Niagara riding federal candidates face off

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

When the federal election is over on Oct. 21, one thing is certain in the Niagara Falls riding — a new representative will be taking a seat in the House of Commons to represent Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie. The resignation of current Conservative MP Rob Nicholson back in April guarantees that outcome.

Five of the hopefuls to fill Nicholson’s seat fielded questions about environmental issues, immigration and poverty last Wednesday at a debate held at the YourTV (formerly Cogeco) studios in Niagara Falls.

Taking a cue from the Leaders’ Debates Commission struck by Democratic Institutions Canada in October of 2018, only the five candidates representing the parties with seats in the House of Commons were invited to the television debate. That decision left one of the most high-profile candidates, current Niagara Falls city councillor Mike Strange, running independently of any party, out of the proceedings. Both he and Tricia O’Connor from the Christian Heritage Party were instead offered pre-recorded three-minute segments that were played during a break in the live proceedings.

The first question dealt with the carbon tax implemented by the current Liberal government. Green Party candidate Sandra O’Connor referred to the carbon tax as a “deflection,” promising her party would simply tax the big polluters directly. The NDP’s Brian Barker said the carbon tax would be just one of the tools they would use.

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Hockey night in NOTL!

In a game of ball hockey in their Chautauqua neighbourhood, Ty Sherlock gets ready to pass to Lennox Meadows, while Tennyson and Holden Powell are ready to bounce in the rebound. The boys are hockey fans and play in the NOTL Minor Hockey League. (Fred Mercnik)
The new community safety zone in St. Davids was celebrated Thursday at the public school, where the designation is considered a positive step for student safety.

As drivers pass by St. Davids Public School along York Road, from Queenston Road to Concession 3, signs, which were up in time for the start of the school year, warn that fines for speeding through the area could be doubled.

Carolyn Ryall, regional director of transportation services, told those gathered at the school the goal of community safety zones is to modify driver behaviour and improve safety on specific sections of roads within the Niagara region. The Region approved the designation for St. Davids this summer, and another area in the town of Lincoln.

In considering the need for a community safety zone, the Region looks at the number of safety and speeding complaints and violations at specific locations, collision history, and the number of students and families walking to school, she said.

The request for the community safety zone in St. Davids goes back to July, 2017, when the previous council agreed to ask the Region to look at improving safety for pedestrians in the village.

York Road begins with an 80 kilometre-an-hour speed limit, which is reduced to 60 km/h as it approaches the village and then 40 km/h through the school zone.

The police have increased their presence in the area, first issuing warnings from Sept. 3 to 15. Inspector James McCaffery told those gathered at the school for the announcement, and then issuing fines for speeding and other offences in the weeks since, in an effort to change driver behaviour.

He said most drivers have been supportive of the community safety zone — although not all who were ticketed.

The message, he said, is "drive safe, stay safe," and promised the police will continue their presence in the village.

Lord Mayor Betty Deseiro thanked all involved for helping to get the designation approved, once council sent the request to the Region. Everyone worked together to ensure the safety of the community of St. Davids and St. Davids School, she said.

Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa said the Region is committed to healthier living, and given the benefits of an active lifestyle, "students thrive."

The event also marked October being International Walk to School Month, an annual celebration of active transportation taking place around the world, he said.

In addition to addressing the speed of drivers, the lack of sidewalks in the village for kids walking to school is another component of the problem, he said.

The traffic at the intersection of Four Mile Creek Road and York Road, is also a consideration, said Zalepa, with the future reopening of Mewburn Road part of the solution.

"The residents of St. Davids can rest assured we’re looking at safety measures for St. Davids."

School principal Tracey Leemet said there are about 60 to 75 students who live close enough to walk to school — the majority of students are from the rural area and the Glendale neighbourhood, and are bused. Even some who live in nearby subdivisions take the school bus, she said, because of the lack of sidewalks on their route, but for those who can walk, the community safety zone is a great initiative to help keep them safe.
He added that the NDP’s “New Deal” would also include the creation of 300,000 good green jobs, investing in clean energy projects through a climate bank, and getting more zero-emission vehicles on the roads.

Later, Barker went on to criticize the Stephen Harper Conservative government for pulling out of the Kyoto Accord in 2010, then said of the Liberals, “we can’t be climate champions, and declare an emergency on one day, then turn around and buy a pipeline the next.”

Liberal candidate Andrea Kaiser defended her party’s policy. She called the carbon tax a price on pollution, describing it as a critical step toward reaching the targets for Canada as set out by the country’s participation in the Paris Agreement, which took effect in 2016. She pointed to the success of Alberta’s provincial Climate Change Act as proof that a tax can work toward a cleaner country, while also helping to boost the economy.

Conservative candidate Tony Baldinelli, however, refused Kaiser’s claims for the need for a carbon tax, which he said his party would immediately repeal. “Unlike under the Liberal scheme, there will be no sweetheart deals for anyone,” said Baldinelli. “Large industrial emitters will be forced to pay into green technology funds to clean up their emissions.”

A question about supporting immigrants and their families revealed how the People’s Party of Canada differs largely from the other parties. Niagara Falls candidate Alex Taylor promised his party would reduce immigration to somewhere between 100,000 to 150,000 per year. “We believe that this (immigration) is push-forward house prices, and getting that demand. As well, each of these candidates spoke of the importance of making it possible to reunite immigrants with their families once they have arrived in Canada. Taylor boiled down the response did not touch on this part of the immigration question.

Diane Corkum, Executive Director of Project Share in Niagara Falls, asked candidates to address the unavailability of affordable housing in that city. The Conservative candidate promised to allow for a 30-year amortization of mortgages, as well as an easing of the mortgage stress test for first time home buyers. Barker said his party would also increase the allowable amortization period, and added that an NDP government would implement both a universal child care program and national school nutrition program to help tackle poverty.

O’Connor recognized the need to support renters, with a rent supplement proposed by the Greens. Her party is also promising a guaranteed livable income for all Canadians.

Taylor boiled down the housing crisis as a question of supply versus demand. The People’s Party platform pushes a reduction in immigration as a method of curbing that demand. Kaiser said the Liberals’ Canada Child Benefit has lifted more than 300,000 children out of poverty across Canada. The Liberal candidate thinks the 30-year mortgage strategy is too risky. She pointed to the current government’s $40 billion housing strategy and its first-time home buyers incentive as being better options.

In the end, none of the five candidates directly brought forth a strategy that would guarantee better availability of affordable housing in Niagara Falls.

The Local’s Penny Coles wanted to know what the potential MPs would do to help local agriculture and wine industries. Taylor’s response focused on bringing the canny industry back to Niagara. O’Connor said the Green Party would better protect the Green Belt local, and help farmers continue to earn their livelihood via their land. She also promised to look at the high taxes charged on Niagara wines, and to guarantee local wines get better shelf space at the LCBO.

Brian Barker lamented the lack of local foods in our grocery stores, and echoed O’Connor’s call for better shelf space in LCBO stores. Barker also wants to see Niagara’s wines sold across the country. Kaiser said the Liberals have removed the barrier to trade between provinces, and said it is actually the provinces themselves that haven’t all come on board.

Baldinelli promised a Conservative government would look at investments in rural infrastructure and address the labour shortage in agriculture and tourism industries.

The candidates also answered questions about gun control, the labour and skills shortages being experienced across the country, and the abilities and qualities of each of their party leaders.

The debate continues to be rebroadcast on YourTV and can be watched via their website at yourtv.ca.

Federal candidates were debating their platforms at an all-candidates meeting in St. Davids Tuesday evening, but after The Local had gone to press. That meeting will be reported in next week’s edition of The Local.
Councillors were given a crash course on grinder pumps at a workshop held Monday afternoon, along with some recommendations that since they are part of the low-pres- sure sewer system in St. Davids, the Town should take over re- sponsibility for replacement and maintenance, leaving own- ership of the pumps with the homeowner.

The committee also recom- mended the wastewater bylaw be updated, and that all residents on town sewer sys- tems be charged $12.50 extra a year to cover the Town cost of assuming responsibility for grinder pumps, as presented by committee vice-chair Michelle Adelstein.

She was asked by Coun. Al- lan Bisback, who was passing along a question he heard from another resident, why all residents should shoulder the cost instead of just those who have grinder pumps. Adelstein explained all sewage works are paid for by all sewage users — if there are repairs to the sewage system in the old Town, she said, as it was a St. Davids system, she runs for it as well.

Everyone’s grinder pumps at this point are functioning well, said Adelstein, “but this is an evolving process.” She said homeowners and developers have to be educated and Town staff better trained to assess fu- ture installations. The Town is not currently inspecting new in- stallations, she said. “Quality of installation is important.”

As subdivisions requiring new homes to have grinder pumps connect to the St. Davids sewer system, the committee recommends a high standard of grinder pump quality be clearly documented with the develop- er, a rigorous inspection and sign-off of the installation be implemented, and the develop- er be required to share some of the construction savings with the Town to defray the future cost of pump maintenance. A fee of $10,000 per new home would pay the maintenance costs for an estimated 30 to 40 years, at a cost of $30,000 for re- placement pumps.

The low pressure system saves the developer a lot of money, given the cost of a tradi- tional gravity system, and “it’s fair to ask a developer” to pay a portion of the Town’s ongoing costs, said Adelstein.

In preparing its report and recommendations, the com- mittee researched sewer man- agement systems and consulted with the Town’s legal counsel, who confirmed that grinder pumps are part of the Town’s communal, low-pressure sewer system, said Adelstein. “This deter- mination was critical.”

When asked for clarifica- tion, she said the committee had verbal discussion and agreement on that point with the Town lawyer.

The committee also consult- ed with the Town’s insurance broker, the Town treasurer, op- erations and other staff, oth- er communities with grinder pumps, and the public through an open house in September and comments on the Town’s website, said Adelstein.

The decision by council in the early 2000s to approve the use of a low pressure sewer system powered by grinder pumps in Bevan Heights and on Tan- bark Road was a good one, the committee said. It estimated that “tens of millions of dollars” was saved by not installing a tradi- tional sewer system in Bevan Heights, because of the underly- ing structure of the escarpment, Adelstein told councillors.

But some pump owners, maybe a handful, have had mul- tiple replacements, she said, and she has had four grinder pumps.

“Through its research, the committee also came to under- stand the importance of grinder pump installation quality, she said, that homeowners own and operate an active part of the Town’s sewer system, and the ongoing capital costs of the system in comparison to a tradi- tional gravity system.

The planning committee decision must be ratified by council at its next meeting, which is Oct. 21. Councillor Park residents An- gelo and Chiara Recine, living in a corner townhouse near St. Davids Cold Storage, told coun- cillors they and their neigh- bours continue to be disturbed by the noise and vibration from their unit, although the owner has tried to mitigate it.

While some councillors accused owner of “bad behav- iour” by installing equip- ment that was not shown on his site plan for the expansion of the cold storage warehouse, heard, but no noise study has been undertaken since. Councillor Erwin Wiers said he wouldn’t support a motion based on “ anecdotal” evidence that could have serious repercus- sions for a local businessman who is trying to grow a business that provides an im- portant service throughout the region. If moving the equipment proves not to be feasible, “how do we force him to do something that’s not feasible,” he said.

Coun. Clare Cameron also was uncomfortable about im- posing a solution on a business that might be technically im- possible, while Lord Mayor Bett- ty DiSavero suggested the owner would “probably do what any good neighbour would do, put the condensers up on the roof.” She asked that the business op- erator be invited to council to discuss the situation.

The motion by Bisback, and the amendment to the site plan as recommended by town staff, were carried unanimously to third reading and will come to council, with his information on record before councillors have a discussion and make a decision on ventilator responsibil- ity for grinder pumps.

Councillors also accused the “garbage” of theLocal.com with no opportunity to talk about their future roles and relationship.

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Council approves this term’s strategic plan

Penny Coles
The Local

Council has approved its strategic plan to take it to 2022, focusing on long-term planning and innovation, defining priorities and providing council with direction.

The biggest difference between this and former strategic plans, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero, is that it provides not only for tactics to reach its goals, but a timeline for achieving them and a process for measuring council’s progress at the end of 2020, 21 and 22.

This council decided to bring in a consultant to help with the strategic plan, says Disero, and the result “was a higher level of thinking,” in terms of goals and participation.

Rather than looking at specifics, she says, the goal of the plan is to take the community “a step beyond day-to-day operational responsibilities,” and look at “what kind of community we want, and how to get there. It also talks about measuring performance at the end of each year, to ensure council is accountable.”

Accountability, she says, “has been a big thing for all members of council, even during the election.”

For example, in the section that calls for delivering smart, balanced growth, the plan states council should have an action plan approved by the end of 2020. By the end of 2021, uncontrolled growth should “no longer be on the list of top three things cities value least,” as measured by a public survey; and by the end of 2022, 50 per cent of the public, again by public survey, should “agree or strongly agree that the Town delivers smart, balanced growth decisions.”

Disero says there was “a high level of participation from the community” toward developing the plan, including input from council, town staff, community stakeholders, and residents. Participation took place by way of interviews, focus groups, special meetings, and online engagement, and shows what can be accomplished by working together, says Disero.

The plan is categorized into five tasks:

- Deliver smart, balanced growth that results in improved positioning as a distinctive and sustainable community.

- Deliver smart, balanced growth that results in improved positioning as a community: a prosperous and diverse economy; strong environmental stewardship, an inclusive, integrated, healthy town; a centre for culture, heritage and recreation; mobility choices; a well-planned built environment; and a prosperous and sustainable agricultural sector, and well-managed municipal finances.

- Elevate the customer service experience.

- Excel in having a positive workplace culture where team and excellence abound.

- Strengthen two-way communications – ensure information is timely, easy to find, and simple to understand.

Early in the term, when it became obvious it would take longer to do a good job of creating a strategic plan, council had a working plan to follow, says Disero. There have been some setbacks, with some ambitious objectives taking a little longer than planned, she adds, such as the completion of a transportation master plan, a culture plan, approval of a cannabis bylaw, a review of the noise bylaw, short and long-term rentals, the economic development review and community wellness.

“All are proceeding, she says, “and we’re getting there.”

While the strategic plan puts in motion goals for this term of council, future councilors “can take on this plan, with minor adjustments. It’s really a template for any community, taking the fundamental function of government and setting it out for the future.”

Having a good mix of councilors with diverse strengths and experience, she says, has been helpful.

Debates may sometimes take a little longer, “but it’s worth it. In the end, we get a better outcome.”

Penny Coles
The Local

lord Mayor Betty Disero explains the importance of the strategic plan approved by council.
(Penny Coles)
Experts tell us we can choose to be grateful, or to be resentful and angry.

Being grateful comes easily to people who have chosen it as a way to consciously live a life. Others may have to work at it, but there are rewards for making the effort.

Thanksgiving is an annual reminder that we have much for which to be grateful, if we choose, and if we want to be happier and healthier, that’s the better choice. Living and working in Niagara-on-the-Lake should make it an easy choice.

We are surrounded by so much that is beautiful, orchards and vineyards, precious mature trees in old neighbour- hoods, streets lined with grace- ful historic buildings — and the people, the interesting, passionate people, so many of whom demonstrate they are living lives of kindness, compassion, and gratitude.

Yes, we hear complaints, but even they are for the most part from people who want to make a great place to live even better.

For those who don’t pay attention, well like to share an observation of this week’s council meeting and the issues they dealt with, because mu- nicipal politicians can have a huge impact on our lives. They can set the tone for town staff and residents to follow.

Monday night we heard about grinder pumps. Refrig- eration units. The cost and benefits of attending a winter fair. Tree protection. Some of the issues impact a small num- ber of people, others affect every- one resident.

This council struggles to bal- ance the needs of all involved. They so clearly demonstrate they remember, as one resi- dent asked them to, why they chose to run for council. For their thoughtfulness in con- templating issues and striving for fairness, for their respect of varying opinions, for their con- scientious attempts to balance guarding taxpayers’ dollars with making good decisions on behalf of all, residents of NOTL can choose gratitude.

For each of us, in our own lives, with our families, friends, and neighbours, we can choose to be aware of all that’s good, close to home and in the world around us. Even in adver- sity, in times of trouble, we can find something positive to take away. That we live in a democrati- c country which allows free speech and offers us choices every four years, is another great reason to give thanks.

Gratitude is so much more powerful than anger. So much healthier. And so much more productive.

Have a happy Thanksgiving. Choose to feel grateful, and spread it around. Just like kind- ness, it’s contagious.

Penny Coles
The Local

Time for a coffee break

A fundraising coffee break for the Alzheimer’s Society of Niagara was held in the council chamber at the town hall Thursday, with staff and the public invited. Coun. Erin Wiers dropped in for a piece of cake, joining staff members Jeff Vyse and Ray Hunter. (Penny Coles)
People are starting to wake up to climate change

The question is, what happens now?

Will there be efforts that we observe sooner rather than later, perhaps in the form of major government or corporate announcements? Will a government boldly bust the status quo and create new laws or regulations that put the climate in first? Your house is your environment. Once we step out the front door, the world we live in becomes our environment. This is called the biosphere — the area of our planet, its sky, and its inwards where life can actually live. That makes the biosphere our big environment, but it’s not so big anymore when you consider how many humans saturate it, 7.5 billion of us, divided in pockets and clusters, chewing away at our natural resources on this marble called Earth. The marble is changing colour, as we can see from satellite images, or even a quick drive around Niagara.

Climate affects the health and function of our biosphere, which puts food on our plates and keeps us relatively safe from naturals more formidable forces.

Therefore, when we put climate first, we put society first. I liked Thunberg’s direct blame approach at the UN assembly. It’s not cynical campfire conversation to say that there’s a tep 1 per cent that essentially runs the world — she was standing in front of many of them. These are your government leaders, lobbyists, and financiers.

Do we realistically think that the recent climate strikes are going to have a noticeable and meaningful result anytime soon?

Since the young and impressively determined Greta Thunberg made her speech at the UN, there has been a wake of climate change protests, walk-outs, and events around the world. In terms of climate change awareness, I don’t believe there has been an event like it yet in terms of how international and forthright it was. We even had a peaceful movement right in downtown NOTL. Amazing.

That some companies paid their employees to leave work, and participate is a powerful sign there was a message to be sent, and people are just starting to really wake up to what that message is. And we arrive to the classic question — “now what?”

The optimist views the glass as half full, and the pessimist sees the glass half empty. However, even at the end of the day, only the realist is right. So I want to ask an honest question in this weeks article: Do we realistically think that the recent climate strikes are going to have a noticeable and meaningful result anytime soon?

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A fundraising campaign for a new St. Davids Pool got a kick-start last week with a cheque for $10,000 from the St. Davids Lions. The club built the pool for the community more than 50 years ago, before turning it over to the Town to operate and maintain, and has been supportive of a new one on the same property, next door to the Lions Hall on York Road.

Accepting the cheque is the Town’s parks and recreation manager Kevin Turcotte, from Lions member Bradd Anderson.

(Penny Coles)

Youth Advisory Council begins a new year

A new year means a plethora of new and exciting events for the Lord Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council. The LMYAC has a great group this year, consisting of nine youth members. The staff representative is Lauren Kruthbosch, community engagement coordinator for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The LMYAC held their first meeting last month, a very successful meeting of brainstorming ideas for this school year as well as preparing to create new sub-committees, which include advocacy, outreach and wellness.

Additionally, the first meeting consisted of introducing new members through group-engaging activities. Every year the youth council hosts a Youth Mental Health and Wellness Conference, a day when students in Grade 8 from elementary schools in NOTL gather at the community centre for seminars, workshops and keynote speakers discussing mental health. The council is very eager to see what this year has in store for the annual conference.

I sat down with LMYAC chair Bethany Potl to ask her some questions.

“As we are heading into our third year for the LMYAC, I am excited to say that our five returning members have been with us since our beginning, and we are welcoming four new members. It is fantastic that we continue to grow,” says Potl.

“Our LMYAC is composed of really motivated and forward-thinking individuals. Each of us has a number of interests. Establishing sub-committees such as advocacy, outreach and wellness, lets each of us put our talents to use, gain leadership experience and meet more of the needs of our community,” says Potl.

The sub-committees are a new idea the council is very much looking forward to, with a number of skills and interest within the council. The council is also passionate about reaching out to others. Potl is hoping the council can be even more involved in community events and have a bigger presence at events.

“For me personally, it is my third year as chair, so I am looking forward to mentoring younger members in leadership. We also had some great ideas and discussions at our first meeting where we are looking at establishing sub-committees, continuing with our Youth Mental Health and Wellness Conference and we are looking to become even more involved in our community.”

This year, however, will be bittersweet for the LMYAC, with members in Grade 12, their final year, including Potl, Clara De Munnich, Genevieve Moncion, and myself.

However, the council is looking to pass the torch onto the next youth willing to take the plunge.

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Baldinelli true blue from his youth

Penny Coles  The Local

Tony Baldinelli says he has always been a Conservative. He was drawn even as a high school student to its values, to its support for individuals who work hard, for its support of diversity, and its financial accountability, he says, and has been involved in politics in some capacity ever since.

He has known and respected Rob Nicholson from the MP's early days in international affairs and defence, which were two areas of interest for Baldinelli, so early in his political career.

Nicholson has been a huge mentor for Baldinelli, and when he met with the MP after he had announced his retirement, he asked him to stand for the nomination.

It was something Baldinelli had always been interested in, and after talking to his family, decided “this was the time to do it.”

He says he wants to follow in Nicholson’s footsteps, working to make Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie the best they can be for families like his to live, work, and enjoy the place they call home.

“I am running in this campaign because I believe in community… and building a better future for my family and for all of us, who are fortunate to call Niagara home,” says Baldinelli.

Baldinelli’s three top priorities are:

- Affordability: The PC campaign is centered on the theme of making life more affordable for hard working Canadians, says Baldinelli. “If you work hard, you should be able to buy a home, save for retirement, and care for your children and your parents as they age. If elected, I will work hard to help reduce taxes, grow the economy and make life more affordable for all families and seniors.”

  The Conservative platform includes universal tax cuts to help the average family, making life more affordable for all families and seniors. The PC platform includes universal tax cuts to help the average family, making life more affordable for all families and seniors.

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- Promoting economic growth and development throughout NOTL, Fort Erie and Niagara Falls by working with local and provincial representatives, including the tourism community, small businesses and industries located throughout the riding.

- Continued quality health care: Under a new Conservative government, says Baldinelli, Canadians will be able to count on stable and predictable health and social program funding, with an increased Canada Health Transfer and Canada Social Transfer by at least three per cent per year. “My wife and I know the importance of our health care sector,” says Baldinelli. He and his wife had identical twin boys born 15 weeks too early — losing one son David, after three days, then having the other, Daniel, spend the next 15 years in the hospital.

  The PC platform includes $1.5 billion to replace the Provincial Assisted Devices Program, “says Baldinelli. To help reduce wait times, a Conservative government will also invest $1.5 billion to replace and add new medical imaging equipment, allowing healthcare providers to deliver quality services with the most up-to-date technology.

  Contact Baldinelli at info@niagarafallsconservatives.ca, call 289-477-5233 or visit www.niagarafallsconservatives.ca.
Brian Barker grew up in a working class family, with parents who both worked hard to make a “modest” living and raise a family. That is becoming more and more difficult for families today, says Barker, referring to Tommy Douglas and the creation of universal health care as representing a philosophy that everyone is cared for.

The NDP was the first party to introduce universal health care. Barker says it’s a party that works for people. That’s what has always felt strongly about. For the last few years, he has also served as vice-president of the Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario. Barker has represented and advocated on behalf of 1,500 teachers across Niagara. If elected, Barker’s three main priorities for the riding would be:

- Making life more affordable for working families in Niagara by ensuring universal dental and prescription drug coverage, building 500,000 units of affordable housing and doubling the Home Buyer’s Tax Credit, and eliminating interest on student loan debt.
- Preserving what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake, Fort Erie, and Niagara Falls special by advocating for tourism and viticulture sectors, standing up for economic drivers, such as tourism and agriculture, she says — the Liberal philosophy.
- Kaiser says her daughter, who became an activist in climate change, has shown her that the government of the last four years has taken a leadership role on that issue, and that “I could be a part of making major changes, helping to create a better Canada, and a better environment for my kids and grandkids.”

Kaiser is a working mother of two, a small business owner, an instructor at Niagara College and the director of marketing and tourism at a local winery. She says she learned about hard work and the entrepreneurial spirit watching her father build a life for his family in Niagara as co-founder and winemaker of Inniskillin Wines. During more than a decade on municipal council, she served stints as chair of public works, planning, corporate services, and fair tax committees, and also as vice-president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce. In the local tourism and wine industry, she is a champion for economic development and community excellence, and has a deep understanding of vital local economic drivers, such as tourism and agriculture, she says.

Kaiser’s three priorities if elected:

- To be a strong voice for Niagara in Ottawa, ‘not the other way around. The federal Liberal Government has a historic 12-year, $190 billion dollar infrastructure plan, and it is imperative that Niagara gets its fair share of this money for priority projects. My first act as your Member of Parliament will be to sit down with local mayors and councillors to determine how I can support their infrastructure priorities.”

Election 2019

The Local

Kaiser ready to create better Canada

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ON-SITE LAB FOR CUSTOM PERSONALIZED SMILES.

*Continued on page 11*
Penelope Colos
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Sandra O'Connor had never been a member of a political party until she was approached by the Greens, and after doing some research, realized the party philosophy and policies were closely aligned with her own values.

“I feel our country is at a crossroads. We need some research, realized the Green Party has the best policies to address this situation, she says. She also has great respect for Green Party leader Elizabeth May, and is impressed by the party’s willingness to let their representatives vote their conscience, rather than telling their MPs how to vote on most issues.

But the Green Party isn’t just about climate change — it will also work toward a more sustainable economy, and as a representative, O’Connor says, “that’s what I’m here for — to improve the situation for the people in our riding.”

“Economic plan critical’

O’Connor was born and raised in Niagara and graduated from Brock University. Working in research and science for most of her career has given her the breadth and depth of knowledge, and analytical skills needed to do the job, and tackle the tough challenges facing this riding, she says.

She has been an active and engaged member in the Niagara community, including fighting for many worthy causes, such as membership with the NOTL Conservancy and the Preservation of Agricultural Lands, working at saving trees and the local hospital.

As a Green Party representative, her priorities include:

• Job creation to transition green energy production, production of electric vehicles, retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency, modernizing crumbling infrastructure, and more.
• Safe and affordable housing of different types for all Canadians. A National Affordable Housing Plan would increase funding to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, making it responsible for affordable, non-market and cooperative housing, with a rent supplement and shelter program for low-income households, a credit and loan program for non-profit housing and cooperatives, and GST rebates for all purpose-built rental housing.

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• Strengthening small-scale farming and providing local farms with a fair share of access to consumers. While stopping the loss of prime agricultural land to development, through negotiating agreements with the provinces and municipalities, to aid in food security and local production.

Contact O’Connor at sandra.oconnor@greenparty.ca or call 289-868-9310.

O’Connor will work toward sustainable economy

Sandra O’Connor of the Green Party. (Photo supplied)
Tricia O’Connor believes in ideals, policies of CHP

Penny Coles
The Local

“Tricia O’Connor is running for the Christian Heritage Party, which she has chosen in part because ‘I live by my Christian ideals, but also because I agree with their policies more than anything,’” she says.

She has served her community as a board member for the Welland Multicultural and Heritage Museum to learn from the past, but her main concern is for “the upcoming generations in a globalist environment.”

One of her issues, she says, is other political parties coming down hard on criminals, but supporting abortion.

She says the country is “importing people to fund the pension plan” because there is a “missing generation of people” in the workforce. Protecting life, to her, is fundamental.

“Like all members of the CHP I am unashamed of our Christian Heritage. In fact, I am reminded of why we have free health care in this country: a Baptist minister, Tommy Douglas, was elected to the House of Commons in 1935. It was his vision to see universal health care for every Canadian,” says O’Connor.

“Our country was founded upon the Judeo-Christian teachings of the Bible, and it is actually within our Charter of Rights in the preamble, that Canada is a nation under the Supremacy of God.”

CHP policies are based on those principles, she says, “This is what we want to see for all of Canada.”

Under Trudeau and prospectively under Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, she says, “Canadians will continue to export our dollars overseas to fund abortions in other countries as well. This is an outrage especially in light of what Mr. Trudeau had to say to our wounded veterans with regards to pensions: ‘We just don’t have the money.’”

The Christian Heritage Party was founded 30 years ago, and in this election has five candidates running in the Niagara Region, says O’Connor, calling it Canada’s only pro-life federal party.

O’Connor is an educator with a specialty in English as a second language, autism and behavioural psychology. She is a widow who raised her children alone, putting herself through university, earning two degrees. She has taught more than 4,000 students ranging from pre-kindergarten to adults.

Her priorities are:

• Life, from conception to natural death; and more protection of the environment, especially our forests, lakes and streams,

• Family: offering housing stability by building more housing units on a continual basis, making it easier for families to purchase homes with incentives for builders to offer sales to families and especially single-parent families.

• Freedom: with stricter law enforcement upon anyone who would attempt to intimidate or harm seniors as our populations age.

Contact the Tricia O’Connor campaign at: ph. 289-828-6243 email: tricia.oconnor@chp.ca.

‘Independents could hold balance of power’

Penny Coles
The Local

Mike Strange, running as an Independent, says “the Liberal Party has had four years to make a difference.”

But given some of the promises made, and some of the actions of the prime minister, “accountability is a big thing for me.”

He says if a member of parliament speaks out against his or her own government, “you get kicked out of caucus. As an Independent, I can bring up any issue I want. I can bring my constituents’ issues to Ottawa.”

He considers retiring Conservative MP Rob Nicholson a mentor, the politician he voted for the year he was first able to vote.

“But politics have changed since then. People can’t speak up against their own party.”

He believes this coming election is “a perfect storm,” with a minority government all but guaranteed; and in that situation, the balance of power will lie with the Independents. “They will have to come to the Independents to get anything passed,” he says. “We will have a vote, and we will have way more power than the opposition party.”

Strange attempted to win the nomination to run in the last provincial election as a Conservative, but the party rejected him as a candidate.

“I thank God I wasn’t allowed, or I would be a member of the provincial government now.”

There was no way he would have run against Nicholson, for whom he has the greatest respect, but when the MP announced his retirement, Strange, serving his second term as a Niagara Falls councillor, decided this was his time.

“It’s 100 per cent the perfect time. I’m the smart vote. I can have the power to represent my riding.”

He compares running as an Independent to his experience on city council, “where we are all independents, but we know how to work together and get things done. I think that needs to be done more in the House of Commons.”

Climate change is a good example of what that could accomplish, he says.

“Every MP, across all party lines, should be united on that issue. We owe it to our future generations.”

In addition to being a second-term city councillor

Continued on page 13
# FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

## People’s Party tackles immigration, free speech

**Penny Coles**

The Local

Alex Taylor has always followed politics, but discovered recently the People’s Party of Canada (PPC) best represents his views.

He is concerned about immigration, free speech, and fiscal responsibility, and he finds his values aligned with the PPC, he says.

“I never really thought of myself as someone who would run as a candidate, and I don’t see that as an opportunity with any other party, but I’m happy I can have some positive impact running for the People’s Party. I just want to try to make a difference, and opportunity knocked.”

Taylor’s grandfather was a minister, and his father was in the military. In his youth, he moved around the country. Taylor is the father of two children and has worked at the Niagara Casino for the last 20 years.

“I am very concerned about my children’s future, and I have lost confidence in the government to handle things.”

Taylor lists as his top priorities:

- **Housing:** There is a housing crisis in this country. Real estate prices are rising so fast, pushing the cost of living up so rapidly, wages can’t keep up. “Our children are being priced out of the real estate market, the dream of home ownership is being taken away and being replaced with the nightmare of seniors’ poverty. Reducing immigration would stabilize the housing prices,” he says.

- **PPC:** “This is becoming a do or die situation for our children, if we don’t act now, the situation will continue to get worse.”

- **Military:** Over the last few decades, Canada’s military has been deprived of adequate funding, resulting in obsolete equipment, failure to take care of injured soldiers and not properly providing for the families of those who did not make it back, says Taylor. “We made a commitment to our NATO allies to spend two per cent of our GDP on defence spending. We should live up to our word.”

- **Canning factories:** “The way to St. Davids, you used to see peach trees, the orchards were allowed to be cut down so the companies selling their products could make more profit. Fruit prices have been rising for the last couple years, we have become dependent on other countries to feed us, and this has allowed them to raise prices, not to mention the quality control of many of these countries is not comparable.” For security and economic reasons, says Taylor, it’s time to go back to being “the fruit basket of Canada.”

- **Cannabis:** “This is some of the most fertile land in Canada, yet the orchards were allowed to be cut down so the companies selling their products could make more profit. Fruit prices have been rising for the last couple years, we have become dependent on other countries to feed us, and this has allowed them to raise prices, not to mention the quality control of many of these countries is not comparable.” For security and economic reasons, says Taylor, it’s time to go back to being “the fruit basket of Canada.”

- **Immigration:** “I am very concerned about immigration, free speech, and fiscal responsibility, and I have lost confidence in the government to handle things.”

Taylor can be reached at stavlorabc75@gmail.com, or 905-333-1731.

### Seniors, climate change priorities

Continued from page 12

in Niagara Falls and a real estate agent for the last 12 years, Strange also runs the BoxRun Charitable foundation, which raises funds for childhood cancer research and Ronald McDonald House.

Strange’s top priorities include:

- **Helping seniors in the riding.** The Niagara Falls riding has the oldest population per capita in this country, says Strange. “We definitely need a plan for free pharmacare for our seniors as we are beginning to see the strain on our health care system.” Seniors have paid into the system and deserve better than to line up in this new hallway medical care system. He would also support free transit for seniors across Canada.

- **Climate change needs to be taken seriously.** Strange says, and all MPs across all party lines should be united in the fight against it. In Niagara-on-the-Lake and in Fort Erie, high water levels have damaged shorelines and local marinas. “The current government should be calling a state of emergency and should be taking every step possible for protecting residents of NOTL and Fort Erie and our shore line from rising waters, which will not change unless this is addressed immediately.”

- **Immigration:** The Niagara Falls riding has four international borders and there is a current crisis with the number of people coming over, claiming refugee status when there is no refuge from the state of New York, says Strange. “We need to process immigrants and refugees responsibly and with medical screening.” The number of people crossing borders is causing hallway medical health care, Strange says. “The process at our border for refugees and immigration has to be done responsibly and with proper steps. We have seen too many recent gun incidents and crime close to us that security has to be the number one step at our borders.”

Contact Strange at mkestrange2019@gmail.com or call 905-333-1731.

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**TONY BALDINI](#)**

**Here for you, Here for Niagara**

Tony Baldinielli was born and raised in Niagara Falls and has been the Senior Manager of Communications and Stakeholder Relations for the Niagara Parks Commission, since 2001. Tony started his career as a Legislative Assistant for the Honourable Rob Nicholson in Ottawa, where he worked for 5 years. Tony is a graduate of McMaster University and Humber College. He is married to his wife Carol and they have one son, Daniel.

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- Put rights of victims before criminals

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APPROVED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR TONY BALDINI}

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The Local

Penny Coles

The Local

Alex Taylor of the People’s Party of Canada. (Photo supplied)
Firefighters raise money for the community

Sawyer Hoadley can't wait to eat his pasta, served by volunteer firefighter Tom Mussari. The event was successful, with those who attended enjoying an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner served by volunteer firefighters. (Fred Mercnik)

Lucas Devries stirs meatballs and sausages to be served with spaghetti. (Penny Coles)

Friday’s Queenston firefighters’ spaghetti dinner was a great success, says organizer Rob Copeland, with $1,530 raised for the community just from the dinner alone.

Firefighters served 270 dinners, a record number for the fall event, says Copeland. “We had practically nothing left over,” he added.

Another record profit of almost $700 was made from the prizes, donated by Welland Avenue Canadian Tire franchise owner Graham Keene, a Queenston resident and supporter of the volunteer firefighters.

“Everything worked out well, and the Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association really appreciates the support we received for this event. It is what makes the volunteer firefighters want to do these community fundraisers,” says Copeland.

The money raised goes back into the community. It can go to one community cause or several, as needed, and will be decided at the next meeting of the association, Copeland says.

Local Staff

Sawyer Hoadley can’t wait to eat his pasta, served by volunteer firefighter Tom Mussari. The event was successful, with those who attended enjoying an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner served by volunteer firefighters. (Fred Mercnik)

Local Staff

Lucas Devries stirs meatballs and sausages to be served with spaghetti. (Penny Coles)

Monday, October 7, 2019

We will announce our partners next week!
One of the most common questions that I am asked is "What type of flooring is best for a home with dogs?"

As a dog lover and a design enthusiast, I can relate to this question on a very personal level. We all dream of stylish and beautiful floors that are easy to maintain and durable enough to stand up to daily wear. Throw into the mix dogs and cats, toys, high heels, sliding chairs - well you get the picture; our floors take a lot of abuse!

For the client that desires a natural wood floor, I recommend wood species that score high on the Janka scale. Oak, hard maple and hickory are all excellent choices. Lighter colours and strong graining which also happen to be on trend offer visual durability and the new matte finishes, handscraping and character finishes distract the eye from minor scratches, dents and imperfections. If you love the look of wood and desire more durability, wood grain porcelain is a trend that is gaining traction. We are showing gorgeous long plank porcelains in fashion shades and textures in looks that range from contemporary to rustic. These floors can take whatever your family and four-legged furry friends dish out.

For the budget-conscious consumer, laminate is an excellent option. This popular floor covering has evolved into a stylish, durable option that is available in a wide range of price points and styles. Our favourites are nearly impossible to discern from natural wood - only your flooring consultant will know for sure! Laminate will provide you with the durability and the styles that you desire.

I have left one of the most dynamic and unexpected solutions for a beautiful home for last. Luxury Vinyl - yes vinyl! The commercial market has been using this best kept secret for quite some time - think retail stores, restaurants and public spaces that LOOK like they have hardwood. Now our residential client can take advantage of these beautiful floors that boast unsurpassed water resistant, scratch resistant durability. I urge you to visit our Design Showroom at 166 Bunting Road in St. Catharines to take a look for yourself. Our flooring experts can answer all of your questions and show the very latest in designs for your beautiful and busy space.

We can't wait to floor you!
Updating fixtures for stylish and functional change

Submitted by Wellbrook Plumbing

Switching out your bathroom fixtures can change the aesthetics of your bathroom completely. This simple remodel update will also provide better water efficiency while eliminating leaks and drippy faucets. New bathroom fixtures can increase the value of your home and make the switch? If you’re considering when looking for a new look in your bathroom, anytime can be the right time. But, to get the most bang for your buck, update your bathroom fixtures before you sell to increase your home’s value.

If your home’s plumbing is due for an update, trust our team of experienced plumbing technicians to do the job right the first time. At Wellbrook Plumbing, we offer installation of boilers, faucets, toilets, water heaters and more. Click to learn more about our residential services or call us at 289-686-4695 for your in-home consultation.

An investment in relaxation

Submitted by Niagara Hot Tubs

When you’re investing in a hot tub, you want something that will last. It is a large expense, and it’s one that your family will want to be able to get the most out of. Poorly made, cheap hot tubs can last as few as 3-5 years – so while they may be less money up front, you won’t get the longevity and value out of the spa. A reliable, high-quality hot tub can last anywhere from 15-25 years, if well maintained.

There are a few things to consider when looking for a backyard hot tub or spa that lasts for many years.

Hot tub parts

One thing that is important to keep in mind is the parts that are used in the manufacturing of the hot tub. No matter the cost of the hot tub, the manufacturer will be looking to make a profit – which means if you are purchasing a cheap hot tub, that hot tub will be made with cheaper parts. Though this is not true for every spa, as not all budget-friendly hot tubs are low quality and not all expensive hot tubs are high quality. However, the old saying that “you get what you pay for” tends to ring true in the case of hot tubs. You are more likely to see higher quality parts in the more expensive price range of hot tubs.

There are a number of different parts that are inside and outside of the hot tub that you should be aware of. You won’t be able to see the interior or parts of the hot tub, such as the control system, filter system, pump, heater, jets, ozone generator, lighting and insulation, however, you will be able to see the exterior parts. Look closely at the cabinet, trim, pedestal, pillows and fiberglass shell of the hot tub before purchasing. If these materials seem low quality, the same can likely be said for the internal parts.

Hot tub design

The design of the spa is also an important factor in how long this spa will last. A well-made, high-quality hot tub that is built to last will be designed in a way that allows for easy access to parts that need replacing. This reduces stress and wear, and makes for easy maintenance.

A poorly made, cheap hot tub often makes maintenance difficult and will include parts that increase stress and break frequently during repairs or parts replacement. This poor spa design and construction tends to be seen in cheap hot tubs, with manufacturers who do not wish to invest in high-quality design.

Choosing a reliable manufacturer

One of the best ways to ensure that you are getting a high-quality hot tub is to look at the manufacturer. If you are looking at choosing a reliable hot tub manufacturer, one of the best places to start is with customer reviews. Internet reviews are often a place where many people take their complaints – so if you have found a manufacturer that has a number of positive reviews by very happy customers, you have likely found a high-quality hot tub manufacturer with a lineup of reliable spas.

At Niagara Hot Tubs, we carry high-quality hot tub brands Bullfrog Spas and Master Spas. These manufacturers create high-quality hot tubs for every budget, using high-quality parts and a design that lasts. If you are interested in seeing what makes Bullfrog Spas and Master Spas hot tubs and swim spas the best on the market, visit our showroom today.

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Showroom Hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-5:30, Saturday 10-5, Sunday by appointment
Which Trends Are You FALLing For this Season?

Submitted by Creek Road Paints - Benjamin Moore

What’s in? What’s out? And what keeps cycling back? As we approach the launch of Benjamin Moore’s Colour of the Year for 2020, we discover that it is animated by the art, fashion, environment and the culture surrounding us today.

Trends often reflect the social, cultural and environmental climate of the present while paying tribute to the trends of the past. The current use of geometric patterns and bold primary colours may just provide that flash dance flashback to the ’80s - a time where bold was an understatement.

Gendered Rooms were conceived idea of how gender and organic matter is in! As we move towards rooms that assist in a unique relationship between nature, and the delicate nature of femininity. This gender normative design is now passé, as we move towards rooms that assist in a genuine response to one’s own natural responses, rather than those that cripple creativity and provide hidden biases. Meaning - it’s ok to be hue!

As previously discussed, top trends that are occurring include feminine tones and floral patterns, geometric shapes, wall gardens, natural textiles, and Moore importantly, creating a space that is unapologetically you.

The outside is in, and having your space embodying a harmonious relationship with nature aids in illustrating the unique relationship between the two. Natural, organic materials like woods, stones, plants and a flooding of daylight can help to bring the energies from the great outdoors into your home. Not only does this complement your physical space, but it also stimulates your mental, emotional and cognitive spaces as well. Vertical wall gardens, and the presence of plants in the home will not only add the natural elements the trends are demanding, but will literally breathe life to your space. Layer the landscape of your home with the scale and height of your furniture, creating harmony between humans and nature, and the unique relationship it emphasizes.

Floral patterns, feminine tones, and bold palm prints are predominantly popular trends this year. From the soft pinks, blushes and cream tones that were introduced in 2019 - the continuous theme of femininity in design the past couple years mirrors not only the overcast of the current social climate that surrounds us, but on a crucial aspect of this new era. What’s new for 2020? October 11, Benjamin Moore will announce the charming choices of the year to come, and how they have been determined by the world in which we live. We feel a wave of blues and/or a rush of gold is on the way, but I guess we’ll just have to wait to find out!

Visit the colour experts at Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore, and we’ll not only help you find a hue that’s right for you, but help you create a space that welcomes the natural elements, and allows your identity to shine through. Don’t be afraid to be hue!

Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore, and we’ll not only help you find a hue that’s right for you, but help you create a space that welcomes the natural elements, and allows your identity to shine through. Don’t be afraid to be hue!

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Gretzky winery and distillery hosts two events

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Saturday was a full day of fun and festivities at Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery and Distillery. The day started with Wayne Gretzky Estates hosting the annual Cabernet All the Way event. Along with Trius Winery, Peller Estates Winery and Thirty Bench Wine Makers, Wayne Gretzky Estates invited each of the 500 participants to enjoy the best cabernets these wineries have to offer.

This occasion provided the perfect time for Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery and Distillery to launch a new product, No. 99 Whisky Oak Aged Red 2018. This particular wine is Gretzky’s first whisky oak-aged wine. It is a signature blend of cabernet-merlot, which is aged first in French and American oak. Then 25 per cent of it is finished in Wayne Gretzky’s own Red Cask whisky oak barrels. This newly released wine was paired with a double chocolate ice cream sandwich for this occasion.

As light began to fade and the half-moon rose, people continued to drink and dine at the Whiskey Bar Restaurant Patio. As the temperature fell, the Beer Garden staff continued to serve No. 99 Rye Lager. The gas fireplace was lit and the patio lights were turned on. A 25-foot inflatable screen enabled fans to watch the face-off between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Montreal Canadiens, with picnic tables and seating for optimal viewing. A third pop-up bar complete with patio heaters was set up to accommodate guests who continued to arrive.

Richelle Sticklee was in charge of this pop-up bar. She is the supervisor at the Whiskey Bar Restaurant. Sticklee said that although she has been in the service industry for more than 10 years, this is her first year at Wayne Gretzky Estates and she is enjoying it. “Hospitality is in my blood,” she enthusiastically explains.

Having recently moved to the area, she was drawn by the reputation of the winery and talented staff there. She describes how impressed she is with the resident estate mixologist, Zac Kvas, who won the Ontario Hostelry Institute’s Top 30 Under 30 award this year. This is an annual award that honours young professionals in the food service and hospitality industry. She is proud to provide quality products in everything they produce from the wine, the whiskey and even the simple syrups for their signature cocktails, she says.

Sticklee’s enthusiasm for her work is obvious when she reiterated how the products are hand-crafted and the ingredients are locally sourced. It is this type of dedication by the staff at the Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery and Distillery that ensured two successful events in one day. Although Cabernet All the Way is over until next year, there is still time to enjoy Saturday DJ night at Wayne Gretzky Estates with DJ Dave Stiles.

This event will continue to run from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday nights until the end of October.

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Oktoberfest celebrated at The Exchange

Elizabeth Beresford serves flights at The Exchange Brewery (Kim Wade)

Kim Wade
The Local
This past Saturday, The Exchange Brewery highlighted their German-style brews by hosting an Oktoberfest event complete with a photo booth, tie-on lederhosen and beer goggle glasses.

Beer novices and aficionados alike were treated to a discriminating selection of brews for the event, ranging from a premier German lager to a malty Bock beer.

Patrons chose from the Oktoberfest menu, then enjoyed their selection in a one-litre stein bearing a German beer hall stylized logo for The Exchange. Alternatively, a great way to sample more beers was to choose a flight of six or eight beers and pick your favourites in the sunshine on the outdoor patio.

Some of the selections available from the Oktoberfest menu included Hefeweizen, Dunkelweiss, Gose, Maibock and the recently released Helles Export. Other seasonal choices were unique brews, such as the Belgian Pumpkin Ale and Thai Basil Saison currently on tap.

The Exchange also concocted a signature craft cocktail for the event. The Oktober Bomb contains bourbon, Northern Old Fashioned Simple Syrup, Ginger Wild Flower Simple Syrup and their seasonal Pumpkin Ale. Paired with beer for the event, food selections featured a German pretzel, served with a sweet and spicy mustard and a grilled bratwurst served in a freshly baked bun with side of sauerkraut topped with the same sweet and spicy mustard.

While many of the beers for the Oktoberfest are available in bottles to take home with your souvenir stein, some, like the refreshing sour Gose, are tap-exclusive and are to be enjoyed in-house.

There is still time to appreciate these Oktoberfest brews by visiting The Exchange Brewery for these upcoming events:

- Oct. 15: Plant Nite
  - Make your own arrangement of succulents while enjoying craft beer.

- Oct. 16: Trivia Night

- Oct. 18: Humour and Hops
  - Join host David Green and fellow comedians for a night of lager and laughs.

- Oct. 22: Growler’s Club
  - Members Only meeting

- Oct. 23: Trivia Night

- Oct. 29: Paint Nite
  - Join in the fun with paints and pints.

- Oct. 30: Trivia Night

More details and ticket information for these events are found on the exchangebrewery.com website.

Logan Fieguth, who is participating in the fundraising Walk a Mile in HER shoes, collected $654 in bottles at Phil’s valu-mart Saturday, with help from his mother Emily, bringing the bottle drive collection total to $1,219. The Fieguths are still collecting bottles at their home at 881 Concession 4 until Oct. 14, still a little shy of his $3,000 goal. (Penny Coles)

Walking a mile in HER shoes

Carly DeLorme of The Exchange Brewery, serves a Helles Export, a German lager, in a litre stein, at the brewery’s annual Oktoberfest party. (Fred Mercnik)
The first two months of school at Royal Oak Community School have been extremely busy, just like any other school, with students working hard to get back into the groove of school routines, challenging learning and setting new goals, both personal and academic, for the school year.

What’s different for ROCS students, though, is the “time out” our community takes to head north to beautiful Muskoka, and to extend learning to nature and the world outside the classroom.

Situated between two beautiful lakes, Saw Lake and Clear Lake in Bracebridge, Ont., Camp Wenonah for children places learning about friendship, oneself, and the environment at the forefront of programming that is both fun and deeply important.

Life skills such as fire-making and orienteering are front and centre, but balanced with activities like Gaga ball (a ROCS favourite), and ultimate frisbee. The crew had a blast, and talk about what ‘Camp Means to Me’...

“Fun, educational, friendship, exploring. I love exploring the forest, the site, nature, and I like trying new things. Something I tried that was new to me was fire-making. It was super fun, and I got to actually learn how to make a fire if I were on my own and needed warmth. I learned what types of sticks and bark I need to make fire. Because we are in cabins and staying together, we get alone time together and we get to build our friendships by learning to communicate. We are very lucky to try camp. It is so different from our regular life!”

Ben van Veghel-Wood, Grade 5

“We get to try new food!”

Hadrian Tataryn - Grade 4

“My favourite part of camp was Gaga ball. I had a great time! This is the first time I slept in a cabin with friends and it was all right. This was my first time to camp and I would tell other kids that they should go to camp because... there are so many fun games to play.”

Ben Giles - Grade 4

“Camp means fun. Doing Capture the Flag was the most fun because I like running and working together with my team.”

Sienna Rey - Grade 4

“It is important for kids to be apart of camp so that they can move past their boundaries. Camping is hard and can be scary. Our teacher fell in the water last year and he still went in a canoe this year even though he was scared — and he didn’t fall. I was afraid I would fall in, but I didn’t and I was happy I went.”

My favourite part of camp is hanging out with my friends and spending time in the cabins together making jokes. I think this helps us to be better friends. To someone who has never been to camp before, I would say the first night can be hard, but it gets way better, and it’s worth it.”

Diego Rey - Grade 5

On arriving at their campground, Royal Oak students check out the view.

Royal Oak kids learn life skills from camping experience

Leila Ridesic, Grade 5, prepares to take out a kayak.

Ben Giles, Grade 4, stays still to watch a butterfly on his nose. (Photos supplied)

Aspen Ziraldo, Gabriel Santelli, Teia Epp, Nathan Turner and Olivia Santelli learn how to build a fire.
Battle of Queenston Heights commemorated this weekend

Local Staff

The Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada are commemorating the 207th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights and the death of Major General Sir Isaac Brock on Oct. 13.

Brock’s Monument National Historic Site will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. all weekend. The monument, small museum and gift shop will be open; historical interpreters will be onsite; and there will be tours of the battle site.

The monument’s 235 stairs will also be open for climbing to the top to enjoy the scenic view of Queenston Heights and the Niagara River.

To commemorate the battle and the death of Major General Sir Isaac Brock, costumed interpreters will be offering commemorative tours of the battle site at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

This year also marks the 160th anniversary of the opening of Brock’s Monument. Started in 1835, the monument was completed in 1856, and officially opened to the public in 1859. To mark this anniversary, Ron Dale, former superintendent of Fort George National Historic Site, and board director of the Friends of Fort George, will be leading a special tour at 2 p.m. to talk about the history of the monument.

Tickets for the commemorative tours can be purchased from the staff at the base of the monument.

The cost for the tour is $3.50 for youth and $4.50 for adults. All proceeds from the programming at Brock’s Monument help support student summer employment opportunities at Brock’s Monument and Fort George.

For more information contact the Friends of Fort George at www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca or call 905-468-6621.

An interpreter from Fort George fires toward the American side of the river, where American soldiers arrived for the Battle of Queenston Heights. (Photos supplied)

Ron Dale, former superintendent of Fort George National Historic Site, and board director of the Friends of Fort George, will be leading a special tour at 2 p.m. Oct. 13 to talk about the history of Brock’s Monument.
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:
1. Name which sounds like a name
7. WWW access enabler
14. Agreeable odors
15. Alienenate its son, briefly
29. Fish eggs
41. Have a soak
21. Touchdown turf
26. “Cogito, ergo --- ”
28. Former immigration island
31. Banded chalcedony
43. First Bible book after the
53. % Daily Value forerunner
57. Big rig brand
59. Gary’s mom
63. Mexican mom
66. Never left
68. Join battle
70. 16, 24, 28, 45

Down:
1. Scarcely detectable amount
2.9. Arrived
18. 30. Sincerely yours
2.33. 41. Old file copy
3.35. The same number of
4.33. “Sil --- Ship of State!”
5.51. Scarcely detectable amount
6.53. Arrived
7.55. Sincerely yours
8.57. Old file copy
9.59. The same number of
10.61. “Sil --- Ship of State!”
11.63. Scarcely detectable amount
12.65. Arrived
13.67. Sincerely yours
14.69. Old file copy
15.71. The same number of
16.73. Arrived
17.75. Sincerely yours
18.77. Old file copy
19.79. The same number of
20.81. Arrived
21.83. Sincerely yours
22.85. Old file copy
23.87. The same number of
24.89. Arrived
25.91. Sincerely yours
26.93. Old file copy
27.95. The same number of
28.97. Arrived
29.99. Sincerely yours
30.101. Old file copy
31.103. The same number of
32.105. Arrived
33.107. Sincerely yours
34.109. Old file copy
35.111. The same number of
36.113. Old file copy
37.115. The same number of
38.117. Old file copy
39.119. The same number of
40.121. Old file copy
41.123. The same number of
42.125. Old file copy
43.127. The same number of
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66.173. Old file copy
67.175. The same number of
68.177. Old file copy
69.179. The same number of
70.181. Old file copy
71.183. The same number of
72.185. Old file copy

Across:
17. Former immigration island
21. Fish eggs
28. Banded chalcedony
39. First Bible book after the
43. % Daily Value forerunner
45. Big rig brand
53. Gary’s mom
57. 16, 24, 28, 45

Down:
1. Mexican mom
2. Three bright stars are his belt on high
3. Just defeated
5. Old file copy
6. The same number of
7. “Sil --- Ship of State!”
8. Ring Sue about conclusive indication
10. Blanchett or “Blue Jasmine”
11. Probably the most prominent native of Kosciuszko MS
12. Round at the bar
13. Mustburger or Soscowoff, for example
14. One way to deliver
22. Country singer Parton
25. Home to an archer, a lion and a bull
27. Web address
28. Shifty types
32. Low-energy sources of illumination
33. Mat beverage
34. Queasy
35. Persian Gulf federation
36. And so on
37. Three-striped
38. Shortest-named ABBA single
40. Knights fought with them
41. Persians
42. “The buck stops here”
43. First book after the
44. CCPs
45. Funds for the golden years
46. Annie Oakley’s employer
47. Big rig brand
48. Service score
49. “% Daily Value” forerunner
50. Sabor cuts
51. Crabtree, Roe
52. End zone
53. Banded chalcedony
54. Crank
55. Water for running
56. 16, 24, 28, 45
57. 16, 24, 28, 45
58. 16, 24, 28, 45
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60. 16, 24, 28, 45
61. 16, 24, 28, 45
62. 16, 24, 28, 45
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SUDOKU PUZZLE

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CLASSIFIED ITEMS FOR SALE?

Is your attic overfull? Do you need to make space in your basement or garage?
Advertise your GARAGE/YARD SALE here! OR if you have a larger item to sell that won’t fit in a garage sale, call or email for classified advertising details.
905-641-5335 or classified@notlocal.com
Deadline: Mondays 3 p.m.
Saturday was a great day for fishermen on the town-owned dock along River Beach Drive. (Fred Mercnik)