



**Local teens
find success
at equestrian
competition**
page 19

notllocal.com OCTOBER 6, 2021 Volume 3 • Issue 40



The Epp Family Farm roadside market on the Niagara River Parkway is decorated for fall, and ready for Halloween. (David Gilchrist)



Explore Queenston, Willowbank Studio

**Penny Coles
The Local**

Two well-established visual artists who have studied, taught and exhibited their work in many countries around the world, are delighted to find themselves in the quiet little village of Queenston, in the former Laura Secord school building, that allows them plenty of space to paint, and is steeped in history and education, both essential components of their art.

Sharon Okun and Adam Markovic met in Florence Italy, in 2008, while studying painting.

Adam brought with him a skill he had learned while living in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he was co-owner of a store that sold fine art supplies. While there, he learned to produce traditional painting materials, grinding paint, and using the techniques of the Old Masters, which he continued to perfect in Florence, while also painting for European galleries.

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 Sherlock, to come and have a look at his 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 Steward House, the William Gollop 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 carriages, 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



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

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION



GREG SYKES real estate TEAM

CALL OR TEXT
GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484

Lots of time to comment on proposals, Lord Mayor says

Continued from page 1

Official Plan, the Foundation points out, the property may be redeveloped 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.

“We 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 to council states.

In connection with the 191-unit subdivision proposed by Solmar for portions of the Rand Estate, the Foundation board believes the property to be “one of the last remaining and most im-

portant 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 Dunnington-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 Disero, 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 ramifications going forward.”

Council has not seen reports from staff on either development proposal, 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 with their sales for the day. The chocolate and vanilla-flavoured cookies sell for \$5 a box. Any of the NOTL guiding units can be contacted for cookies, or email Brenda Ferguson at bbenoit10@gmail.com. (Photo supplied)

DRIVER/COMPANION

I am an elderly man, longtime Niagara resident, living with my partner of 50 years. Although somewhat visually impaired, I am mobile but can’t walk long distances. I am looking for someone who would enjoy taking me for weekly outings for about two hours per trip. I enjoy lively conversation combined with peaceful country drives, visits to coffee shops, casual lunches. I am fully vaccinated. You would need a dependable vehicle and a good driving record, be fully vaccinated and prepared to wear a mask when necessary or appropriate.

Remuneration would be an agreed to hourly rate plus a normal vehicle allowance, paid at the conclusion of each outing.

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



- Freehold Townhouse
 - Main level primary bedroom with ensuite bath, open concept living/dining room
 - Breakfast nook off galley kitchen
 - Rear deck with private garden
 - Upper loft family room with + 2 guest bedrooms, bathroom, den
- MLS# 40164384

Jo-Ann CUDMORE
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Office 905-468-4214
Cell 905-321-8126
jcudmore@royallepage.ca www.cudmorehomes.com



FALLS FAMILY DENTAL



DR. ANTHONY VECCHIARELLI
DR. JOSH GARCHA

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, but worth the wait. For the first time in their careers, they have a home in one place — at Irvine Road and Scott Street — and their studios in a location that is not also where they live.

Adam says they're enjoying the beautiful 15-minute drive to Queenston, along tranquil rural roads that delineate between their home and work space, now named the Willowbank Studio, and find most days they're accomplishing 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 in the air, something special that keeps us feeling attached to our roots," says Sharon.

There is still some work to be done to complete the conversion from an old elementary school with history, to a cultural centre that respects that history. As Willowbank renovations 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 century "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 occasionally 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 now.

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 Street door to the upper floor will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the artists 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 at Queenston Heights, are all participating in the day, intended to showcase all that Queenston has to offer in arts, culture, 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 fundraising sale of donated trea-

sures to support exhibitions and programming, will offer scheduled gallery tours, and an en plein air painting workshop. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and light refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information visit <http://www.riverbrink.org/>

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 diploma program in heritage conservation — the only program of its kind in Canada. The house, grounds and woodshop will be open to visitors, who can also chat with students and staff. Some of the students will be working on projects, demonstrating different techniques, or selling their work. It will be open to visitors 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 information visit <http://friendsoffortgeorge.ca/brocks-monument/index.html>

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 public 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 Coles)



Adam Markovic will demonstrate the art of paint grinding, using some of the tools of the Old Masters, during the Queenston Open Doors event.



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/dog-licenses.

RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS

Parking 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 license 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.

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 not about price point, it's about an experience.



RICHARD MELL

Broker

289-219-0304
rmell@sothebysrealty.ca



DONNA D'AMICO

Sales Representative

905-380-9390
ddamico@sothebysrealty.ca

Sotheby's Canada
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sotheby's International Realty Canada, Brokerage. Independently Owned and Operated.

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 waited 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.

Lord 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 guess what they’re short of. They’re short of 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.



Heritage Trail Committee chair Rick Meloen and vice-chair Tony Chisholm show off the new plaque thanking donors. It’s the first of three, and is located at the entrance to the John Street portion of the trail. (Photos by Penny Coles)



MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Tony Chisholm clap at the unveiling of the Heritage Trail donor plaque.



JOHN BALD
BROKER
TEAM LEADER
905 984 1110



LOLITA HALE
SALES
REPRESENTATIVE
905 380 6410
LIFETIME NOTL
RESIDENT



Bald.
REAL
ESTATE
TEAM



RE/MAX
REALTY
ENTERPRISES



NIAGARA PARKWAY RIVER FRONT
CALL US TO SELL YOUR
RIVER WATERFRONT HOME
Asking \$4,200,000



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
ANOTHER HAPPY
NOTL HOME OWNER
Asking \$729,900



NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
CALL US TO SELL YOUR
VIRGIL HOME FOR TOP DOLLAR
Asking \$997,000



VIRGIL
CALL US TO GET TOP VALUE
FOR YOUR NOTL HOME
Asking \$799,000

From Cathy's desk: library helping farm workers



Cathy Simpson
NOTL Library CEO
Special to The Local

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 Wilfred 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



Library staff Sarah Bower and Debbie Krause help laminate vaccination certificates for farm workers when they fly home. (Photos by Jane Andres)

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 our presence was extremely appreciated once we started establishing a connection with the workers, and as 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 honoured to work with them.



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

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DENTAL

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

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

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009



GARY SNIDER
BROKER

T: 905.988.2205

E: gsnider@bosleyrealestate.com

A Rotarian and proud sponsor
of Crime Stoppers Niagara.

Bosley Real Estate is a 5th generation family business with offices in Toronto, Muskoka, Cambridge, Pt. Hope and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I look forward to sharing my 30+ years of real estate knowledge with you the next time you are ready to make a real estate move. Call me for a complimentary home evaluation, or stop by for a coffee...and I'm buying."

BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE

Bosley Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage respects the contract of its competitors.

EDITORIAL

Hoping all can find reasons to feel grateful

As Thanksgiving approaches, this traditional time of gratitude may be impacted by our frustration with a COVID pandemic that just won't go away.

Thankfully, we're able to celebrate, with fewer restrictions than last year, but we're still urged to be cautious.

And we're the lucky ones. Many countries, even some of our provinces, are much worse

off than we are, in Ontario and in Niagara.

People are still getting sick, and families are still losing loved ones, still far too many. Hospitals and intensive care units are still seeing COVID patients, especially out west, where cases are higher than they've ever been.

Our hearts go out to all those who have lost someone

they love to this deadly disease.

We may have to look very hard, but if we do, maybe we can find room for some gratitude.

This time last year, we didn't have vaccinations. Now, because of them, we are starting to see some return to a slightly more normal life. That's meaningful.

And many of us feel we've learned what is important in our lives. Family. Being together.

Good health. Hugs.

We can be grateful for the great outdoors.

And for Skype, or Face Time, or whatever allows us to connect with those important to us.

We should be grateful that at least in Ontario, at this moment, our health care system is back on a more even keel than it was a year ago. And will hopefully stay that way.

We're happy to have local businesses open, to enjoy what they have to offer, and fingers crossed they will stay open.

I know we at The Local are grateful to be the voice of this community. We appreciate readers sharing their stories with us, and we are thankful for the advertising support of businesses. We couldn't do this without you all!

Whatever each of you is doing for Thanksgiving, we hope you can find something that makes you feel grateful, that brings you some joy, despite this difficult time we're all going through.

However you celebrate the day, be safe!

Penny Coles
The Local

Let's see what we can accomplish before Sept. 30, 2022

To redress the legacy of residential schools and reconciliation for the harm done, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada report called on governments, as well as educational and religious institutions, civil society groups and all Canadians to take action on the 94 Calls to Action it identified.

That was six years ago, and most have not been implemented, or at least not fully.

One of the calls to action was to have a federal day recognizing the need for Truth and Reconciliation. That, at least, has been done. If only our Prime Minister, who supported a day of recognition across the country, had decided to follow up with some positive, personal action. Even taken his family along.

But he didn't.

And Indigenous peoples, their leaders and their activists, have reason to be frustrated. All of this is taking too long, and still not getting the recognition it deserves.

Last week, we finally had a day to indicate our country is moving forward. However, it seems many of us were wondering what to do to acknowledge its importance. There was little, locally, at least, that gave us a public opportunity to do so.

And maybe that was the point, at least for this year.

The town did organize some activities, but not for the public.

Town staff were assigned to complete Truth and Reconciliation Cultural Awareness Training, a three-hour online training program. They also had Eddy Robinson, a virtual, Indigenous keynote speaker, share and edu-

cate staff, council, and community partners on his experiences, and the significance of Truth and Reconciliation.

On the federal day of recognition, all staff were encouraged to wear orange shirts, and were invited to participate in a ceremony and time of reflection to acknowledge the day.

Additionally, staff worked with the NOTL Museum and library to prepare a social media plan highlighting Indigenous figures, and the town website also has a page about Truth and Reconciliation.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she and CAO Marnie Cluckie discussed how to handle recognition of the day, and decided it should be out of the eye of the public, quiet, sensitive and reflective. It was important to be respectful, she

said, and not overdone.

"What really matters is what we do the rest of the year, every day of the year, how we reach out to the community and involve everyone in the community."

The plan is to reach out to members of the Indigenous community to talk about town committees, and offer any opportunity to be involved, she said, to offer something impactful, day to day.

There may be something more, involving the public, planned next year, "but if we do something, it has to be in a

meaningful way. We don't want big and splashy. Meaningful is more important." And it must have the support of the leaders of the Indigenous community, she added.

So back to last week. For those of us who weren't sure what we could do to recognize the day, we were asked to read the Truth and Reconciliation report.

The explanations of the 94 calls to action is not difficult reading. In fact, at every turn, I found myself asking why it's taking so long. Most of the recommendations would not be terribly costly, and even if they

are, each and every one of them is the right thing to do. Should have been done. Must be done. For those of you who haven't read the report, and the calls to action, give it a try.

Maybe by next year, we can read about what more has been accomplished, and see complete fulfilment of what has been asked. In the meantime, we can encourage our leaders to take action, and look into ourselves, to see what each of us, individually, can do.

Penny Coles
The Local

Nature can't be blamed for some crazy names



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Across the natural world and our names for other living things, there exists a slough of both inquisitive 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 called a lake chubsucker, 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 far 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 chubsucker. This small, ordinary-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 it is being unintentionally bullied for its name.

Continued on page 7



Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Coun. Wendy Cheropita, operations manager Kevin Turcotte, Coun. Allan Bisback and CAO Marnie Cluckie raise a flag on Sept. 30 to recognize The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. (Photo supplied)



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

At first I considered this, *On the Verge* (Netflix, 2021) drivel, then I was caught by the machinations of four women

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

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

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

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

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

Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal instagram.com/thenotllocal @thenotllocal

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMMENT



Owen Bjorgan found a lone Kentucky coffee tree in Short Hills Provincial Park. Nationally rare Kentucky coffee trees have been planted as part of Owen Bjorgan's tree-planting efforts in Virgil. (Owen Bjorgan)

Coffee trees now in Virgil

Continued from page 6

Perhaps, once upon a time, before European settlement on the Niagara Peninsula, the threatened lake chubsucker would have swam by the Kentucky coffee tree. I know — it sounds like a strange nursery rhyme or childhood story destined for replication across generations. However, the Kentucky coffee tree's unusual name represents just how unusual it is across Canada.

Earlier this year, a lovely couple attended one of my eco-wine hiking tours. Through small talk during the tour and after a couple of sips, I told them about the 30 native tree species I had planted as a personal reforestation project on the outskirts of Virgil. 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 offered to transport the suckers, now saplings, to my farm to add to the species richness of the landscape. I excitedly obliged and thanked the daylights out of them for such a kind offer. I will drive great distances for few things, but amazing people and rare trees are part of that category.

As we speak, three Kentucky coffee trees are begin-

ning their lives along a creek in rural Virgil. What do Kentucky and Virgil have in common, for conversation and conservation sake? They are both part of that Carolinian Forest Zone. Species like the Kentucky coffee tree, with their unusual alternate leaves and gangly stature, are more common in the southeastern states, but they can survive on minimal environmental standards up here in southern Ontario.

This adds to the miraculous 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 appears 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 competing with Timmies for coffee 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 species 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 unusually 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 southern Ontario, grows as a unified lump, or sometimes as a three-toed dinosaur footprint.

Bounding from sassafras to sassafras might be a small, grey and white bird known as your resident 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. Luckily for you on your walk along the Niagara Escarpment and its stand of sassafras trees in Queenston, this small yet beautiful 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, blissfully unaware 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 man's fingers). The various species that fly, swim, slither and grow in our surroundings are just innocent, collateral damage 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.

Local LETTERS

Niagara Foundation hopes for input in planning decisions

The Niagara Foundation was established as a charitable organization in 1962 to promote the history, traditions and culture of the Niagara area.

Historical buildings, landscapes and views have always been a focus of the Foundation. In some instances, this has involved advocacy for the preservation of buildings endangered through development. Others were buildings threatened by deterioration and lack of use. Over the years the Foundation, along with other heritage groups, have made presentations to various levels of government, commissions, committees etc. promoting the preservation 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 immediate steps to be taken to retain the precious heritage and architectural character of Niagara-on-the-Lake. We look forward to council expressing a clear and strong commitment to our town's special character through the options you have available to you — zoning bylaw amendments, a return to contextual zoning that manages our streetscapes and development 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 complete (estimated to be July 2022). Council should be seeking immediate solutions from the experts conducting your planning workshops. We look forward to hearing the outcome from the workshops and to hopefully being invited to participate in a public session.

The Board of The Niagara Foundation

Jane Dagg, Viviane Eltoft, Michael Fox, Lyle Hall, Richard Merritt, Brad Nixon, Sam Ridesic, Albrecht Seeger, Paul Shepherd, Gabe Takach, Janice Thomson

Lawns can be harmful to the environment

In this day and age of environmental responsibility, it is disheartening and angering to see that people continue to water their lawns, let alone during a rainfall!

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 country, lawns consume approximately one-plus trillion gallons of water a year,

hundreds of millions of gallons of gas (for all that mowing), and 50-plus million pounds of pesticides. And for what? Lawns provide virtually no habitat for pollinators 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 on a planet where water scarcity is a reality,

and we don't need to look further than our own country where some Indigenous communities continue to be without clean, running water. And yet, in privileged communities like Niagara-on-the-Lake, we are being 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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Local

The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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

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



Overhead Door™ Residential Garage Doors

**Submitted by
Overhead Door**

Overhead Door Company St. Catharines™, has been in business since 1962, serving the Niagara Region for over 50 years. Overhead Door Company St. Catharines™ name has long been associated with professional installation and repair service in the upward acting door industry. Through superior craftsmanship, innovation, engineering excellence, and well trained installers, they continue to provide the highest quality products and the best service.

The garage door is the gateway to your home. Indulge your sense of design with a garage door that sets your home apart with style, appearance, safety and comfort. With dozens of models to choose from, the Overhead Door™ brand provides style and design options to fit every home.

**Who Invented
the Garage Door?**

In 1921, Overhead Door Corporation, under the leadership of C.G Johnson, invented the upward-acting garage door and revolutionized the way the world entered their homes. For 100 years, Overhead Door™ garage doors have been securing

and providing families access to their homes. Overhead Door™ garage doors are assembled in the United States and sold at over 450 authorized Ribbon Distributors throughout North America. The Overhead Door™ brand and Overhead Door™ distributors are synonymous with quality and dependability. To ensure you are getting the genuine, the original, make sure to always look for the Red Ribbon.

**What Type of
Door Should I Buy?**

Location, climate and building codes are just a few factors to consider when determining which type of garage door is right for your home. Depending on the region you live in, you may need to choose a wind load option for your garage door. Wind loaded garage doors help safeguard your home in high wind prone areas. With garage doors serving as the largest and often times the primary entrance to the home, an insulated garage door may also be right for you.

**How To Pick the
Best Garage Door**

When picking the best garage door for you, a good place to start is with material type. Most garage doors are made from either wood, steel or fiber-

glass. These three materials are strong, durable and each have their unique benefits at various price points. In order to pick the perfect fit for your home we have developed the DoorView® garage door designer. This interactive visualizer tool helps you design your dream door and allows you to see how it will look on your home with just the push of a button. You can also try it on your Apple iPad and Android devices.

**Maintaining your
Garage Door System**

Overhead Door® openers and garage doors are built with longevity in-mind. By performing a few routine tasks, you can help ensure your garage door system stays safe and stands the test of time. One important part of garage door system routine maintenance is to make sure the photo-eyes have not gone out of alignment. The photo-eyes are the infrared sensors which monitor whether the space at the bottom of your garage door is clear. When these sensors are not lined up properly they will keep your door from closing. Make sure to occasionally check your photo-eyes' alignment to ensure they are correctly detecting obstructions to keep your garage door safe and operating properly.

Local VOICES: Perspectives on the STR discussion

**John Foreman
President, NOTL B&B
Association**

There has been a flurry of articles in the NOTL press in the past few weeks concerning short-term rentals (STRs). The negative bias and misinformation in some of these articles is very concerning, especially the casting of STRs as a blight on the town, and the calls for their elimination. As president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association (BBA), and a B&B proprietor myself, I would like to provide my perspective, and suggest an approach to addressing concerns regarding STRs.

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 activity, prior to fully retiring in NOTL.

We had first stayed at a B&B some 40 years ago on our honeymoon, and have always had a soft spot in our hearts for the B&B experience – charming homes, welcoming hosts and hearty breakfasts. My wife and I had stayed at B&Bs in NOTL (and hotels too) many times over the years and the thought of running one, especially in the wonderful town of NOTL, was one we could embrace with enthusiasm. We have also stayed in cottage rentals over the years, although not in NOTL, and found that they can be a great form of travel accommodation as well, especially when travelling with children, family or friends.

My wife and I had been involved in not-for-profit organizations in our previous community, and we soon found ourselves getting involved with the B&B Association. I now find myself serving as president of the organization, unexpectedly involved in many issues I never knew existed just a few years ago.

I have learned a great deal about STRs over the past four years. I am told that not too many years ago, NOTL was considered the B&B capital of North America, with over 300 B&Bs. Now it is estimated that there are perhaps 150. As B&B numbers have gone down, cottage rental numbers have gone up (especially as the popularity of Airbnb has grown). Whereas most B&Bs are licensed by the town, the percentage of cottage rentals that are licensed is lower, making this

segment more vulnerable to being a source of problems.

B&Bs have required licences in NOTL for decades, however it wasn't until 2013 that a bylaw was introduced that covered the entire STR spectrum. NOTL's 2013 STR bylaw defined STRs as including B&Bs, cottage rentals, villas and country inns. By definition, B&Bs and cottages have three bedrooms or less, villas and country inns have four bedrooms or more. In 2020, the town introduced an updated STR bylaw (more on this in a minute).

Whereas B&Bs are almost all owner-occupied, cottage rentals are generally not. There is apparently a belief in some quarters that most cottage rentals are owned by greedy out-of-town investors who seek to siphon off profits from NOTL's prosperous tourism industry. From my knowledge, most cottage rentals are primarily vacation homes, owned by individuals who want to spend part of the year here and rent their property out at other times to help defray the cost of ownership. Most of these folks plan to retire to NOTL in time. I have combed through the town's list of licensed STR properties and have found that there are very few cases where properties are owned by a company and only a handful of cases where an individual or company owns more than one property. Info on unlicensed properties is not available, but I believe that the perception of STR owners as greedy out-of-town investors is exaggerated.

Similarly, I believe that statements about STRs hollowing out NOTL's neighbourhoods are overstated. According to the 2016 census, there were approximately 7,964 private dwellings in NOTL (and this has likely grown since). Of the 255 licensed STRs in NOTL, about 150 are B&Bs, leaving 105 as unhosted cottage or villa rentals. Thus, licensed cottage rentals account for just over 1 per cent of the private dwellings in NOTL (adding unlicensed cottage rentals might increase this number to around 2 per cent). By comparison, the 2016 census indicated that there were 875 homes not occupied as a principal residence (these are generally vacation homes). Even making allowance for the number of these which are rental cottages, I suggest that the number of unoccupied vacation homes contributes more to the hollowing of NOTL than STRs do.

By way of example, on my

block, there are eight houses. One of these is a B&B (ours). One is a villa rental (whose owners live locally). Two others are vacation homes that are not rentals and are left empty for most of the year. Yet another house is a vacation home that has been owned by the same family for many years, and is used frequently. The remaining three houses are lived in by full-time residents. In total, five homes out of eight are in full-time or frequent use by long term NOTL residents. Of the three houses not occupied by NOTL residents, only one is a STR. I suspect that this situation is more typical than not. Yes, there are a significant number of houses not lived in full-time by NOTL residents, but STRs are only one contributor to this situation.

Similarly, there is a belief by some that STRs are responsible for driving up the price of homes in NOTL beyond the ability of average families to afford. Once again, I believe that the concern over the impact of STRs on NOTL real estate prices is overstated. If unhosted STRs account for just over 1 per cent of properties, they assumably account for a similar percentage of real estate transactions each year. It would seem unlikely that STRs are the main driver behind high real estate prices in NOTL.

The reality is that NOTL is a very popular place to live and there will always be strong demand from people looking for vacation homes or retirement homes in NOTL. As a result, prices will always be higher than the surrounding area. As a further point, by our informal count, approximately 10 to 15 per cent of NOTL's STRs have sold in the past year, and many of them were sold as private homes, not B&Bs or cottage rentals. Frankly, with property values so high, the appeal of buying a house in NOTL purely as a STR is greatly reduced. In any case, it is unlikely that eliminating STRs would produce much more than a temporary blip in NOTL's ever-rising house prices.

On a related note, a particular concern of mine (living in a historic home as we do), is that eliminating STRs would result in many quaint older properties being sold as private homes and being either renovated beyond recognition or replaced with modern-looking homes. I can see examples of

Continued on page 9

The Genuine. The Original.

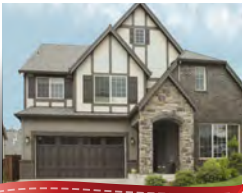


Overhead Door Company of St. Catharines™

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

The Ribbon is Always a Sign of a Winner.

Call for your quote today!



Worth seeking solutions to legitimate concerns

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 that a 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 bad ones. For example, implementation of a "principal residence" requirement, whereby STRs must be owner-occupied,

would essentially eliminate cottage rentals. Cottage rentals have been a feature of NOTL for many decades. They 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, which I believe 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 it looks like progress is being made. I believe that last month 12 properties were fined for operating without a licence.

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. In 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.

We may not have to wait long for an opportunity to test this proposition. We are

now faced with the proposal to implement a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) in NOTL. There are some very vocal individuals in the town that support this direction but there are many in the tourism industry that are concerned about the potential impact.

The B&B Association believes that the best way to move forward would be to create a temporary committee of stakeholders, as was done with the STR bylaw, and let them work through to ensure that decisions are made in a spirit of collaboration and fairness, with the best interests of our community's future in mind. In particular, it will be important that any possible MAT be in synch with the overall Tourism Strategy for NOTL and that good governance and transparency be in place around the spending of MAT-generated funds. The B&B Association would welcome the opportunity to participate in such an activity.

I believe STRs add to the

character of NOTL and provide forms of accommodation 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, are 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.



**Niagara
on-the-Lake
Realty**
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

*The Highest Total Volume of
Local Sales for the Past Decade.*

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



8 ABERDEEN LANE S

\$997,000

MLS 40170996 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



225 RICARDO STREET #103

\$929,000

MLS 40170634 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



24 PLATTOFF STREET

\$1,239,000

MLS 40144171 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



34 GORING WAY

\$1,349,000

MLS 40142764 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



1028 EAST WEST LINE ROAD

\$969,000

MLS 40162932 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



27 STONERIDGE CRESCENT

\$1,100,000

MLS 40167443 • Randall Armstrong



330 JOHN STREET WEST

\$1,229,000

MLS 40169059 • Jane Elltoft



223 JOHN STREET WEST

\$1,325,000

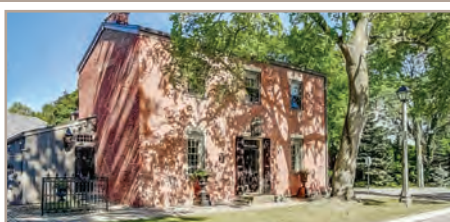
MLS 40166929 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



14554 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY

\$2,195,000

MLS 40129783 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



55 PRIDEAUX STREET

\$2,450,000

MLS 40161034 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



298 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD

\$1,450,000

MLS 40165174 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



615 SIMCOE STREET

\$1,295,000

MLS 40157714 • Viviane Elltoft and Jane Elltoft

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

Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585
Viviane Elltoft* 905-468-2142
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft* 905-988-8776
Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie* 905-685-2458

Christine Bruce* 905-328-9703
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240
Caroline Polgratia* 905-933-4983
Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983
Weston Miller* 289-213-8681
Giovanni Rodriguez Martinez* 905-328-2145

***Broker of Record ** Broker *Sales Representative

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

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 curriculum of themed seminars and discussion groups around a variety of topics delivered over a period of several months. The Learn & Live program will be integrated with other programming offered by the NOTL Public Library.

During the fall of 2021, the theme for the 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday sessions will be "Com-

ing of Age: Wellness of Learning." All sessions are being held in-person at the NOTL Public Library. To register go to <https://notlpubliclibrary.libnet.info/event/5610681>

Due to COVID restrictions, in-person attendance is limited to 25 seats. All sessions will be broadcast live through the library's facebook page and will be available on the library's YouTube site following each session.

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 powerful tool to reach emotional

wellness. Even in the best of times, money, food, employment 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 significantly 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 neuroscience-based learning strategies 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 rewarding 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 scientific advisor to the Alzheimer Society of Canada and Research Director of the Niagara Regional Campus of the McMaster University'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 older people are confused. There is widespread confusion about, for example, the relationship between normal aging and dementia, and the relationship between dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

In addition to this ignorance, there are many wrong beliefs about dementia and normal aging. Almost all of these errors sustain the belief that until a drug for Alzheimer's disease is developed there

is nothing that an individual or society can do about dementia. 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 individuals and society to reduce the risk of dementia. Research and development on interventions to prevent or treat Alzheimer'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 Assistant Professor, Niagara Regional Campus, McMaster's Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, will address questions including: What is healthy aging? What does it look like? Can we stave off frailty, dependency, and cognitive impairment, or are they inevitable? What can you do to age well?

Come and hear what a physician, 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 contact Cindy Grant Cgrant36@cogeco.ca or Terry Mactaggart mact@bell.net

We look forward to seeing you on Oct 12!



Pre-pandemic, Cindy Grant was able to present the Wellness Committee's report to council. (File photo)

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

St. Michael M Lightning Kids recognize Orange Shirt Day



St. Michael students did their best to honour Orange Shirt Day, which was chosen to also be the day to recognize Truth and Reconciliation. (Photos supplied)



St. Michael students Leo Pillitteri, Emilia Bessey, Jonah Pereira, and Emilio Kauzlaric (with his hat on backwards), play ball in their orange shirts on the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

Royal Oak students learn about Anishnaabe culture



The Royal Oak Community Centre Grades 3/4 class had the opportunity on last week's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation to learn from Anishnaabe artist, Jamie-Lynn. She shared knowledge about the Anishnaabe culture and some traditions, while teaching the class how to make a medicine bowl with the four directions, and gifting sacred medicines of sweetgrass, cedar, tobacco and sage to the students. (Photos supplied)



The Early Years class members learned to count to 10 in Mohawk by using rocks, on Orange Shirt Day.

A

Linda Attoe, RP
Counselling · Psychotherapy · Psychoanalysis
By Phone or Videoconference
www.lindaattoe.com | 905-468-0046
Serving the Niagara Region since 2005

RJWA

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

SAFETREE

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

FREE ESTIMATE

Whatever your trees need, Safe Tree is there.

Call Now!
289-650-1775
or visit www.SAFETREE.CA

@safetreeltd

Proud to support local news!

Wayne Gates
MPP Niagara Falls Riding proudly representing Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-357-0681
wgates-co@ndp.on.ca

Celebrate Seniors

Golden Years Guide

Boost happiness and well-being in your golden years

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



fifties, 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 Canadi-

ans 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

905 935 1800
584 ONTARIO STREET
ST. CATHARINES

700 - 1000+ SQ FT • 1 & 2 BEDROOMS • 48 SUITES • FULL KITCHENS • IN SUITE LAUNDRY

LIMITED SUITES AVAILABLE CALL TODAY

LET'S PLAN FOR A WINTER YOU CAN ENJOY
WITH THE COLDER MONTHS AHEAD IT IS THE PERFECT TIME TO MAKE A MOVE TO WORRY FREE SENIORS LIVING. LET'S PLAN FOR A WINTER YOU CAN ENJOY.

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
WWW.RENNIEAPARTMENTS.COM **INDEPENDENT & IN STYLE**

905 935 1800
582 ONTARIO STREET
ST. CATHARINES
WWW.ROYALHENLEY.COM

Suites Available Call Today!

FULL SERVICE RETIREMENT LIVING • RESPITE • ASSISTED LIVING

THE SEASONS ARE CHANGING PLAN A WINTER YOU CAN ENJOY
CHOOSE A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY DEVOTED TO HELPING YOU BRING POSITIVE ENERGY TO EVERYTHING YOU DO, WITH CARE AND SERVICES DESIGNED TO HELP MAKE EVERY DAY FANTASTIC! ENJOY GOURMET MEALS, CALENDAR OF EVENTS, COMFORTABLE AND SPACIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS, WEEKLY HOUSEKEEPING AND MORE!

Niagara's Leading Provider of Cremation & Burial Services
No matter how simple or detailed

Compassionate • Transparent • Pressure Free

MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME
Niagara Falls | 905.356.3550
www.morseandson.com

MORGAN FUNERAL HOME
NOTL | 905.468.3255
www.morganfuneral.com

INDEPENDENT AND LOCALLY OWNED
No Charge Consultation • Price Guarantee

Local writer works with ‘street cop’ on memoir

Penny Coles
The Local

A retired RCMP officer from Nova Scotia has chosen to open 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 something 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 thoughts and feelings he had been unable to share in conversation with his family into a book, Hotchkiss explains.

She knew very little about the police as she took on this challenge, she says, other than they were to be avoided, for the tickets they were inclined to write.

That attitude has changed drastically since getting to know Roy, she says.

He spent his life as a provider and protector, looking after his family, and working on the streets

of Nova Scotia to catch bad guys, protecting those most vulnerable — women and children.

One of the reasons she felt so in tune with Roy she says, is that she grew up enduring sexual abuse.

Listening and talking to him about his career “was a full-circle moment for me. He was trained to work on the street, and in sexual abuse, working with women in the same situation as I experienced.”

They hadn't been talking long, she says, when he sensed her understanding had come from a deeper place.

“What happened to you?” he asked, and Hotchkiss was able to talk about her experiences, knowing that openness and understanding 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 have been very few news stories and few publications from a ‘street-cop’ perspective that deal with the lasting effects of PTSD, and that though 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 is one that would resonate with viewers.



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)



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

Grape harvesters at work



Photographer David Gilchrist came across a local grape harvesting recently on Concession 1, showing Watson's Farms' mechanical harvesting operation.

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

Serving Niagara Since 1977
SIMPSON'S

Shop from the comfort of home
www.simpsonspharmacy.ca



FREE HOME DELIVERY

We are open
in store and online
and offer curbside
pick-up and free
delivery



CURBSIDE PICKUP

We will do everything we can to support you.

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Follow our Facebook Page for Updates | www.simpsonspharmacy.ca

Creek Road Paints

is still **mixing** things up!
Open for in-store shopping
(5 Customers at a time)

Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm,

Saturday 8 am - 12 pm

Place your order in advance and
we can have it ready for you.

Call 905-468-2412.

Creek Road Paints

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

**THE
FARMHOUSE
CAFÉ**

Traditional Thanksgiving
Turkey Meal

Served Sunday, October 10th
from 11:30 to 6:30

Monday, October 11th
from 11:30 to 3

Don't miss out – book your
reservation online soon!

www.carolinecellars.com

CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

**WINE BOUTIQUE
& TASTING BAR**

Open 7 Days a Week

Indoor and Outdoor Wine
Tastings Available
Reservations Strongly
Recommended

Curbside pickup still
available for online orders!

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com



AVAILABLE ALL DAY • OCTOBER 10 & 11

3-COURSE TURKEY DINNER \$30

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP \$9

TRADITIONAL TURKEY DINNER \$20

Oven Roasted Turkey, Savoury Bread
Stuffing, Irish Champ Potatoes, Asparagus,
Cranberry Sauce & Warm Turkey Gravy.

APPLE CRUMBLE \$8.5

TAKEOUT PRE-ORDERS AVAILABLE UNTIL OCTOBER 8.
NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR THIS SPECIALTY EVENT.
INDOOR DINING SPACE IS LIMITED. CALL TODAY!

THEIRISHHARPPUB.COM • (905) 468-4443

Actual Kid-Friendly News

Kids

GAZETTE



SILLY PET PHOTO
Scout McGregor
is all masked up!

OCTOBER 2021 Volume I • Issue I

FIND THE SMILEY FACE HIDDEN ON THIS PAGE!

Local News

Mariah Reese Kids Gazette

Just in time for hot chocolate and hot apple cider season (or a strawberry creme frappuccino if you are still holding onto summer), Starbucks at 124 Queen Street here in NOTL had their grand opening last week and is ready to serve.

Royal Oak School had their annual Terry Fox run, which was a great success and raised over \$2,000 for the

Terry Fox Foundation!

Students from JK to Grade 8, and under the leadership of the eldest students, pushed

themselves, encouraged each other and as one student, Aspen shared, "never gave up because Terry didn't either."



Royal Oak Community School's annual Terry Fox run Sept 29.

The Birthday Surprise

Naomi Wiens (birthday girl, 8) with help from Ella Wiens (II)

For my eighth birthday we went on a horse and carriage ride with my family and my friend Cara. It was a surprise! CeCe was the driver and Cinderella was the horse. The horse was white and had teal glitter on her hooves. The carriage was white and CeCe put a Happy Birthday sign and pink bows on it. The carriage

stopped at Carlotta's, and we all got gelato.

Some family surprised us along the way to say Happy

Birthday. At the end of the ride, I got to feed Cinderella a cookie that had a chicken face on it.



Happy Birthday to all our Joyous NOTL Kids!



- Giacomo Kauzlaric turned 3 on Oct. 5
- Ethan Dulas will be turning 13 on Oct. 6
- D'Arcy Davidson turns 17 on Oct. 10
- Millie McGeachin is turning 9 on Oct. 14
- Luca Mirabella turns 3 on Oct. 16
- Felix Bator turns 6 on Oct. 16
- Brayden Kavanagh is turning 5 on Oct. 18
- Weston Stewart turns 6 on Oct. 21
- Klaudia Bator turns 8 on Oct. 25
- Skieler Reese is turning 8 on Oct. 28

Fall Fun Facts!

- Monarch butterflies fly south to Mexico in the fall. They are the only insects that fly that far to get to warmer weather
- People who live on the equator (or close to it) do not experience fall.
- Many birds fly south (or migrate) for winter. One of the longest flights is the 17,700 km journey by the Arctic Tern.

Interview with Ben

Q. What's your favourite place to eat in NOTL and what meal do you get there?

A. I think my favourite place to eat in Niagara-on-the-Lake is Garrison House. I like their burgers and their french fries are bomb!

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. I want to be a hairdresser. My parents really want me to be an architect because I build a lot and design a lot.

Q. How would you change the world if you could?

A. Improve the environment. Our future depends on the environment. It matters most to me because I am so young. I would start by cleaning the ocean and getting all the plastic out of it.

Q. What is your ideal day in NOTL?

A. I think it would be waking

up and going to Stagecoach for a little breakfast. Then going to the beach and having a Budapest (Bakeshop) day at the beach. And of course I'd have to do Fritters on the Lake for a little treat after. I'd go to the shop that sells all the Canadian stuff.

Q. 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 overwhelming and it's not boring. There's always an event.

Q. 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 something 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 its 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 mannequins. I have my own hair salon in my basement. I have my product shelf, I have my chair, I have my mirrors, I have my rolling cart.



Ben Van Veghal-Wood, 12
Grade 7

The Ruller Review: Sandtrap Pub & Grill

Max, Anastasia, Sofia and Sam Ruller Kids Gazette

Have you ever been in the mood for a tasty meal... but you're also in the mood to bump into people from school or your neighbourhood?

We suggest you go to the Sandtrap Pub and Grill! If you are a big family like ours, they have big booths for all of us to fit.

There are many reasons to order the food at Sandtrap. For gravy-lovers, their fries and

gravy and poutine are da bomb. For mac'n cheese-lovers, you can order a kid-sized one or an adult one (for those of us with bigger appetites who are getting closer to high school). The chicken fingers are a favourite in our family, as are the wings, pizza and buffalo chicken wrap. The best part of ordering a kids' meal is that you usually get either a freezie or small ice cream for your dessert. Also, they have root beer in a bottle there!

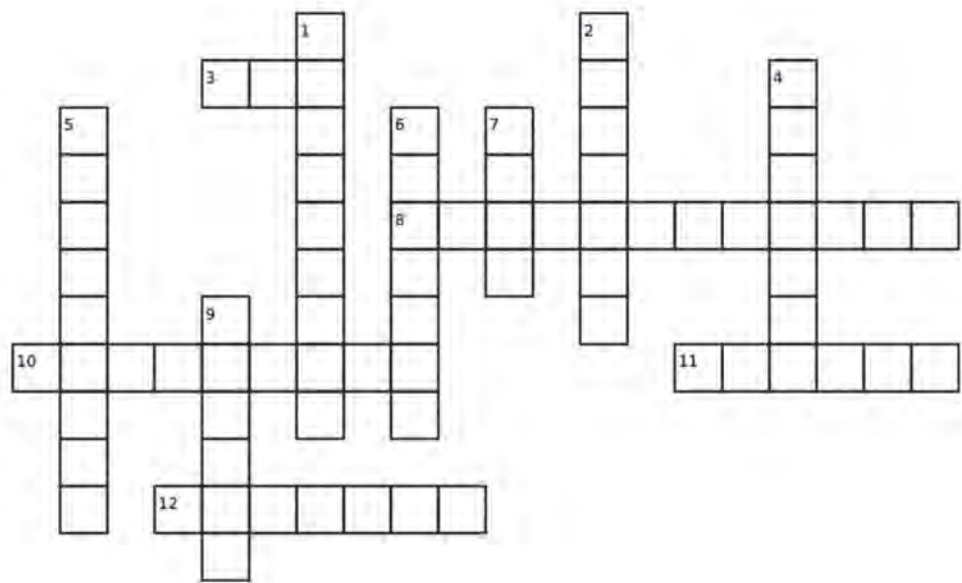
The staff is always super friendly and one server always

says "Hi, family!" to us. If you go to Crossroads, you might notice Dylan and Colton's dad. He's kind of a big deal there. Finally, the patio they put in when COVID hit is really nice to sit on!

We give Sandtrap Pub & Grill 4/4 for chicken fingers!



Crossword: Fall is in the Air



Down:

- 1 Exceptionally lovely
- 2 Round orange-yellow fruit
- 4 process of gathering in crops
- 5 A festive coming together
- 6 10th month of the year
- 7 Usually found on a plant stem and is typically green
- 9 Last meal of the day

Across:

- 3 Baked dish with a pastry
- 8 A day to give thanks
- 10 To show thankfulness
- 11 Third season of the year
- 12 A sweet dish served after a meal

Answers: 1. beautiful 2. pumpkin 3. pie 4. harvest 5. gathering 6. October 7. leaf 8. Thanksgiving 9. dinner 10. autumn 11. gratitude 12. dessert

kid's comic



Written and illustrated by : Diego Rey



Riddle me this ...

Riddle: Sam and Jenna who were outside in the rain without an umbrella or hat didn't get a single hair on their heads wet. Why?

Answer: They were bald.

SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting 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 appropriate 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-storey dollhouses sit in the centre, each room depicting everyday life from days long gone.

There's an enchanted garden with detailed purple wisteria lining one wall and a hat store 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 mice 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 labelled "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 Playgirl. 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. During her marriage, she moved around a lot, living for a time in Warsaw, Poland as her husband at the time worked in diplomatic services. She also lived in Guelph before moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Through it all, she became a master in figuring out how to repurpose items such as discarded dairy creamer and jam containers, ice cream tubs and the plastic discs with legs that keep the top of pizza boxes from touching the pies.



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

Carter has a double closet in the miniatures room and another in the hallway both stuffed full of supplies. Drawers hold neatly organized swatches of material while bins are used to collect items others throw out as junk. Carter says miniaturists like her are the original recyclers.

Some recent health issues have prompted her to think about downsizing. Selling her miniatures now will mean she will have fewer items to move when the time comes.

She hasn't sold many of her creations through the years, but has generously donated them to some animal-related charities. She once donated a doll house to Pet Valu for a raffle to support the Niagara Falls Humane Society. Another brought in \$2,000 for an animal rescue organization, a cause that is near and dear to her heart.

Some of Carter's work is sentimental. She has recreated a photo of her as a child sitting in front of her family's Port Colborne fireplace. And there's a gutted 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 she is not ready to part with. The Rainbow Bridge, for instance, is a tribute to the animal lover's many, many pets she has cared for and lost through the years. She names them all - Mommie and Cheekie, her shepherd Maggie, her cocker spaniel Coco, and dozens more.

Caleb's Pub is reserved for her grandson, for whom it was named. Her grandchildren, 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 papier mache and styrofoam, with intricate items all hand-made except for a gargoyle and a couple of other small pieces, she's saving for one of her dearest friends.

"He raves about this every time he comes to town," she says. "The next time I see him I'm just going to give it to him."

She has honed her craft alongside another her friend Linda McDermid, whom she calls a wizard with a paint brush. The two would work together, carving figures and props out of builders foam on a weekly basis. The pandemic, however, put a stop to their sessions.

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 challenges 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 laughs. "I keep good records. It has served me well over the years. Having the paperwork has prevented me from being scammed."

She is determined to get a fair price for everything she parts with over the next little while, including the four-storey Knoxville 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.

Shaw and Music matches playwright's words with Mozart

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 online 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 led him to be so successful as a playwright."

More specifically, Ban-

nerman adds, "You see some particular scenes in his plays culminate in what amounts to an aria. Someone sums up their whole life and situation in one long diatribe. 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 this Dec. 9, 1891 assessment of Mozart on the occasion of the composer's centenary:

"The critic's task is not so easy. The word is admire, admire, 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 easily 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 greater 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 Alles*. In it, he writes that the work "is 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.

"For better or 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

not many. You have to be an aficionado to really take interest in that particular composer."

Because of that scarcity, says Bankas, not only will viewers of this weekend's At Home Concert Series be hearing Goetz for the first time, but they may also be experiencing the composer's work for the last time.

That's not to say the pieces taken on by Atis and the trio, as well as soprano Inga Filipova, aren't worth hearing again and again. Juxtaposed as it is in this program with Mozart's work, Goetz' compositions hold their own and at times match his beauty and complexity. One could understandably be left to wonder what kept Goetz from enduring in the world of classical music.

Bankas compares Shaw's writings on music to a document of what was played, who played it, how long the concerts were and how they were structured at the turn of the 20th century.

"It's quite a bit of information," Bankas says. "That seriously allows us to bring back forgotten performers, in this case Goetz, sometimes just to show why those composers are forgotten, even though at the time they were very popular for sometimes decades before they disappeared."

Hearing Shaw's words along with the music of Goetz, about



Veteran actor Guy Bannerman gives voice to words written by Shaw in the early 20th century. (Screenshot)

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 music scene was like," the actor marvels. "There were things going on virtually every day. And Shaw is 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."

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.



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



MUSIC NIAGARA presents

BRAHMS

OKTOBERFEST

MUSIC NIAGARA FESTIVAL | 2021



Where the world comes to play

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/

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:

- beet & cucumber salad
- choucroute garnie with Barnraiser braised cabbage
- garlic dill potatoes
- beer mustard cream




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 Toma-

sulo, 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 2001.

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.

Medications, 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 fund-

ing 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.

Domino's Pizza 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 13 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.



Brenda Sharp, a local trigeminal neuralgia patient, hosted an outdoor fundraising event to help fight the disease. (Photos supplied)



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

Palliative Care fundraiser close to goal

**Brenda Sharp
Special to The Local**

With the annual Cycle ride behind them, Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director of Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care, says the fundraiser has come close to meeting its goal of \$20,000.

"We were so blessed by all the special support this year," says B-

agnulo. "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/>.

The Healing Cycle Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting hospices and palliative care units across Ontario, raising funds through the annual Healing Cycle Ride, now in its 16th year. Over the past 15 years, The Healing Cycle Foundation has raised more than \$3 million for Ontario hospices and palliative care units.



The Pedal Pushers team participated in its ninth Healing Cycle fundraiser for local palliative care. (Photos supplied)



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

Fundraising to eradicate polio



The NOTL Rotary Club held a walk, run and cycle fundraising event Saturday, beginning and ending at the St. Davids Lions Park pavilion. After her five-kilometre walk through St. Davids, Rotary president Patricia Murenbeeld accepted a hamburger and fries, served up by St. Davids Lions president Ted Burrows. The Rotary Club has also enjoyed using the Lions pavilion for some of their outdoor meetings, and has donated \$500 to the Lions for international projects as a thank you for the club's support. The district-wide event set a goal of \$60,000, which, thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matching \$2 for every \$1 raised, will add \$180,000 to the Rotary International effort to eradicate polio world-wide. To donate visit <https://raise.rotary.org/Frank-Adamson/challenge1>. (Penny Coles)



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

FINDING YOUR SPACE BETWEEN THE LAKES

McGarr
MCGARR REALTY CORP., BROKERAGE

THE PENINSULA GROUP

"To provide professional Real Estate Service, you must add something which cannot be bought or measured, and that is **Sincerity and Integrity.**"

Amber Loforti
Sales Representative
Amber@ThePeninsulaGroup.ca
905-359-5780

McGarr Realty Corp., Brokerage
1507 Niagara Stone Road | 905.468-9229

Whitney Pea becomes Singing Hen, recording kids' songs

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

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 kids' songs," she says. "It's kind of like the Mom 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 let go of 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 child-like 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-l-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 to sing and play.

"There's something different about the atmosphere when children are present," posits 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, Matinee Slim and the Ultralight 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 snuck 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.



Whitney Fowler promises songs for kids, one which includes daughter Melody. (Photo supplied)

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 jumping. We came back the next day and got our heads in the game."

Hoadley says she knew what to expect on that second day of competition,

leading to a bronze finish overall and qualifying her for this month's Ontario Jumper Championships.

During the pandemic, Hoadley and the others had to adjust to COVID-19 rules and protocols, which allowed only two riders at a time to train at the Benchview facility on Concession 6. That is, when the facility was actually allowed to welcome any riders at all.

"It usually takes six to seven months to prepare," Darte explains. "We had three lockdowns, but we actually had an additional lockdown because we lost one of our horses to an equine infectious disease."

Pippin, a 14-year-old horse, exhibited signs of the neurological disease. Within less than two days he began to lose function of his body, and he succumbed to the malady. Caitlin and her siblings Jasmine and Matthew were forced to quarantine the barn for a full month following the tragic loss.

When the three girls returned to the ranch, they had to adjust to self-guided solo lessons rather than working in groups, where they could offer each other encouragement and advice. And instead of six to seven months of preparation, they had six to eight weeks.

"It was a lot of just flattening (working on walking, trotting and cantering with a loose rein), which I didn't think was as important before," says Hoadley. "But after coming out of the quarantine with all that groundwork, it definitely helped."

A.N. Myer graduate Sydney Brousseau concurs with Hoadley's assessment of the modified training plan. She and her horse Jude (show name: Hey Jude) competed in



Paige Hoadley on Bella and Sydney Brousseau on Jude congratulate each other on their riding success. (Photo supplied)

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.

Jude is relatively new to equestrian events, having retired only two years ago from the racing world. Brousseau was able to convince her parents to let her purchase Jude, promising to pay them back "for the rest of my life" if she had to.

"We had a lot of bonding time, during COVID, when we couldn't have lessons," 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 National Championship

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 anxieties. 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 smiles. "She went through a whole round clear. I felt super proud. She handled everything like a champ. She amazes me."

Sarah Laughton, the youngest of the group at 15, rode Zoe (show name: Believe it or Not), the oldest of the three mounts, in

the Hunter competition (jumping discipline scored by a judge's subjective score on the horse's form and manners going around a course of jumps). Though she did show with Zoe four years ago, 2021 was her first chance to work her on her own in preparation for Erin.

The grade 10 Laura Secord Secondary School student credits Darte's encouraging manner for her progression in riding since she first started nine years ago.

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

Like the other girls, Laughton had to mentally prepare for the competition last week. Their previous events were all held in Cale-

don and they had never experienced the course in Erin.

"We had no idea what to expect," Laughton says. "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 with Paige Hoadley and Bella at an Erin, Ont. competition. (Photo supplied)



Caitlin Darte with her students, Sydney Brousseau, Sarah Laughton and Paige Hoadley, back at the Benchview barn after a successful competition for all three. (Mike Balsom)

Pickleball tournament proves local skills on court

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 partnership 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 will 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 more 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 we'll 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 whale 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.



Oriana Oszip and Jerry Eitze won gold in mixed doubles 3.5. Eitze 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)



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



Rick and Judy Knutson took silver in mixed 4.0.

LocalSPORTS

Predators win one, lose one to start their season

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

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.

"I thought 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 once we get more of our bodies in the next few weeks this team will be really exciting to watch."

Mario Zitella showed exactly why Whalen and general manager Johan Eriksson decided to bestow 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.

Zitella opened the scoring at 5:15 into the first period with a goal on a breakaway, after receiving an open-ice pass from Dante Massi.

The Preds ended the first period with a 1-0 lead, and a two-man advantage as Streetsville's Cole Wigle and Connor Cathcart 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 past Predators goalie Oskar Spinnars Nordin.

Alexander Insulander put the Preds up 2-0 with a backhand off a rebound, with 6:45 remaining in the second. Shortly after that, Predators defence-man Brett Lee was handed a 10-minute misconduct, giving the Flyers an extended power play. In the last minutes of the second, Evan Camara put one past Spinnars Nordin, and the Preds Gino Carter Squires was called for boarding just 40 seconds later.

The Predators began the third period two men short, but managed to kill

the penalty successfully. Just seconds later, with both teams at full strength, Hudson Hunich tied it up for the Flyers.

"I think it was just a miscommunication out there," Whalen said about the goal. "They squeaked one through. I don't think it was one of their strongest shots, but that's the game of hockey sometimes. But we came back."

Indeed, Zitella's second goal put Niagara up for good. Taking a pass from behind the net off of Reese Bisci, Zitella quickly wristed a shot past Streetsville goalie Tayte Pracek before he had a chance to react.

Massi added a goal of his own, the Predators' fourth, off a backhand 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 Keon Chinganda cut the margin to 5-3, which stood at the end of the game.

At just 5'7", forward Zitella played far beyond his size on the ice. His speed and willingness to dig in the corners were impressive throughout the game, and he now has the distinction of being the first to score for the Predators in their new home.

"It means a lot," Zitella told The Local after the game. "I got the puck from Massi, it was a great break-out pass. I'm sure every guy in the room dreamed about scoring the first goal. I just happened to be the guy to get the opportunity to put it in. I'm glad we got off to a good start."

On the opposite end of the size chart at 6'4" is Swedish native Jesper Eriksson, Zitella's linemate and the tallest Predator. His assists on both Massi's and Emil Eriksson's goals don't tell his complete story.

"He's 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 unnec-

essary penalties, including two for unsportsmanlike conduct. As well, Brett Lee's misconduct resulted in a suspension for the Sunday game in St. George.

"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 Turnbull. 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.

Niagara couldn't recover from some early scoring by the Ravens and came out on the short side of a 4-2 decision.

Former Pelham Panther Mike Marchesan scored in both the first and second periods, and LJ Beaupre netted the third St. George goal, leaving the Predators to try to claw back in the third.

They made a valiant effort. Emil Eriksson scored on a wrist shot 5:36 into the last period on a 2-on-2 break. Then, Alex Insulander punched a backhand shot behind Ravens goalie Marek Pavlas on a quick breakaway.

The Predators kept the pressure on for the remainder of the game. Jesper Eriksson challenged Pavlis with a great shot on net, and also missed over the crossbar on a slapshot on another drive.

A cross-checking penalty on St. George defender Noah Sigal with 41 seconds left, combined with Spinnars Nordin skating to the bench, gave the Predators a two-man advantage, but a miscue at the Ravens blue line resulted in an empty-net goal for Marcheson, his third of the game, cementing the Ravens' victory.

"The Ravens are a big, physical team, much bigger than our guys, and we started 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, Europeans Georgy Kholmovsky, Joakim Sjoblom and Daniil Petrov will have arrived and be cleared to play. There are a couple 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 home-and-home se-

ries against the Tottenham Thunder in Virgil Friday night.

"They are a young team," Eriksson says of the Thunders. "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.



Predators' Reese Bisci leads the charge with Brett Lee (21) and Gino Carter Squire providing support. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Goalie Oskar Spinnars Nordin.



Forward Reese Bisci



Mario Zitelli

‘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 benefitted 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, Ernest Bell was packing his suitcase in preparation for his first trip to Canada on the Seasonal Agricultural Workers 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 newsstands 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 subsidized 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, yam, 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 Niagara-on-the-Lake over the many years he’s been working and living here. In 1982, Bob Hunter was his energetic, enthusiastic employer, well-known for his involvement in the church and community. His son Ken was just in his 20s, but already following in his father’s footsteps. Hunter Farms relied on Ernie and his co-workers to prune the trees 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 peaches and tart cherries. The production facility that sold pitted and sugared cherries by the bucket was a thriving hub of activity from June to late July.

When the farm shifted into grape production around 2016, the large workforce was downsized dramatically. Ernie and a few others were able to remain living in the bunkhouses on the Hunter property after they transferred to the MacSween farm.

I first met Ernie at a welcome concert for farm workers in 2007, where he and his co-worker Clive Brown received certificates of appreciation for their 25-plus years of service in NOTL. I found an old photo of him receiving the certificate at the event, and included it in an album I created as a keepsake of his time in Niagara. He eagerly began reminiscing over the photos with a co-worker when I surprised him with it.

Many of the photos were taken by Dr. Janet MacLaughlin, who had visited Ernie and his young family in February, 2007, in Sandy River.

Ernie pointed out a photo of his young self, proudly posing with a very large and perfect head of lettuce. Laughing, he pulled out his smartphone, scrolling through the photos until he found a recent one of his now adult daughter, Vaneisha, holding a beautiful head



Ernie Bell is winding up his 39th and last season on a Niagara farm.

of lettuce in an almost identical pose as him in the 2007 photo.

She is passionate about farming, and has been a big help tending to the crops while he was away.

Next year he plans to plant and enjoy harvesting his own crops back home.

Thirty-nine years of missing birthdays, graduations, weddings, and funerals – all family milestones. He has a lot of catching up to do, and is eagerly looking forward to celebrating his grandchildren’s birthdays with real hugs, instead of watching on a tiny screen almost 3,000 kilometres away.

In 2019, I remember hearing the distant sounds of the Niagara Jazz Festival drifting over the vineyards in our neighbourhood, a beautiful blend of cultures to the heart of Clarendon to the heart of Niagara. It may be a tiny parish, but the Clarendon connection has provided not only decades of dependable employees like Ernie, but enduring friendships that are priceless.

Thank you Ernie. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

LocalHAPPENINGS



FISH FRY

Thursday, October 7th

4 - 7 p.m.

EAT IN OR DRIVE THRU

CASH ONLY

1 piece \$10

2 piece \$13

with fries and coleslaw

Legion

BRANCH 124

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

Social club for

Newcomers

discerning women

Club

Welcome Back!

October 20 - 11 to 2

Virgil Sports Park Pavilion

Bring a picnic lunch

notlnewcomers.com

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT HERE

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



Michael Wonder and Ernie Bell reminisce over a collection of photos put together by Jane Andres. (Jane Andres)

LocalWORSHIP



Sunday, October 10th

10:00 a.m.

Worship Gathering -

In-Person & Online

Message:

Kevin Bayne -

The Beginning of All Things

Our services are also

streamed online Sunday's

at 10 AM. Visit our website

for more information!

www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your

Worship Services

in this section, please contact:

karen@notllocal.com

SUDOKU

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

Local

CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com



Compassionate
Transparent
No Pressure
www.morganfuneral.com

HELP WANTED

Farm Labourers Required
William Falk Farms Ltd.

Seasonal, full-time positions available. March 2022. Must have own transportation. Rural area (NOTL), fast paced 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 GRAPES ESTATES

is looking for general seasonal full time laborer workers. Duties include pruning, tying, 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

PLEASE
RECYCLE
THIS
NEWSPAPER



LAST WEEK'S
SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from
September 29, 2021

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

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
23			24					25				26	27	28
29							30			31				
			32			33				34				
35	36	37				38				39				
40					41				42					
43					44				45			46	47	48
49				50				51						
		52	53				54					55		
56	57					58				59				
60						61				62				
63						64				65				

- Across:**

1 Urban air pollution problem

5 That's in Paris

9 Prim

14 Formerly French Sudan

15 E.g. Rice, Harvard (Abbr.)

16 Snake vulnerable to the mongoose

17 Not dissimilar

18 Salespeople

19 Syrian dynasty

20 Padre (Abbr.)

21 Prepares for war

22 Roughly speaking

23 Traditional voting day

25 West Atlantic international grp.

26 Flat panel TV type

29 Ankle injury

30 Parking area

31 Doozie

32 Undersides

34 2,000 lbs

35 Foundation

38 Tear

39 Shorthand inventor John Robert ---

40 --- calling!

41 Maturity

43 Stiff sentence

44 Missions (Abbr.)

45 Goad

49 Banned insecticide

50 Distress message

51 Chivvied

52 Comedians

54 Drugs (Abbr.)

55 Threat to fighters

56 Alan Ladd gunfighter role

58 Loopy

59 D-Day beach

60 Main artery

61 Piece for two

62 "Time --- My Side" (The Rolling Stones)

63 Awesome

64 Stack

65 Fix

Down:

1 Mental ability

2 Bury the hatchet

3 Director/producer --- Stone

4 Kind of rummy

5 Small seedless raisin

6 Foe

7 Drinks slowly

8 Corner consoles?

9 Operation mementos

10 Decide with a coin

11 Pure

12 Plan sponsored by Sen. William Roth

13 Family guy

21 Spanish farewell

22 Stable food

24 Californian pine

25 Vavavoom

27 Block

28 Ordure

30 Lower abdomen

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) Caughell, 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, 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 Rhode 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



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.

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

- 31 Pantry

33 Ensnared

35 Hairless

36 Keen

37 Computer code

39 Attendees

41 Low sounds?

42 Out with a potential partner

46 Neglect

47 Pressurize

48 Comet finder --- Halley

50 Bargain

51 German philosopher

53 Cosmopolitan (Abbr.)

54 Second-largest Hawaiian island

56 Nordic airline

57 By what means?

58 National economic indicator

59 Actor --- Carrey

Across: 1 Smog, 5 C'est, 9 Staid, 14 Mail, 15 Urn, 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 Lull, 32 Bottoms, 34 A ton, 35 Basis, 38 Rip, 39 Gregg, 40 Avon, 41 Bottom, 42 On a date, 46 Disuse, 47 Software, 39 Goers, 41 Moos, 42 On a date, 46 Disuse, 47 Leen on, 48 Edmond, 50 Steal, 51 Hegel, 53 Int'l, 54 Maui, 56 S A S, 57 How, 58 G D P, 59 Jlm.

GREG SYKES

real estate

TEAM

Free Home Evaluation



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

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT
905.329.3484

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.



SOLD
OVER ASKING

\$1,250,000

10+ Acres

487 Four Mile Creek Rd.



\$1,095,000

5.2 Acres

44 Kirkwood Dr.



SOLD
OVER ASKING

\$1,295,000

COMING SOON

41 Melville St.



\$1,595,000

Water View