,” players from across Niagara have joined the local club, also enticed by lessons offered by two new club coaches. They represent “a slightly different demographic” to the club, more in the age range of 45 to 60, and often bringing with them a higher level of play.

Hindle is expecting and planning for the same level of enthusiasm from the locals as the club moves inside next Wednesday, although he’s unsure how many members will want to play.

“We’re going to start very slowly at the community centre first, through our partner-ship with the town, and use up all the opportunities it has to offer. There are a couple of unknowns, such as how many of our players want to move indoors.”

Also a factor is how many club members who typically travel south for the winter will take that risk, and how many of the members from outside NOTL will move indoors on courts closer to home, in St. Catharines and other parts of the region, where they won’t have to travel so far in the winter, he says.

Those who want to play will have to show proof they’re fully vaccinated, as mandated by the town, says Hindle.

There are no drop-in sessions — thanks to the growing number of players, and COVID protocols which allow fewer people waiting to rotate in at any one time, the club is relying on an online pre-registration. They must limit players to 12 players on three courts for each session, and six on the community centre stage, waiting to rotate in, accommodating a maximum of 18 people per session.

Hindle explains pickleball is different from tennis in that players don’t schedule a court. The club books two-hour time slots on the three courts available to them, and as each game of four people is completed, usually in about 10 minutes or so, they take a short break and others rotate in.

As the schedules fill up, he can add more, he says — mornings for people who are early birds, afternoons for others who are less so, and evenings for working people and families — to the extent that there is availability at the community centre. If they become full as well, he may look to alternative sites, such as the gym in the former Virgil school, to accommodate more members.

“Some members would be happy to play every day,” he says. “How many days a week will we be able to schedule is the magic question. For now, we’re starting off slow, and we’ll see where it goes.”

He may also have to figure out a way to limit the number of sessions for each player, to ensure all members have access to the courts, and to be sure players get to be on the courts with others at their level of play. “It’s complicated” he says, also factoring in the level of play, and special sessions for beginners and families. “Our plan is to grow into our audience.”

And what would make him happy would be to see more young people and kids coming out. In the summer, he loved seeing groups of kids arrive at the Virgil courts, paddles in hand, ready to play. “They might not know the rules, but they have a whack of a time,” says Hindle.

“This is an ideal sport for kids, and easy to learn. I love seeing families getting involved. It’s an amazing sport for all generations, all ages, all levels. And it’s great for families who can all play the same game together.”

Dawn and Andy Calnek won silver in the mixed doubles 3.5 tournament.

Elaine Somerville and Marilyn Joostema brought home the gold medal in the ladies doubles, 4.0 division.

Dawn Calnek and Judy Knudson won gold in the ladies doubles 3.5 division.

Rick and Judy Knudson took silver in mixed 4.0.

Oriana Oszip and Jerry Elitze won gold in mixed doubles 3.5. Elitze also won the silver medal in the men’s singles, 3.5 category. Players are rated from 2.0 to 5.0 when they enter a tournament. (Photos by Barb Eitze)
The Niagara Predators began their 2021-2022 Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) season, their first in Virgil, with a win and a loss this past weekend.

More than 100 fans crowded the Meridian Centre Arena for the return of Junior A hockey to Niagara-on-the-Lake Friday night. The crowd cheered as the Predators dropped the Streetsville Flyers 5-3 for their first ever victory in their new home.

Coach Andrew Whalen was happy to see the support from the community. “It was a very exciting game. We had a great turnout for the first game,” he said Friday, “and I think we put on a show for the fans. Hopefully they got excited and they’re going to keep coming out. I think we get more of our bodies in the next few weeks and this team will be really exciting to watch.”

Mario Zitelli showed exactly why Whalen and general manager Johan Petrov will have arrived and be the title of captain upon the 21-year-old Hamilton native, who notched two goals and an assist, and was named first star in the team’s debut game in their new home.

Zitelli put one past Streetsville goalie Tayte Pracek before he had a chance to react. Massi added a goal of his own, the Predators’ third, four off a backchecker during a scrum in front of Pracek. Emil Eriksson put Niagara up 5-2 with 37 seconds remaining in the game, but just 20 seconds later Streetsville’s Konn Chinganda cut the margin to 5-3, which stood at the end of the game.

“It means a lot,” Zitelli said about the win. “It was just a great game. We dominated one of the tallest Predators in the league, “ Whalen said. “The way he played a great game. He’s going to be a dangerous player in this league.”

The Preds ended the first period with a 1-0 lead, and a two-man advantage as Streetsville’s Cole Wigle and Connor Cahcath were dinged with penalties near the end of the frame. The home team failed to capitalize on the power play and almost gave up the tying goal as Wigle stepped onto the ice when his penalty time expired, he was fed a perfect breakaway pass, only to hit the post.

On the opposite end of the ice Chart at 6’6” is Swedish native Jesper Eriksson, Zitelli’s linemate and the tallest Predator. His assists on both Massi’s and Eriksson’s goals don’t tell his complete story.

“Hes going to be a dangerous player in this league,” Whalen said. “The big body, his speed, the dominance he had when he had the puck on his stick. His time will come.”

Whalen was also impressed with the performance of his Swedish goaltender.

“Oskar is phenomenal, he played a great game. He’s going to be one of the top goalies in the league, and I think tonight that showed a lot. He’s quick, he’s good left-to-right, he’s very hard to score on. He’s a competitor.”

Whalen admitted the Predators played a bit of an undisciplined game at times Friday, taking some unnecessary penalties, including a misconduct at the end of the second. As well, Brett Lee’s misconduct resulted in a suspension for the Sunday game in St. George.

“So some of the boys have to get used to the reffing system out there,” Whalen said. “If you open up your mouth, they’re pretty tight in this league. We’re going to address that and hope it gets better for Sunday’s game.”

The Sunday game in St. George was a showdown between the Predators and the Ravens, both teams owned by Robert Turnball. Proving Whalen’s comment that the refs were going to call players when necessary, a total of five unsportsmanlike conduct penalties were called, two on the Preds and three on the Ravens.

“Some of the boys have to get used to the reffing system out there,” Whalen said. “If you open up your mouth, they’re pretty tight in this league. We’re going to address that and hope it gets better for Sunday’s game.”

The Ravens are a big, physical team, much bigger than our guys, and we start ed out slow,” general manager Eriksson says. “But they gained confidence by the third period. The way they played then, that game could have easily ended up 3-3, not 4-2.”

Eriksson is hopeful that by Thursday, European forwards Georgi Kholmovsky, Joasiah Spiboom and Danil Petrov will have arrived and be cleared to play. There are two or three of local players the team is also hoping to bring into the fold to round out the roster.

The Predators return to action this weekend, beginning a Friday-Saturday-Sunday home-and-home series against the Tottenham Thunder in Virgil Friday night.

“They are a young team,” Eriksson says of the Thunder. “Even with our short bench, our depth should give us the advantage for both games.”

Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.
‘Clarendon connection’ includes long-time farm worker

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

The parish of Clarendon lies in the heart of Jamaica’s mountainous countryside. Few Niagara locals have even heard of this area, yet many of us have been influenced by or benefited from the ‘Clarendon connection.’ Most of us are familiar with Dr. Gervan Fearon, former president and vice-chancellor of Brock University (2017 – 2021), who spent his formative childhood years in Clarendon before moving to Ontario. Juliet Dunn is a familiar name to music-lovers, one of the key figures responsible for keeping the jazz scene in Niagara thriving. Juliet’s father hails from a tiny hamlet high in the mountains of Clarendon, a short distance from the town of Sandy River.

In the spring of 1982, a young man in Sandy River, Ernie Bell was packing his suitcases in preparation for his first trip to Canada on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. It was an opportunity he couldn’t afford to refuse, and he joined many young men flying for the first time out of Kingston airport. The headlines in the airport newspapers heralded U.S. President Ronald Reagan’s successful visit to Jamaica, promising hope and new opportunities for trade with their beleaguered economy. In reality, heavily subsidised American produce was flooding the markets, forcing Jamaican farmers to look for employment overseas. The SAWP began in 1966 as a short-term fix for labour shortages on Canadian farms. Many of the men who were hired also thought of it as a temporary way to earn income until the economy improved in the Caribbean, not as a career choice.

Ernie was newly married to Lillian, the love of his life, and as the family grew so did his responsibilities. It was a challenge to maintain strong connections with his five children during the eight-month away, especially during the early years, when making contact via phone was difficult. As with almost all farm workers, there was little time for a holiday upon their return home.

In 1982, a young man in Sandy River, Ernest Bell was packing his suitcases in preparation for his first trip to Canada on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. It was an opportunity he couldn’t afford to refuse, and he joined many young men flying for the first time out of Kingston airport. The headline in the airport newspapers heralded U.S. President Ronald Reagan’s successful visit to Jamaica, promising hope and new opportunities for trade with their beleaguered economy. In reality, heavily subsidised American produce was flooding the markets, forcing Jamaican farmers to look for employment overseas. The SAWP began in 1966 as a short-term fix for labour shortages on Canadian farms. Many of the men who were hired also thought of it as a temporary way to earn income until the economy improved in the Caribbean, not as a career choice.

Ernie was newly married to Lillian, the love of his life, and as the family grew so did his responsibilities. It was a challenge to maintain strong connections with his five children during the eight months away, especially during the early years, when making contact via phone was difficult. As with almost all farm workers, there was little time for a holiday upon their return home.

The first morning after arriving home at the end of each season Ernie was anxious to survey his own fields of cabbage, yum, and lettuce crops. He had to start planning immediately for the preparatory work that needed to be accomplished before leaving a few short months later.

Ernie has seen a lot of changes in the Niagara countryside over the years many of us have been influenced by or benefited from the ‘Clarendon connection.’

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size up properly.

The crops were mainly produced in early spring. By mid-May, the peach trees required thinning, a specialized task that would allow the fruit to size u
HELP WANTED

Farm Labourers Required
William Falk Farms Ltd.

Seasonal, full-time positions available. March 2022. Must have own transportation. Rural area (NOTL), fast pace, work environment with tight deadlines, working outside in all weather conditions. Standing, bending, lifting. Cultivate and harvest crops. Seven months to one year experience required. High school education required. $14.39 per hour. Please fax your working resume to 905-646-8099 or email: yvonne@lakeviewharvesters.com

CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is accepting applications for the following volunteer positions:

- Secretary
- Special Events Chair

Submit your CV for consideration to office@niagarapumphouse.ca by November 1, 2021

HUEBEL GRAPE ESTATES is looking for general seasonal full time laborer workers. Duties include pruning, tilling, suckering, canopy management and harvesting. Must be willing to work long hours, including weekends from March to November. Must be fit and enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions. No experience or education required. Wage $14.39/hr. Own transportation. Working in Niagara on the Lake / Queenston L0S 1J0. Contact by fax 905-468-2365 or huebelgrapesestates@gmail.com

ONLY applicants to be interviewed will be contacted

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

Across:
1. Smog
5. C'est
9. Staid
14. Mali
15. Univ
16. Cobra
17. Akin
18. Reps
19. Assad
20. Rev
21. Arms
22. Or so
23. Tuesday
25. O A S
26. L C D
29. Sprain
30. Lot
31. Lulu
32. Bottoms
34. A ton
35. Basis
38. Rip
39. Gregg
40. Avon
41. Wits
42. Meds
43. Life
44. Ops
45. Needle
46. Needle
49. DDT
50. S O S
51. Jobs
52. Wits
56. Shane
57. How
58. Gaga
59. GDP

Down:
1. Mental ability
2. Burn the hatchet
3. Director/producer --- Stone
4. Kind of rummy
5. Small windless rain
6. Foo
7. Drives slowly
8. Operation memorist
9. Operation memorist
10. Doozie
11. Oomph
12. Clog
13. Dad
14. Adios
15. Oats
16. Sabine
17. Oomph
18. Clog
19. Oats
20. Adios

SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from September 29, 2021

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across:
1. Smog
3. Spirit
5. C'est
7. Staid
9. Staid
11. Mali
13. Dad
14. Mali
15. Univ
16. Cobra
17. Akin
18. Reps
19. Assad
20. Rev
21. Arms
22. Or so
23. Tuesday
25. O A S
26. L C D
29. Sprain
30. Lot
31. Lulu
32. Bottoms
34. A ton
35. Basis
38. Rip
39. Gregg
40. Avon
41. Wits
42. Meds
43. Life
44. Ops
45. Needle
46. Needle
49. DDT
50. S O S
51. Jobs
52. Wits
56. Shane
57. How
58. Gaga
59. GDP

Down:
1. Mental ability
2. Burn the hatchet
3. Director/producer --- Stone
4. Kind of rummy
5. Small windless rain
6. Foo
7. Drives slowly
8. Operation memorist
9. Operation memorist
10. Doozie
11. Oomph
12. Clog
13. Dad
14. Adios
15. Oats
16. Sabine
17. Oomph
18. Clog
19. Oats
20. Adios

OBITUARY

ANDREWS, HENRY (HANK, C.J) — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Henry on October 1, 2021 at the age of 86.

He is predeceased by his parents, Cornelius and Annie Andrews, brothers George, John and Corny as well as sisters Ann and Kay.

Survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Joyce (Coles) and his children Rhonda (Joe) Rutkowski, Cindy (Horst) Friesen, Robert (Maura) Andrews, Darlene (Bill) Caughill, and grandchildren Beth, Greg, Robert, Ashleigh, Joshua, Caitlyn, Amy, Jacob, Nathaniel and Christopher, as well as 7 great-grandchildren. Also survived by his sister Mary (Art) Berg and many nieces and nephews and in-laws.

Henry was born in Arnaud, Manitoba, moving to Ontario at a young age. A lifelong resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake and owner of Andrews Trucking Ltd. He will be missed by his office staff and many employees.

Many people simply called him by his nickname C.J. He was very well-known and had many friends and acquaintances. He will be sadly missed by his cousin, who was like a brother to him, Ed Andres. Over the years we enjoyed many stories and adventures he told us that he had with his cousin Ed.

Hank’s business career started at the age of 12 when he had a Globe and Mail paper route. He then spent many years in the Automotive business always wanting to own his own store or business. After his first experience in trucking his entrepreneurial spirit took shape. He began hauling frozen food, working for Beanie Transport in Lockport NY.

One day he was asked if he would haul a boat which he accepted. From there he never looked back. He started Andrews Trucking Limited on Creek Rd in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He grew quickly to become Canada’s number one boat hauler and combined with his American subsidiary, he became the third largest boat hauler in all of North America. He had terminals in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Warren River Island and Miami Florida.

Hank also began hauling garbage, recycling and other products. He was a member of National Marine Manufacturer Association, Allied Boating, Ontario Trucking Association, National Independent Boat Carriers Association Inc. and Ontario Marine Operators Association.

Henry lived his life to the fullest. We will all miss his jokes, crazy sense of humour and never-ending words of wisdom.

Cremation has taken place.

Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Henry are welcome to do so to the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Due to Covid restrictions, a private Celebration of Life will be taking place.

Online condolences may be shared at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

OBITUARY

HAMISH COLIN RIDER

1953 - 2021

Our dear brother Hamish died suddenly on October 4th. We are devastated.

A sweet soul, with a soft and kind nature, he befriended many. He saw the beauty in life. His was cut too short.

He adored his nephews and encouraged them to be the best they could be. He was present at all the hockey games and the soccer games.

He adored his Jack Russell.

And he adored his brother and sister.

And he adored his brother-in-law David and his sister-in-law Mary.

And he adored living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Some years ago, his apartment burned to the ground. The businesses on Queen Street raised money to help him and others who also lost so much in the fire.

Something he never forgot. He was eternally grateful for the generosity.

We are grateful to have had him in our lives. We are broken at his passing.

Hamish Colin Rider, our brother, our friend. Friend to many.

We will miss you.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS
1121 Line 6
$1,549,000
1 acre, 6 car garage

121 Loretta Drive
$950,000
COMING SOON

6 Brown’s Point Circle
$3,995,000
COMING SOON

1591 Concession 4
$995,000
Double Wide Lot

427 Butler St.
$1,395,000
Newly Built

1456 Townline Rd.
$1,250,000
10+ Acres

487 Four Mile Creek Rd.
$1,095,000
5.2 Acres

44 Kirkwood Dr.
$1,295,000
COMING SOON

41 Melville St.
$1,595,000
Water View