



Recognizing **Fire Prevention** Week in NOTL

pages 13 to 20

notllocal.com OCTOBER 11, 2023 Volume 5 • Issue 41



Bryce Honsinger's father Murray, mother Christine and wife Michelle were at St. Davids to take part in the celebration. (Mike Balsom)

Teacher Bryce Honsinger receives Prime Minister's Award

Mike Balsom The Local

When Justin Trudeau's office announced the 2023 winners of the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence last week to mark World Teachers' Day, St. Davids Public School Grade 7 and 8 teacher Bryce Honsinger's name was among the recipients.

surprised Honsinger Thursday with a whole-school cel-

for the start of the school day. kids from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8 had already begun lining the hallways and the outdoor spaces, many holding signs congratulating him for the honour.

When а Honsinger entered the build- had gathered to formally cele-The staff and students ing, he was greeted by stu-brate his achievement. Lights dents on both sides of the went down, a dry ice machine daily basis. I feel exceptionally hallway armed with noise- filled the gym with smoke thankful for all of this."

bell, Honsinger took his usual back toward the main office, of the gym to announce the spot outside the doors to ush- out the front door, past the er students into the building Kindergarten drop-off area, around the side of the school Unbeknownst to the teacher, and back in through the Laura Secord primary wing toward the main office.

over yet.

Just minutes later he was ushered into the gymnasium, shocked where the entire student body

through a set of colourful la-

award to raucous cheers from the students. After showing a short video tribute, he passed the microphone to Honsinger.

"To say that I'm over-But the celebration wasn't whelmed would be an understatement," he said. "This is a wonderful school with wonderful teachers. To work with such a strong staff, and to be around such great young people, is its own reward on a

NOTL residents list concerns with hotel plan

Kris Dube The Local **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

A proposed 81-room hotel development in the Old Town is one of several projects being currently considered by the town that are a cause for concern.

That's according to Centre Street resident Marilyn Bartlett, one of about two dozen people who signed up to speak during the public portion of the planning committee meeting held last week at town hall - centred on the proposed Phillips Estate expansion that will front onto Queen Street and border Simcoe and Mississagua streets.

Only about half of the registered speakers ended up taking their place at the podium — but those who did raised a number of concerns ranging from parking, impacts on nearby homes, traffic, noise, the preservation of heritage characteristics and the proposed hotel's fit into the neighbourhood.

Bartlett said that because of the project's proposed height, with the hotel reaching four storeys, the developer is "completely flouting" the town's plan. Official plan and zoning bylaw amendments have been submitted by Van Riesen Hotel Group on behalf of property owner Rain-

She says she believes the project, if approved by council, is not an appropriate fit, and claims that largescale projects such as this are "exploiting the town's charm, and in the process are destroying it one development at a time."

Pierre Hofstatter recently moved from Perth, Ontario, and currently lives on Johnson Street, very close to the Phillips Estate.

"I would be only five feet from the property, and it would tower over my garage," he said, adding that his interpretation of the plans is that guests would have a clear view of his backyard.

"We would lose all the privacy we enjoy today not to mention the light and noise that would come along with it," he said.

Simcoe Street resident Matt Hurlburt said the project is "too tall and too massive overall," and that exceeding a three-storey limit is problematic.

"This obviously doesn't align with the plan or the character of the neighbourhood," he said.

Adam Makarewicz, from Paradigm Transportation Solutions, said a parking study has determined that 163 parking spaces would be appropriate for the development.

An underground parking ucture would accommo-

ebration of him being named makers, silly string, balloons, clouds and Honsinger burst a recipient of a certificate of streamers and confetti. achievement for challenging thinkers.

students to become critical walked through the crowd entrance. high-fiving as many as he

St. Davids principal Carl Just before the opening could as he worked his way Glauser stepped to the front

The Prime Minister's er Hummel. Award wasn't the only hon-Thursday.

Continued on page 9

The tallest building on A smiling Honsinger ser beams of light marking his our received by Honsinger the site currently is 10.66 me- ly said 177 parking spaces tres, and the proposal would put the highest point at 16 metres.

date 149 of those spaces.

The town previous-

Continued on page 5

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THE NOTL Gocal

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Councillor concerned about public meeting schedule

Kris Dube The Local Local Journalism **Initiative Reporter**

Coun. Gary Burroughs wants to see changes to future committee-of-the whole planning meetings and how the agendas are organized.

He believes there needs to be more balance when it comes to public meetings related to contentious issues and matters that perhaps don't get as much attention from the fortable and it's not always public.

Burroughs raised this concern on multiple occasions last Tuesday when there were four public meetings on the agenda.

Of the four matters where members of the public were invited to have their say, one that brought the most dialogue was a proposed development of the former Phillips Estate at Queen and Simcoe streets, once a grand home built hundreds of years ago as a refuge for wealthy Americans who visited Niagaramonths.

Now the estate, partially restored with plans to be an upscale hotel, and two bordering lots are being proposed to become the site of an 81-room hotel with a restaurant, spa, and other features such as a portion of the fourth

floor having a rooftop deck. needs to consider moving made to the municipality. part of the plan.

registered to speak on this people not having the ability or patience to wait until the issue was discussed deep into the more-than-five-hour meeting as a problem, as well as some having difficulties with signing in virtually.

"Not everyone is so comso clear on our website how to get there," said Burroughs, who also added he had problems recently when he tried to speak at an urban design committee meeting as a local resident, not as a local politician.

He told The Local that velopment applications. the town should consider a public relations campaign to ing is dealing with planners," create better awareness about he said. how public meetings work and how residents can partic- and development services ipate in them.

Burroughs said town should "just deal with on-the-Lake in the summer the contentious ones," and that he's aware that the planning act requires municipalities to act within a certain timeline related to development applications, but feels ones that aren't anticipated to staff are also juggling those create a great amount of public discussion can be delayed. He also believes the town

Underground parking is also outside of town hall for con-Close to 30 people were meetings related to them.

"We have to start usmatter but about half did so, ing the community censaid Burroughs, who cites tre again," he said, adding that a position previously given to him by staff that there are costs involved with hiring a third-party company to handle the electronic component of the meeting, such as sound and the livestream, is a cost that is worth it.

"Representation for our

wants to see more on planning meeting agendas than just de-

"It looks like all we're do-

Director of community Kirsten McCauley said town the staff have plenty going on in the background - work on the official plan, heritage designations within town, and the Glendale Secondary Plan.

> key projects we're working on right now," she said, adding with meeting planning act timeline requirements that come with applications being

residents is never too expensive," he said, continuing that controversial matters shouldn't always "be in our little council chambers." Burroughs also said he so long.

"These are some of the

A massive expansion tentious projects and public of White Oaks Resort and Spa was the fourth and final public meeting on last week's planning docket. There were a handful of people registered to speak to it, but only two were still lingering when their names were called — at about

> 11 p.m. Something is not right in our process," he said.

Also during the planning meeting, Coun. Wendy Cheropita asked if a budget committee meeting scheduled for the next day at 9:30 a.m. could be delayed until a later time because of Tuesday's meeting running been given about the 9:30

Clerk Grant Bivol said this was not possible because in the game to be changing it,"

Capital budget discussed but no decisions made

\$200,000 on a consultant to be-

mendation is that only \$10,000

be spent to review facility needs

of the fire department. Fire staff

have "reviewed further and have

decided to pause this project as

part of the proposed 2024 bud-

get process to allow for addi-

at the meeting about a recon-

struction of Queenston Road

and whether the project's timing

will be impacted by the Minis-

try of Transportation's plans to

Queenston Road between Air-

"The reconstruction of

twin the nearby skyway.

Questions were also raised

tional due diligence."

Instead, the staff recom-

gin the project.

"At this point, it's too late

a.m. start.

Kris Dube The Local Local Journalism **Initiative Reporter**

The 2024 budget process continues at Niagara-on-the-Lake town hall — but with no official decisions made yet.

The town's budget review committee met for a second time Wednesday, hearing updates from staff based on questions raised at the previous meeting, as well as receiving information about the town's projected 10-year capital plan.

In a memo to council, director of corporate services Kyle Freeborn gave further details about five capital projects in the budget.

The town initially had plans port Road and Coon Road is





Coun. Gary Burroughs at the recent planning committee meeting. (Kris Dube)

public notice had already he said.

McCauley said staff would be able to address some of Burroughs' concerns in the near future.

for an addition at Fire Sta- not impacted" by the planned tion 3 in Virgil, and spending skyway twinning, based on staff

meetings with both the Region and MTO, said Freeborn.

During the first budget meeting in late September, Coun. Gary Burroughs voiced displeasure with staff recommending work on Mississagua Street be deferred to future budget considerations, not ongoing ones for 2024.

Staff's recommendation to defer the Mississagua Street reconstruction between Queen and Mary Streets, is a "strategic one based on several factors that aim to ensure a smooth and efficient process as well as appropriate cash flow for the project," said Freeborn, adding that deferring it allows "ample time for thorough planning." He noted that previous comments from council about the design taking mature trees into consideration is a factor. A public meeting also needs to be held next year, staff said.

Burroughs emphasized his stance made previously, saying Wednesday that Mississagua

Continued on page 3

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White Oaks planning four apartment towers, up to 25 storeys

Kris Dube The Local Local Journalism **Initiative Reporter**

A massive residential and commercial expansion at White Oaks Resort and Spa is being considered by Niagaraon-the-Lake council.

The project, which would see 810 units within four new buildings, 1,510 square metres of ground floor commerparking spaces in a garage and underground structure, was on Tuesday night's committee-ofthe-whole planning agenda in the form of a public meeting a necessary step for the property

owner seeking Official Plan and will need to overcome is an proposed expansion would help zoning bylaw amendments to allow the expansion to move forward.

and 25 storeys tall.

"The existing hotel and related uses on the site are to remain," said Aimee Alderman, senior planner with the town who led a staff presentation to ner representing the owners of council.

She said the lands on Taycial space, and more than 1,000 lor Road near Glendale Avenue and Queen Elizabeth Way are considered to be part of a strategic growth area and are of "highest priority for development and intensification."

One hurdle the proponents

exemption from height regulations related to the Niagara District Airport, which is only The apartment complexes three kilometres away. Buildare proposed to be 17, 18, 21, ings within its radius can be no taller than 15 metres, but the biggest being pitched in this project is planned to stand 82.5 metres tall.

> Stephen Bedford, a planthe resort that has been a part of the Glendale area since 1978, said White Oaks has been a "visual icon" to the neighbourhood since it opened.

> Sitting near the Niagara College Daniel J. Patterson campus as well as the Outlet Collection at Niagara, Bedford said the

the area "evolve into a complete community."

Architect Michael Rietta said public space is part of the plans, and will leverage existing amenities in the neighbourhood, such as the outlet mall, but will also create a "new gateway" for the Glendale area.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita asked if the residential units will be condos or rented to tenants.

Bedford said no decision has been finalized in that regard but added that "both options will be part of the mix going forward." The commercial components of the project are expected to involve a cafe and restaurants.

"We could certainly pull

The next budget meeting is

that information together," said



This conceptual drawing shows the four apartment buildings proposed for Glendale on the White Oaks Resort and Spa property. (Supplied)

Coun. Gary Burroughs raised a question about one feature of the current resort structure appearing to be getting taken away if and when the expansion takes place.

"Even though you're adding all these residences, you're getting rid of the tennis courts?" asked Burroughs.

Bedford said other racquet sports appear to be more popular and that the area currently used for indoor tennis courts will be used to create parking.

Coun. Maria Mavridis brought

up the height issue and the nearby airport, pointing out that the proponent needs to get permission from the federal government to move forward with buildings planned to be about 67 metres higher than what is currently allowed.

But as a prerequisite of the feds considering the height regulation exemption, there needs to be an endorsement from town council.

"We wouldn't have made the submission we've made without doing our homework," said Bedford, referring to the needed approvals being sought.

There were six registered

speakers signed up to address the issue during the public meeting. Four were no longer present

when they were called on more than four hours into the committee meeting, which had four public meetings on its agenda.

Irena Bliss, a resident of the Old Town, told council she has concerns with the proposed height of the buildings, and the impact carbon footprint developments of this scale have on neighbourhoods, saying they have "negative consequences for the community."

The Official Plan amendment proposes to redesignate the property from village commercial to site-specific mixed use to permit the proposed height for 25 storeys and associated residential densities.

The zoning bylaw amendment requests rezoning the property also to allow mixed use, with site-specific provisions for building height, building setbacks and parking requirements.

An open house was held Sept. 19, which was attended by three members of the public, said Bedford.

Budget could almost double by 2025

Continued from page 2

Street is the "main entrance" to town, and for that reason it should be given "a little more priority."

A suggestion made at the last committee meeting to replace construction of Concession 6 with work on Mississaby staff.

Concession 6 "is in a deteriorated state, nearing its end of service life and requires reconstruction to address a deteriorating road base, surface conditions and drainage issues," said staff.

"Should the road not be addressed now, significant staff time and resources will be recondition that does not pose a hazard or risk to safety." A breakdown of what has

been spent on Concession 6 Road since 2013 was also included in Freeborn's memo to council, saying more than \$3.6 million has been allocated in the last decade.

In the estimated 10-year gua Street is not recommended capital budget summary, there was concern about large increases in the next couple of vears.

> The 2024 capital budget is currently sitting at about \$10.4 million, but the 2025 capital budget is projected to be more than \$19 million, and 2026 at more than \$18 million.

"Such a huge jump is a maquired to keep the road in a jor concern for me," said Coun. mittee. (Kris Dube)

Sandra O'Connor, chair of the budget committee.

Coun. Burroughs asked for Freeborn. a similar breakdown, but of the last 10 years leading up to today.



Coun. Sandra O'Connor is chair of the budget review com-



20 CONFEDERATION DRIVE \$1,299,000 MLS 40449281 – Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk	45 STONERIDGE CRESCENT \$1,685,000 MLS 40468088 – Randall Armstrong	450 JOHNSON STREET \$2,775,000 MLS 40454536 – Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk	176 WILLIAM STREET \$2,300,000 MLS 40429158 – Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller	
E MILLPOND ROAD \$2,150,000	507 MISSISSAUGA STREET \$2,179,000	A LUTHER AVENUE \$729,000	P NORTON STREET \$960,000	
MLS 40489169 – Thomas Elltoft and Jane Elltoft	MLS 40469293 – Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk	MLS 40375616 – Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia	MLS 40489172 – Thomas Elitoft	
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THE NOTL Gocal

Glendale residents share concerns about White Oaks plans

Penny Coles The Local

After listening to almost four hours of a planning committee meeting, Glendale resident Lianne Gagnon was finally able to speak to councillors about her opposition to the White Oaks Resort and Spa plan to build four high-rise apartments, the tallest at 25 storeys.

The development, she told The Local, "would be a real detriment to the community."

She echoed other Niagaraon-the-Green residents who feel they haven't had much opportunity to respond to such a significant proposal. Many did not know about the open house, and others slated to speak at last week's public meeting gave up — it began at 6 p.m. and it was approaching 10 p.m. before the White Oaks discussion began, after three other public meetings had ended. One was regarding the proposed development of the Phillips Estate at Queen and Mississagua streets that had almost 30 speakers registered, although not all of them made a presentation.

Gagnon had been listening since 6 p.m., waiting for her opportunity to speak, she says. "It seemed really important that our community have a voice in this, and I felt I had to stay."

Aimee Alderman, senior planner for the town, prefaced her description of the proposal by saying there was ample notification of the development, Gagnon says, "although when speaking with other residents, many

did not know about it." residents to provide written submissions to the town.

With such a limited public presence at the open house the week before — three members of the public attended, and a town document says no comments public meeting, her main conwere made or question asked --Gagnon says she believes planners are taking it as the public giving consent, when many residents are opposed to some of the rezoning and Official Plan changes required.

During the discussion following the public meeting, "councillors didn't ask about the impact on residents, who have little or no knowledge" of what to expect from the high-rises, which the developer, she says, "described as a nice skyline of towers."

"I highly doubt most residents of NOTL would think that," Gagnon continued.

During recent debate of other development proposals, there was talk of increasing housing stock in NOTL in response to provincial legislation through future development of Glendale as the answer to where that growth would be best suited.

"But Glendale shouldn't be the dumping ground" of housing other communities in NOTL wouldn't want, Gagnon says.

"I don't see any high-rises being proposed in the Old Town, Queenston, Virgil or St. Davids. I really hope all citizens will speak up. We really are one community and Glendale should be given the same consideration as the whole community."

Gagnon is now anxious to Alderman did encourage know what the town's next steps will be and is talking to neighbours about starting a petition. "A number of residents have approached me to say they would be supportive," she says.

> Speaking to councillors at the cern was about the height of the buildings.

Gagnon told councillors that when she and others moved to NOTL, it was because of "our small town charm, unique culture, and historical landscapes of which we are all proud. This was reiterated again and again in tonight's presentations. We all feel the same way about the quaintness of where we call home. It's what attracted us to NOTL."

"Please let's not lose sight of our special reputation with such a proposal," she continued. "Approving massive buildings that tower over our neighbourhood and serve as a wall of buildings next to Taylor Road, as was described during the recent open house, is the antithesis of what we want to be known for in Niagaraon-the-Lake. Yes, densification will occur, and we will grow, but let's develop our neighbourhoods with forethought to retain the same architectural elements, charm, and unique qualities that are at the core of who we are. Let's animate this growing community by highlighting the Niagara Escarpment, not dwarfing it with city skyscrapers that can be found in any metropolitan area."

The Glendale Secondary Plan "specifically speaks to mainthe escarpment by establishing a distinctive skyline with slender buildings if they are over five storeys high," she says, requiring that "taller buildings should be internal to the site. That's not what is being proposed now. It also stipulates what I am highlighting: that any buildings over eight storeys have roofs and tops that include an 'architectural treatment that is distinct from other elements of the buildings. The high-rises we have viewed in the proposal certainly do not abide by this requirement."

The secondary plan does not include building heights 25 storeys high, she added, "so I'm alarmed at this unwelcome and unsightly modification. There is nothing visually appealing about those high-rises that says Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The residents of Niagaraon-the-Green, Gagnon says in her presentation to councillors, "need to be taken into consideration, and how this impacts us and NOTL overall. As leaders of our community, you are the decision makers and have the authority to impact history by determining what we look and feel like in years to come."

Steve Hardaker, also a resident of Niagara-on-the-Green, was one of those who did not stay until the end of the meeting to present his concerns, although he did submit them in writing to the town.

Although he is "generally pleased" to hear there is residential development being considered, he has several real concerns

says in his submission.

Citing a recent report by a Niagara Region consultant on development restrictions and impacts on Niagara District Airport, he says he believes "it is important to ascertain whether the White Oaks development falls within the regulatory boundaries of the airport."

For the specific area where White Oaks is proposing the residential development, the height restriction is 16.25 metres above ground, the report says, while the tallest proposed tower on the White Oaks property is 82.5 metres, "which is significantly higher than the restriction imposed by the Aeronautical Act and will require White Oaks request a formal exemption from Transport Canada before this development can go ahead."

He is also concerned about the impact of the apartment heights to the Niagaraon-the-Green neighbourhood.

The tallest apartment being proposed, at 25-storeys, is at the corner of Glendale and Taylor roads, directly across the intersection from the low-density Niagara-on-the-Green neighbourhood with its single-family bungalows, two-storey homes and townhouses.

The 21-storey tower is along Glendale Avenue directly behind the 25-storey tower. The lower 18- and 17-storey towers are behind and closer to the White Oaks Resort.

Hardaker would like to see the developer consider moving

taining the visual prominence of about what is being proposed, he the two higher towers to the area closest to the White Oaks Resort and moving the two lower towers to where the current 25- and 21-storey towers are proposed.

> "This would then provide a bit more of a transition from the low-density Niagara-on-the-Green neighbourhood through a tiered step up in building heights in the high-density White Oaks proposal," he says.

The Glendale Secondary Plan includes distinct setbacks for the White Oaks property, Hardaker says - buildings above eight storeys are to be set back a minimum of 30 metres from Taylor Road and a minimum of 60 metres from the southern-most point of the area to be developed. "This is intended to provide an appropriate transition to lower buildings on surrounding properties," he continues in his submission. "I consider Niagara-on-the-Green as one of those surrounding properties, and the proposal as presented does not respect this."

During the open house, there were several references to the Glendale Secondary Plan.

Within the plan, there are also references to potential building heights on White Oaks property, the highest being up to 16 storeys with one tower permitted up to 20 storeys.

"I am appealing to the proponent to show a little love to the residents of Niagara-on-the-Green," said Hardaker, "and lower their proposed tower heights to become more in line with the Glendale Secondary Plan."





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Melville street condo passes first step of approvals

Kris Dube The Local Local Journalism **Initiative Reporter**

Niagara-on-the-Lake staff say a three-storey, 12-unit apartment building on Melville Street will fit nicely on Melville Street and in the Dock Area neighbourhood.

Not all nearby residents agree.

Approval to zoning bylaw and Official Plan amendments was given by councillors sitting as the planning committee Tuesday night, but that will need to be forwarded to the council meeting for adoption later this month.

Several concerns were raised earlier this year by residents during an open house and public meeting, which director of community and development services Kirsten McCauley said Tuesday will be addressed during the next step — the site plan process.

Those issues included snow removal, shadow impacts, a perceived lack of landscaping, lighting and traffic.

Shadows and questions older homes. surrounding whether the units will be offered as short-term rentals are two issues Coun. ible with its surroundings. Wendy Cheropita says she has "kept hearing from residents during Tuesday's meeting, saywho live close by."

McCauley responded that shadows and how they might impact others in the area will be one of the issues considered as part of the site plan process, and said that if the zoning change is granted, short-term rentals would not be permitted under the zoning which is proposed.

The property is located on the west side of Melville Street, south side of Lockhart Street and north side of Delatre Street, within the urban area of the Old Town.

Nearby are a three-storey townhouse building along Melville Street, Lockhart Street and River Beach Drive, the three-storey Harbour House Hotel, the marina and some

The staff report says the apartment building is compat-

McCauley agreed with that ing the proposed development is "generally the same height as the surrounding buildings."

In its report, staff say the proposal would provide additional housing options and contribute to the town's intensification target within the built-up area.

Dock Area resident Barbara Worthy reached out to councillors before the Tuesday meeting, asking why "well-considered municipal regulations are being overturned for this project? Every rule is being broken, as far as



The town planner says residents' concerns with the Melville Street project will be addressed through the site plan. (Supplied)

them?"

Residents' concerns have been brought forward but not considered.

'compatible with the surrounding neighbourhood, with heritage buildings that were laid out more than 150 years ago with very different considerations in place," she said in a letter to councillors.

"I'm just curious as to how we justify the effort and good one and two archaeological intentions of residents to un-

well thought out suggestions, if developers are allowed to usurp all the rules."

Coun. Gary Burroughs "Im not sure how this is said residents have been "very involved right from the beginning" with this project, and requested at the meeting that an information report come to council about the site plan process and how it is moving along, to which staff agreed.

> The staff report says stage assessments were submit-

I can tell. So why do we have derstand the process and make ted with the applications, which concluded that further investigation is warranted through at least a stage three archaeological assessment.

> This is required prior to any site alteration occurring on the property, said staff.

> To ensure those documents are provided prior to development on the site, a holding provision has been included in the amending zoning bylaw, to be removed upon receipt of all the required documents, the report says.

Height, traffic, noise and parking among residents' concerns

Continued from page 1

would be appropriate and Coun. Maria Mavridis, a Queen Street business owner, said she feels that number is more suitable — especially when factoring staff parking.

"I think the 177 spaces suggested by the town was suggested for a reason."

services formula was applied to the number of parking ters that include issues with spaces needed, using an the proposal, said heritage example of spa users visiting the site only during the day opening up spots for was built hundreds of years ago restaurant guests in the eve- as a refuge for wealthy Amerining.

held Sept. 11 residents also months.

Makarewicz said a shared voiced concerns, and to date, the town has received 19 letplanner Denise Horne.

The historic home at the site cans who visited Niagara-During an open house on-the-Lake in the summer

Martin

Sheppard

Fraser LLP

Now the estate, partially restaurant and spa will include a fourth floor with a rooftop deck.

restored with plans to be an well as a greenhouse on the design committees, followed upscale hotel expanding over property will be "adaptively two bordering Simcoe Street reused" in the development, lots, which in addition to a with their heritage elements then go to council through preserved.

further vetting by the town's is made.

Horne said the home, as municipal heritage and urban by the site plan process.

The development will the form of a recommenda-The next steps include tion report before a decision



Lawyer Sara Premi, legal counsel for the developer, said the project will be an "appropriate intensification of existing permitted uses." (Kris Dube)



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notllocal.com **EDITORIAL** Thank you to firefighters who help keep us safe

Fire Prevention Week is at any kind of emergency. a time for fire departments across Ontario to remind residents about fire safety — this week with a theme of cooking and train weekly at their fire safety.

However they keep us safe, not just from fires, but in situations of medical emergencies or vehicle collisions. In small communities such as Niagara-on-the-Lake, volunteer firefighters can be first responders fighters, and while this is their er knowing exactly what they monoxide alarms, replacing

They have intense training for those situations before graduating as volunteer firefighters, stations after that, as well as particular emergencies they may be called out to attend.

Most, if not all, of NOTL's staff begin as volunteer fire-

time to remind and educate might face, or who they might batteries when needed, paying and talented group of staff and community members of ways discover needs their help. to keep safe, it's also our time to say thank you to them.

And to acknowledge the time they give to the commureceiving extra practices facing nity, the skills they learn to keep their neighbours safe, and express our gratitude for their decision to take on the task of Fire and Emergency full-time leaving their work or family, at any time of day or night, nev-

I am constantly presented with

videos of grizzly bears in British

Columbia, alligators in Florida,

moose in Ontario, and giant

swans in Texas having dicey

encounters with people on golf

courses. In terms of broadcast-

ing sports around the world,

we now head to Australia for an

down, the two competitors are

"Although the sun has gone

epic ping-pong match.

It's also a reminder for all of us to commit to doing what we can to reduce the number of those calls, by taking steps to keep ourselves, our homes and workplaces safe, to make the job of volunteer firefighters easier and keep them safe as well.

We can do that by having working smoke and carbon

attention when cooking in the kitchen, and having a family plan if it becomes necessary to escape a fire.

We can also help by pulling over safely when we see their flashing green lights, saving them time as they respond to a call and allowing them to get to an emergency a little sooner.

We know NOTL is very fortunate to have a dedicated volunteers committed to their community. We at The Local say thank you to them, and to their families for supporting them in the choices they have made to do a difficult, time-consuming and dangerous job to help make this community of ours a safer place to live, work and visit.

> Penny Coles The Local

Wildlife, humans and sports go together around the world



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Who is up for some golf and Canadian geese? How about instead of Canadian geese, a few kangaroos? What if, during a children's soccer game, one of the world's largest stinging insects landed on your face? Anyone here ever played ping-pong with massive cane toads?

Grab your Gatorade, and come along with me, local guide and occasional sport commentator.

"Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, it is a picture perfect day here at the local golf club. We're watching our first tournament competitor prepare for tee-off, the crowd of all three people is totally silent in respect and trepidation. We have witnessed how this ball could go just about anywhere when he executes his characteristic wild swing. Hold on a moment . . . we have a much larger crowd cheering on the horizon! It appears to be a gaggle of geese, if I am to be biologically accurate to our viewers."

Canadian geese are a common golf course attendee, along with snapping turtles and birds of prey. I once wrote an article for The Local about golf courses unintentionally acting as a conservation area. I'd like to take you to Australia, where I once golfed with crowds of other spectator creatures.

Imagine violently slicing your golf shot, as I often do, and the ball rolls to a halt in a group of kangaroos hanging out in the rough. Cutesy impressions of kangaroos are suddenly confounded by their incredibly lean bodies, and a surprising adult human height when they stand upright. As I learned on (or off) the fairway in the Land Down Under, it is often better just to consider the ball a lost cause.

The kangaroos can be just as frequent as our Canadian geese on the course. To boot, there are bearded dragon lizards clinging to tree limbs while the brilliantlycoloured crimson rosella birds quietly judge every shot you take.

The algorithms of social media must know I find the concept of wildlife and humans interacting fascinating, because

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driven to settle a tale of the paddle. Sources say that this venue has a population of about one million wild boars, and millions more cane toads, located in the world's oldest rainforest. Due to flooding and lack of cellphone reception, the stands are unsurprisingly empty, but it appears we are about to begin the rally regardless." Every time the little orange ball blistered by the opponent,

it would end up in an area of bushes home to things you have to think twice about before reaching in. The diversity of venomous snakes in northeast Australia is astounding, but we can't confuse diversity with density. The odds of reaching into a rainforest bush and getting

tagged by a coastal taipan, for example, are "getting struck by lightning" level rare. However, we found plenty representing the world's largest toad.

The cane toad can weigh up to 1.5 kilograms (3.3 pounds). It could have eaten our ping-pong ball, no problem. Although plastic balls are not part of its diet,

and small mammals.

For our final global sporting event, we head to Ecuador for a soccer match featuring the world's most intimidating play-— an insect. er

"Thank you, viewers, for joining us in the Amazonian region of Ecuador on this fine afternoon. The muddy soccer field is sure to give us an extra challenge in today's heated match of village children versus Canadian volunteers, but some fans have their eyes open for someone of great respect. The scientific community calls her Pepsis grossa, but to local fans, she is known as the tarantula hawk wasp."

There I was, playing "defence" against this tiny girl as she ran up the field with the ball towards me. She was running surprisingly fast, considering that she was probably only eight years old and was wearing rubber boots on a mud-bath of a soccer field. It was so cool to watch the skill and fitness of this young village child as she approached me with the ball.

the game unfolded.

Suddenly, a drone-like sound approached me from behind. A large, metallic black and blue item descended right over my shoulder and past me. At first, I thought it was some sort of bird. However, when the twoplus inch tarantula hawk landed square on her face, I immediately felt the empathetic shock and horror that was about to interrupt this kid's game.

I was pleasantly wrong.

Without panic or any sudden movements, the girl simply pulled her arm up to her face and gently grazed the monstrouslooking wasp off her face. Not

a sting, not a shriek, nothing. I guarantee all of you readers, myself included, if the tarantula hawk wasp landed on our faces, we would probably instinctively swipe our own face so hard wed give ourselves a black eye. Especially if you knew this: following the bullet ant (which I have handled, intentionally), it has the most painful sting of any insect in the world.

"Thank you kindly for tuning into today's sports broadcast. We hope that you look at the relationship between humans, sport, and animals in an exciting and different view from now on. Goodnight."



What impressed me even more Owen Bjorgan has played golf with Canada geese and with was how the next moment in kangaroos. (Supplied)

View from the couch

Donald Combe Special to The Local

virtually everything else smaller Henry Sugar (Netflix, 2023): see without using his eyes? his opinions, through "short than a hamburger is. This vora- How can a film go wrong (There are four short videos and sweet" exclusives, of

dict Cumberbatch and Ben to go to the movies. Until he Kingsley) spinning The Wonderful Story of tale of a man who could has graciously agreed to share cious invasive species eats native when there is a great story, in this series.) Pure magic. Netflix series and movies for

and great actors (Bene- English teacher who loves the resumes going to theatres, he

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then your tip

toads and frogs, as well as snakes a great writer (Roald Dahl) Donald Combe is a retired The Local.



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

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

Publisher: The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Village Media Regional Publisher (online sales) **John Hammill** John@villagemedia.ca 905-988-5599 ext 1157

Advertising Sales: Joy Sanguedolce - NOTL joy@notllocal.com 416-817-0920

Julia Coles - outside NOTL julia@notllocal.com 905-934-1040

Graphic Designer: Rosie Gowsell composing@notllocal.com News Tips: news@notllocal.com

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Where's **Ben?**

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Last week Ben was on The Commons, as identified by Doug Hernder. The building is part of Butler's Barracks, a national historic site managed by Parks Canada.

COMMENT -*Gocal*LETTERS A view of plaque changes in NOTL

a column on the notllocal.com website: Niagara's long, complicated history with plaques, including those in NOTL, by James Culic, and published Oct. 9:

As we continue to study history, we have come to learn that our words can have lasting power. Prejudice, discrimination and marginalization of our past are still embedded in the language that we use today. In order to have language that is inclusive and reflective of our society today, we need to move away from these outdated terms, and that includes the terms that are on our plaques.

that was recently updated, more than the word "slave" was changed. The history was updated to include more information on this incredibly unique piece of history, not only in our town but in the history of Canada's extradition laws. This was certainly lacking in the plaque's previous description.

Outdated terms like "master" and "negroes" were also replaced on the plaque. These terms were not replaced to put an upbeat "sunny spin" on history. Using the term Freedom Seeker over "fugitive," "escapee" or even "escaped slave" is preferred as these latter constructs were used by

describe those who sought freedom in Upper Canada.

The term Freedom Seeker demonstrates what enslaved people sought rather than reducing African Americans to lawbreakers who deserved punishment. The update to the plaque also did more than "bleach clean the stains of our historical mistakes," as the column stated.

It did quite the opposite it set the record straight. Moseby's story was quite overshadowed by the site's other colonial history. So, the Ontario Heritage Trust revisited the plaque and replaced it with text

This letter is in response to Moseby plaque (in Rye Park) enslavers or "slave catchers" to that focused on the real story grams? Why does it make of Solomon Moseby in a way the historical significance of the property.

> James, even if the changes in the language do not make sense to you, it makes sense to the people it affects the most, and that should be enough for you to accept the wording changes to plaques. A simple internet search would have led to why updated language is important. Even if Disney isn't updating their content to reflect changes in language

sense to update the title of the that is equitable and honest to Negro Burial Ground plaque, but not update the harmful, discriminatory language on the others? You can't have it both ways. By changing these words, we are actually paying attention to history and recognizing how historical language has influenced people's perceptions in the present. We're not smoothing over the rough edges. We are simply choosing not to use terms that are offensive.

In terms of the Bertie Hall plaque, I cannot speak for Niand perceptions, why can't we agara Parks and their decision be better than Disney when to omit the history of its init comes to our plaquing pro-volvement in prohibition, but

they certainly didn't whitewash history. They didn't omit important, factual BIPOC historical narratives from the history of the site, because as you have stated, it was all rumour.

The great thing about plaques is that they can always be rewritten as new narratives and history come to light. We just have to recognize that the way we present history, and the words that we use, can have lasting effects. And that we need to include the voices of people represented in history so that we can be inclusive in our storytelling.

> Shawna Butts NOTL

Monarch migration, other sights to see at Darlington National Park

David Gilchrist The Local

In terms of the Solomon

On our way home from camping in eastern Ontario, we stopped at Darlington Provincial Park on the north coast of Lake Ontario. It's a pleasant area with three campgrounds, offering more than 300 camping sites, and a beautiful beach right on Lake Ontario. Fishing is also a possibility at McLaughlin Park, which is located at the far western part of the park. Possible catches include perch, sunfish pike, catfish and bass.

We assumed, as it's so close to Toronto, that it's quite popular with folks trying to get away for some time. It was very quiet when we arrived, however, with lots of large, well-treed sites open. We decided to stay at the Cliffside Camping area, and our site backed onto a steep cliff overlooking the beach below and



The migrating monarchs along the shoreline. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

Lake Ontario. It was peace- from our site, heading west. ful and quiet there and we Later, on a short walk along enjoyed the views out over the cliff edge (it's fenced), I the lake, especially as the sun noticed more that were flitwent down.

noticed some monarchs flying high above the trees across plants that they would peri-

tering along, as they do, along As I was sitting outside, I the cliff edge and the beach below. There were stands of

tinuing on their way. Claudia ist families from New York and I watched for some time State: the Conants, Burks and as dozens of them passed. I, of course, took a number of photos. We figured they were on their way to the Pelee park, but he later sold some Passage on Lake Erie as they journey south.

Before leaving the park we took the opportunity to do the hike that passes by a settlers cemetery, which has several members from the same family buried there.

The campground's name comes from it being in Darlington Township, County of Durham, one of several areas named by John Graves Simcoe after areas of England. At that time it was described as "unsettled wilderness," although bands of Mississauga First Nations would hunt and fish in the area.

free land, the first European settlers arrived by bateaux along the shore. The boat had

odically settle on before con- three United Empire Loyal-Trulls. Roger Conant was the first of the families to hold the lots which now compose the of the land to Samuel Burk, the son of John Burk. The pioneer cemetery located along the Burk hike contains the burials of the Burk family. One stone marks the family and contains the names of Samuel Burk, his wife Mary, their son Peter, his wife Barbara, and three other children, Sylvester, Harry and Sarah. Proceeding along the walk takes you to a lookout area which, unfortunately, does not reveal much of a view as the tress have grown tall.

Later, our walk to the beach passed through a lovely In 1774, with the offer of picnic area for day visits. This area too had many tall trees providing much shade on a hot day. We took the time to

view the Darlington Pioneer Home that was erected on the site as a Centennial project in 1967 by the Township of Darlington. It dates from the 1830s and employs the same construction styles as the original settlers' homes would have used.

As we proceeded to the beach area we were amazed at the size and quality of the beach. Only one other person, with her two dogs, was there, set up comfortably on a lounge chair and under an umbrella enjoying the sunshine. Beyond the beach, to the west, on a small peninsula that separates Lake Ontario from McLaughlin Bay, is a Natural Environment Area. Piping plovers, an endangered shorebird, have nested at Darlington at this area since 2016.

We left the park later that morning, glad to have visited another of Ontario's provincial parks.







One of many monarchs seen at Darlington Provincial Park.

An original settler's cabin.

The Burk family cemetery plot at Darlington.



THE NOTL Gocal

Gillian's Place offers training in gender-based equality

Mike Balsom The Local

With the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser for Gillian's Place coming up this Saturday, Oct. 14 at 10 a.m., it's a good time to reflect on the language used by the media when reporting on gender-based violence.

The non-profit organization, which offers confidential support services and operates a shelter in St. Catharines for those fleeing from abuse and violence, recently made available their Responsible Media Reporting Training Program, including a detailed guide for journalists and journalism students.

"Something that became really noticeable to us during the pandemic was the problematic nature of the way femicide and women's issues were oftentimes being reported in the media," executive director Nicole Regehr told The Local. "Through Women and Gender Equity Canada we got a significant grant to create a program for journalists, students of journalism and the broader community."

St. Catharines regional counsellor Laura Ip, a Gillian's Place project manager, was tasked with the development of the training program.

"When it's a man who is prominent in the community," Ip says, "such as the example used in the training program of a prominent neurosurgeon (Mohammed Shamji) who

killed his wife, who was also groups in the region. a physician, a lot of media reporting focused on his accomplishments and his education, and didn't mention his wife's accomplishments, what the medical community lost with her murder."

Shamji was convicted for the murder of 40-year-old Elana Fric in 2019 and is currently serving a life sentence in prison.

The program also looks at other specific gender-based issues.

"We spoke to Indigenous women," Ip says, "particularly in response to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) findings. They are 16 times more likely than white women to be murdered or go missing. We didn't focus on just white heterosexual women."

her team took more than two years to comb through as much literature as possible. The Guide for Journalists cites 79 books, articles and newspaper stories, but Ip estimates more than 200 sources were used.

Experts in gender-based violence and gender issues were lack of diversity in the field of consulted. These included advocates whose work focuses on gender-based violence and gender issues, who were asked to give their feedback on the impact of irresponsible, incomplete or poor media coverage of these issues. And Ip reached out to representatives from Ip explains. "They report on a number of equity-seeking

Journalists were consulted as well, and that led to some revelations that surprised Ip.

"A common critique is that journalists don't report on the history of intimate partner violence by a perpetrator," she explains. "In the Canadian legal environment, though, the vast majority of the time they can't report on that. You can't convict someone in print. Journalists have to be very, very careful about that."

She found that most journalists had no clear policies for reporting on gender-based violence.

"We learned that usually there are no policies," she says. "In journalism school, they are taught mechanics, how to write a news story. They're not taught how to interview particular Ip points out that she and kinds of people, in particular kinds of situations."

> The program also looks at the representation of women in the media in general. For example, Ip points out that women are cited as experts in media stories only about 20 per cent of the time. And it lays bare the journalism itself.

> Both Ip and Regehr insist that despite the title of the program and the guide, both available for free at gilliansplace. com, it's not just for journalists.

"Journalists and society reflect each other back and forth," what they do because it's what

we want to read or watch. If we start questioning the way they cover material, then maybe the way they cover it changes."

To that end, she suggests educators, elected officials, anyone working in law enforcement or court services, anyone who works in victim's services and those aspiring to work with the media in any capacity would benefit from most of the program.

"When we were developing the program, every single journalist that we interviewed said that this was absolutely necessary," she says.

"There are studies that show, even though by sheer numbers it might appear as if there is gender equity in the media," says Ip, "women tend to be more likely in internship roles and not in leadership roles. They are less likely than men to be reporting on hard news, such as politics and finance."

The program was launched at the end of September and many, including this NOTL Local reporter, have registered for the online version, which includes a series of videos as well as the guide.

program in person over a day and a half, or three half days.

"The online program is self-paced," she says, "so you can do it on your own time. But we have reached out to the colleges and universities that have programs, as well as the Niaga-



notllocal.com

Responsible Media Reporting of Gender-Based Violence and Gendered Issues: Guide for Journalists

Anyone interested in learning about gender-based equality can find the guide at gilliansplace.com. (Supplied)

ra Regional Police and Niagara out the guide, and to consider Public Health. We're doing a lot to get it out there."

Though this NOTL Local reporter is in the early stages of working through the program, it's already evident that it is a valuable and much-But Ip is eager to deliver the needed resource, another step in this white, heterosexual male becoming an ally to fight gender-based violence and to stand up against issues that negatively affect women and female-identifying people.

You, the readers of the media studies of journalism NOTL Local, are encouraged to visit gilliansplace.com to check

working through the program yourselves. Once you have completed it, be sure to provide this reporter with feedback of your own at balsomm@gmail. com, or to The Local at penny@notllocal.com if you notice transgressions in the way stories about gender-based issues are reported. The best we can do is listen, learn and hope we get it right.

First Edition

And if we don't, please let us know.

As Ip suggests, that's the only way change will come about.

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Students, staff and family help celebrate award

Continued from page 1

Glauser led the staff members from the main office to Honsinger's classroom where he was conducting an early morning meeting of his robotics team. With DSBN director of education Warren Hoshizaki, superintendent Darren Van Hooydonk and 30 students looking on,

Prior to the opening bell, er award that we have here tors, as are both of their wives. in this school," Glauser explained. "It's to recognize their mother, Christine, cut other teachers for something out shapes after dinner in special they have done. It's fit- preparation for her elementating too, that Bryce is getting ry class the following day. it today because he's the one

three years ago."

"It's a teacher-to-teach- the DSBN, are both educa-The brothers grew up helping

"She started in 1970," who came up with this award Honsinger told The Local. "She retired from Ferndale in A St. Catharines native, 2003. My earliest memories Honsinger is one of many of my mom as a teacher were

right away that teaching a passion for it."

Bryce's parents, Christhe school to witness the celclapped for his son.

"What a dynamic, sup-

the school's Principal's Award. his brother Brian, also with card table in the living room ty this school is, that allows teacher receive the accolades helping her out. We learned someone like Bryce to flourish," said Honsinger's proud wasn't 9 to 5. You have to have mother. "It's wonderful. Bryce happens with all the kids in has been so involved in the his classroom," said Hoshiwider education communitine and Murray, as well as ty, mentoring hundreds of his wife, Michelle, were all at teachers, and I think that's part of why he is winning this ebration. Murray wiped tears award. He's always been willfrom his eyes as the students ing to share his skills and his resources."

Honsinger counted of course, as well as his former high school teacher at Governor Simcoe Secondary School, Mike Simpson.

"He was our football to Rotarian Cosmo Condina, coach, but also an academic, our top fundraiser, for raising a true renaissance man," he remembered. "I have always

Honsinger is in his fourth year at St. Davids. He began fectious disease to achieve this his career 23 years ago at Parliament Oak in Niagaraon-the-Lake and also spent time at Caistor Centre, and Oct 24 is World Polio Day. Harriet Tubman Schools. Together we can end polio, for- Honsinger also spent a year with the board as an instruc-For more information or to tional coach, and for five years worked at Brock University's Faculty of Education. Outside of the DSBN, he has been involved with years.

> Hoshizaki first met Honsinger when he was a teacher at Applewood. He was delighted to see the

Thursday.

"It's the engagement that zaki. "Every single year it's the same thing. He gets the kids engaged and they want to learn. Just look around his room and you can see that it's so important to him, and to the kids."

The nomination pro-Glauser presented him with teachers in his family. He and my brother and I sitting at the porting, caring communi- Christine as an inspiration, cess for the Prime Minister's Award began with Amanda Adam, a parent of children who attend St. Davids Public School.

> "I know without a doubt that he has changed my son's life for the better, and I now know that he has done the same for hundreds of other students and scouts over the last 20 years," says a quote from Adam on the Government of Canada website. "Mr. Honsinger takes advantage of every opportunity to use the latest technology, bring to light a global issue to make his students more socially conscious, and enlighten them with his vast knowledge of history."

> "They chose the right person for the Prime Minister's Award," Glauser told The Local. "He's a very special person, a very special teacher. He leads by example, he really is creating the next leaders of tomorrow. We're all so proud of his accomplishments."

Rotary clubs close to eradicating po

Bill French Rotary Club of NOTL

On September 29, 1979, Rotarians administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati, Philippines. This was the genesis of what is now Rotary International's mission to eradicate polio in the world.

Since then, more than 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio, thanks to the cooperation of more than 200 countries and 20 million volunteers.

We are in the last mile of cases by 99.9 per cent. eradicating the disease forever, but the last mile will require a further \$2.5 billion USD investment and take another three to five years.

In 1988 Rotary International and the World Health Orga-

Polio Eradication Initiative. cases and 500 deaths. At the time, there was an estimated 350,000 cases of polio clared polio free in 1994. Polio in 125 countries. Polio paralyzed more than 1,000 children mandatory vaccine schedule in Organization declared smallworldwide every day. While there is no cure for polio, it is preventable with a vaccine.

In the past 35 years, Rotary has raised more than \$2.6 Pakistan with two cases. billion USD and volunteered countless hours to eradicate are polio-free for three consecpolio. Together with our partners we immunize over 400 million children every year. Since 1988, we have reduced 200,000 new cases could occur

Polio mainly affects children younger than the age of five. It spreads from person to person and can infect the spinal cord, causing permanent paralysis and death.

Polio cases peaked in Can-

nization launched the Global ada in 1953 with nearly 9,000

North America was dehas been part of the routine, Canada for decades.

Only two countries remain endemic: Afghanistan, which has had six cases in 2023, and

The job is not done until we utive years, globally.

Unless we eradicate polio within 10 years, as many as annually around the world.

This year, the Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake, along with thousands of Rotary Clubs around the world, helped raise money to fund the final push. Our recent Participate for Polio ride raised \$22,263.

Congratulations and thanks over \$11,000!

In 1980 the World Health tried to be like him." pox eradicated — the only indistinction.

We're close to ending the second human disease in history.

ever.

donate go to endpolio.org.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, associate medical officer of health for the Niagara Region, will be our guest speaker on Oct. Boy Scouts as a leader for 25 24. Members of the community are welcome. Lunch is \$20. Please register at info@ niagaraonthelakerotary.ca by Oct 20.





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Masterfully designed, this state-of-the-art home boasts the ultimate in form and function and is situated amongst other newer homes in a desirable and prominent neighbourhood. The ultra modern main floor layout showcases sleek lines, generous lighting, sterling porcelain flooring, expansive windows and soaring ceilings. A spacious and spa-like primary bedroom suite, luxury powder room, advantageous interior access from the garage and sliding doors to balcony complete the main floor. The upper has two bedrooms, 4 piece bathroom and convenient laundry room. Lower level is fully finished complete with guest bedroom currently used as a gym space, expansive rec room with wall gas fireplace and games area. This is a superior home located in the charming village of St. Davids.

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Brad Mowat Special to The Local

In 2016, watching the trees of their neighbourhood begin to disappear at an alarming rate, two Chautauqua neighbours, Leslie Frankish and Holmes Hooke, discovered they had something in common: they both wanted to do something to preserve what became The Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy.

Their initial over-the-fence conversation led them to catalogue the tree canopy of Chautauqua. This inventory process allowed them to identify the features that distinguish Chautauqua's urban forest from the rest of NOTL: the most impressive feature being the groves of epic-scale heritage oaks naturally scattered throughout the neighbourhood.

Having identified the distinctive qualities to protect led them to create the Chautauqua Community Tree Plan, a blueprint for the use of homeown-

retain iconic features. Having neighbourhood. A true winalso identified the threats to the canopy's longevity led them to create the Chautauqua Oaks Project, putting words into action with the goal to ensure the actual offspring of its beloved canopy's future.

The inventory confirmed the most iconic feature was the 166 mature oaks. All of a similar age, they had self-seeded on abandoned farmland just after 1812. However, with Chautauqua now a residential neighbourhood and self-seeding a challenge, only 12 young oaks were found, not nearly enough to eventually take over for the 166.

Clearly it was time to start planting oaks, lots and lots of oaks - 2018 marked the first planting. More than 80 trees were purchased and planted on Wilberforce Avenue and Circle Street.

Searching for a more financially sustainable solution led to a partnership with Niagara young oaks ready to assume the College's School of Horticulture and the formation of a plan to They will be the New Great harvest Chautauqua acorns to Chautauqua Tree Canopy,

ers and the town on how to grow, and plant back into the ready for future generations to Chautauqua community who win, it provided a meaningful learning opportunity for the students while repopulating Chautauqua's canopy with the heritage oaks.

An extraordinary, rare opportunity for any urban forest, 2022 saw the first crop of 'ChautauquaOaks' planted along Shakespeare Avenue. To share information with the community about the inventory, the plan and the project, the chautauquaoaksproject.ca was created, which relays the story of how The Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy came to be, what makes it so distinct, and what anyone and everyone can do to protect it.

Last Wednesday, the Chautauqua Oaks Project was completed with plantings on all the remaining streets of Chautauqua. There is now a total of 172 role of the 166 heritage oaks.

enjoy.

"Our work is now done." says Frankish. "The restorative experience of Chautauqua's vaulted landscape is a treasure to live within. We are happy to have helped provide the next generation of oaks. In doing so it was also important to try to replicate the unique formations of the existing oaks."

"When self-seeding," she continues, "they had a tendency to plant themselves in twos and threes, remarkably close together. Defying modern landscaping rules, they evoke a sociable relationship, a charming indication that our neighbourhood is a friendly place. Also, the way the groves spread across many properties creates the sense of a unifying protective embrace a comforting indication of community guardianship. To be able to facilitate these connections made this endeavour all the more meaningful."

Wednesday also marked a second milestone for the project: Having gifted ChautauquaOaks to other areas, including Niagara Parks for Paradise Grove and Christopher's Grove in the Old Town, the greater Niagara-on-the-Lake tree canopy is now richer by over 500 trees.

"This turned out to be a very satisfying retirement project," Hooke, the other Chautauquan co-founder of the project, remarks with a broad smile.

Both Frankish and Hooke point out their dream would never have got off the ground without the exceedingly generous help provided by Betty Disero, J.B. Hopkins, Ruth Denyer, Mary Jane Clark and Shauna Dickson, and the great support of Niagara College School of Horticulture, Town of NOTL public works department, and, of course, members of the

pitched in and participated, now, but over the next hundred including the 93 homeowners who welcomed the future Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy into their gardens and yards.

It may not be so apparent years a forest will rise, similar to the one that exists today. Hopefully someone will do something similar in 100 years time.

notllocal.com



Volunteers cheer at the completion of plantings for the New Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy on all Chautauqua streets last week. (Photos supplied)





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Locals and their dogs will miss 'UPS guy'

Sharon Burns The Local

From his sailboat on Lake Ontario, Paul Murray, a man known to many in Niagaraon-the-Lake, was taking a practice run at retirement when he spoke to The Local about his long career with UPS.

He described what it was like to deliver to Niagaraon-the-Lake 34 years ago. "Back then, I used to deliver from the bridge at Port Weller and the dry docks all the way out past

into St. Davids, Queenston, Vir- utes, including drive time. He avgil and the Old Town.

Now, or at least until his retirement date at the end of November, Murray delivers only to Virgil, the Old Town and St. Davids.

"I'm doing, on an average day, 100 deliveries. And I have 10 regular pickups on top of that. Plus, people call in and want me to pick stuff up. I have to work those into the day."

Murray explained that he

the Whirlpool golf course," and runs a delivery every four min- fit because of all the lifting." erages between nine to 10 hours of delivering every day. "They just load you up. It's full every day and away you go and you don't come back until it's empty."

"That's the main reason "It's just so busy," he said. why I'm retiring at 60. I'm done with the long hours."

> Murray spends every day getting in and out of the truck, going up stairs, bending down, and lifting heavy parcels. "I run, I push weights, I do all sorts of stuff to keep my body

Paul Murray says he'll miss his customers, and their dogs, when he retires. (Photos supplied)



PUBLIC NOTICE INSTALLATION OF AN ALL-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF **CONCESSION 2 ROAD AND LINE 3 ROAD**



The delivery business has certainly changed in the past 10 years, but the biggest change

came about with the pandemic. With the birth of Amazon

and eBay in the mid-nineties, online shopping has only increased the number of deliveries Murray makes. He was busy even when, in 2005, Amazon started its own delivery system.

"But the pandemic was a whole new ball game," said Murray. "We went from being busy to being insane. On my worst day during the pandemic, I made 256 deliveries. The truck was full front to back, floor to ceiling, every day. No one could go anywhere, so they were ordering cases of wine every night."

Murray said that he was picking up 100 cases of wine each evening and the truck, fully loaded, weighed 3,500 pounds. "I did that for two years before things started to slow down," said Murray.

While he is a self-admitted "people guy," he said he will really miss the dogs he sees on his route.

"I have loads of favourites," he said, referring in particular to Labradors. "I always feed them. Always, right from the get-go. I always carry biscuits because sometimes the dog would rather eat the biscuit than me."

Murray told a story about a German shepherd on one of the farms. "It used to cost me two biscuits to get to the garage to leave the guy his stuff." Murray could easily get back to the truck because the dog was occupied and "I had nothing in my hands so I could move faster."

He has had a few tense moments, but usually with small dogs. "That is when I let my

guard down," he said. He is on deliveries from her husband his third generation of dogs. "I've been out here that long," but he feeds them as young puppies, "and I can come and go as I need to. It's not a problem and they look forward to seeing me too."

in the truck before I stop."

Murray worked at odd jobs after high school, doing renovations, and at Domtar in St. Catharines. "I decided that I didn't like the factory. I'd been there a few years and it just wasn't for me and some guy in a coffee shop said 'have you heard of UPS?' I said, 'what's that?' I applied and they called a couple of days later. That was it. I've been there ever since."

Murray's wife, Linda, who was also on their sailboat for this conversation, said "I'm happy for him. He's worked very hard for way too long, so it's time to relax."

While she occasionally gets

to their home in St. Davids, she joked that she is no longer allowed to order from Wayfair, "because the items are heavy, they usually start at 180 pounds."

"My wife is still going to "Some of the dogs are even work," as an administrative assistant, said Murray. "She's a little bit younger than I am. She's going to keep me in the lifestyle I've grown accustomed to," he quipped.

> Driving "can be challenging in the winter with the ice, rain and the snow," continued Murray who remembers a storm a few years ago when 50 centimetres of snow fell on the town. "That was the first time I ever had a snow day."

> One of his favourite parts of the job is driving around with the doors open. "It's almost like being in a convertible," he said.

> Paul is looking forward to having more time to spend with family, including their three children, and with friends.



Paul Murray's plan is to spend more time on his boat.

Changes being considered to regional transit

Sharon Burns The Local

ident Gracia Janes has been into one operator. active in regional public tran- "We're only 10 months in," in consolidating transit services sit since 2003, and next week, through her involvement in social development issues for cally make sure that we're alignthe Niagara District Council of Women, she will be offering the public an opportunity to hear updates about the service it offers.

isting Niagara Region Transit, Niagara Falls Transit, St. Catharines Transit, Welland Transit gle local transit pass. Niagara-on-the-Lake res- and Fort Erie Transit systems

payment across the region and allows for a transition to a sin-

"NRT has made what I would call remarkable progress

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town Niagara-on-the Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an allway stop at the intersection of Concession 2 Road and Line 3 Road.

Currently, only east and west bound traffic on Line 3 Road is required to stop. Based on the amended By-Law, now drivers travelling north and south bound on Concession 2 Road are required to stop as well.

Drivers are urged to use extra caution at this intersection as traffic adjusts to the new stop signs.

New stop signs will be erected on October 17, 2023, and enforcement of the all-way stop will commence immediately upon installation.

Those with questions are encouraged to contact Marci Weston, Traffic Engineering Technologist for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing marci.weston@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3266.

ager of Niagara Regional Transit, and Pelham Coun. Wayne Olson are featured speakers.

"We're going to provide an update on how things are going since our amalgamation of all transit services across Niagara," said Leah Tracey, spokesperson for the Niagara Transit Commission.

Niagara Region Transit was formed as the result of an effort from the region and the 12 municipalities to connect all of Niagara by combining the ex-

said Tracey. "We're still trying to get our feet under us and basiing all of our services." Starting in the new year, she said, NRT will "really start taking a look at what our opportunities are, and what our challenges are, so Carla Stout, general man- that as we're planning services for the future, we can make sure that we're putting the right

things in."

Which is good news for Janes, who works to ensure that students, the elderly and anyone else who uses public transportation can get to appointments, school and work. She In January of this year, noted some positive changes that have occurred since the amalgamation, such as new fare boxes in Niagara Falls, and convenient local bus passes. This upgrade harmonizes fare

in a very short time. It has been on the table for over 50 years and now it has come to fruition," said Olson. "I'm happy to participate because NRT is now entering a more strategic phase. This meeting is another way to help determine where the NRT should be placed on the environmental continuum, the technology continuum and the societal need continuum."

Olson intends to speak about drivers who outlive their driving privileges, and aging caregivers. He also urges "people to try out our service and experience where you can go." Anyone can register for the meeting by emailing a request to gracia.janes@bellnet.ca. The meeting, which will be held by Zoom, starts at 7:30 p.m. on

Wednesday, Oct. 18.





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

From the Lord Mayor, Members of Council and Town Staff





THE NOTL Content



A Message from the Fire Chief

We salute our volunteer firefighters daily; Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services volunteer firefighters provide exceptional service to the residents and visitors of our beautiful town.

Whether responding to calls at any hour of the day, participating in

training, inspecting and maintaining equipment, or delivering public education programs, our volunteers continuously demonstrate their professionalism and commitment to our community. I would like to thank the NOTL Local for recognizing our local volunteer firefighters for their significant contribution

to the community and interest in covering Fire Prevention Week 2023.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention,' educates everyone about the simple but meaningful actions to keep themselves and those around them safe in the kitchen. Cooking is Canada's family and friends that leading cause of home fires and home fire simple act of testing your injuries. alarms to ensure they are

With Thanksgiving behind us, it was an excellent opportunity to get together with loved ones. Keeping each other safe by maintaining our smoke and carbon monoxide alarms is one of the easiest ways to show our

family and friends that we care about them. The simple act of testing your alarms to ensure they are working and changing the batteries regularly might not seem like an action that shows your loved ones you care, but it can have a significant impact on their lives in the event of an emergency. I am writing to express my gratitude for the incredible work that our volunteer firefighters do every day. They are moms, dads, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters. They are committed to their community and to each other.

> Jay Plato, Fire Chief

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries? Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.



PREVENTION WEEK™

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Darryl Janzen Training Officer



fpw.org

Karley McKeigan Fire Prevention Officer



Jay Plato Fire Chief



Bobbie-Jo Talarico Program Administrator



Jay Plato Fire Chief

Darren Trostenko Deputy Fire Chief

Leeping hs



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

THANK YOU FOR

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Chief Fire Prevention

Officer



19 Queen Street www.corksniagara.com 10 Queen Street www.firehallflame.com Clubbing and cooking don't mix! After a night out, order in! Find out more about fire safety at fpw.org how fortunate we are to have such dedicated and skilled volunteers looking after our community! Thank you!



THE NOTL gocal October 11, 2023 15







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Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

THE NOTL Cocal October 11, 2023 19





Fire Prevention Week theme: cooking safety

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2023 is 'Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to Fire Prevention.' It focuses on the often overlooked topic of fire safety in the kitchen. Did you know that almost 35 per cent of all residential fires in Canada are caused by unattended or improperly used cooking equipment?

Cooking is at the centre of many family and social gatherings, which increases the likelihood of fire-related incidents occurring due to distractions while cooking. Whether you're cooking for yourself or for a house

full of loved ones, it's crucial to be cautious while using cooking equipment.

By following the simple cooking safety tips below, you can help prevent cooking fires in your own home:

• If you are cooking in a social setting, do not allow yourself to become distracted from what you are doing in the kitchen.

• Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave for any amount of time, turn off the element you're using until you return.

• If you are simmering, baking, roasting or boiling

food, check it regularly. Remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.

• Don't cook if you aren't alert. If you're drowsy for any reason, including drugs or alcohol, you aren't alert and should not cook.

• Always keep an oven mitt and a tight-fitting lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.

• Have a child and petfree zone of at least one metre around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Beyond cooking safety, there are many other key things that can ensure your family is protected at all times:

• Smoke alarms are legally required on every level of your home outside the bedrooms.

• Carbon Monoxide alarms are required on every level of your home that has a bedroom (alarms are to be installed outside the bedrooms).

• Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms expire. Check the date. If it's more than 10 years old it must be

replaced.

• Batteries must be replaced at least once per year, even in hardwired alarms.

• Know the sounds of your alarms. A smoke and carbon monoxide alarm will make different sounds when there is an emergency. Learn the sounds of your alarms by pressing the test button.

• Plan and practise your home escape plans. In an emergency every second counts. Know two ways out of each room where possible and choose a meeting place as a family.

Fire Safety is everyone's responsibility. Ensuring you follow these fire safety messages will not only reduce the chances of having a fire but will also ensure you are prepared if there ever is one in your home. To find out more about fire safety programs and activities in Niagara-on-the-Lake, please contact the Niagaraon-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services at firedepartment@notl.com.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking fire prevention, visit fpw.org.

Fire & Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction Division

Watch for firefighters' flashing green lights

Fire Chief Jay Plato wants drivers, both locals and visitors, to be aware of the meaning of flashing green lights on the vehicles of volunteer firefighters when on their way to an emergency.

In the province of Ontario, volunteer firefighters are permitted to equip their personal vehicles with flashing green lights, which are intended to send a message to other drivers on the road that they are on their way to an emergency.

It's meant as a request to drivers that they should pull over or let the vehicle pass, to allow the volunteers to save potentially life-saving seconds arriving at their destination, which could be a fire, a traffic collision or a medical emergency.

It's a courtesy request reserved for volunteer fire departments, not mandatory legislation, says Plato. It doesn't give volunteers any special privileges — they can't speed or travel through red lights or stop signs.

Although volunteer departments have spent decades reminding drivers of the meaning of the flashing green lights, there are always drivers who don't recognize the reason for them, says Plato.

Some may be new residents, who have moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from large urban areas with paid full-time firefighters, and others are visitors from the Toronto area or the big cities.

It can be frustrating for the firefighters, Plato says, although the lack of understanding has been an issue for so long, they've learned to accept it.

This issue is not about the community not doing its part, he says. "The community as a whole

embraces it and accepts it. This is about education and promotion, so more drivers are aware of the lights and what they represent. This is a tourism community, and people coming to town from large cities don't understand volunteer fire departments. We know people would want to help if they understood what the lights mean."





Fire Chief Jay Plato wants drivers, both locals and visitors, to be aware of the meaning of flashing green lights on the vehicles of volunteer firefighters when on their way to an emergency. *(Penny Coles)*

Bravo Niagara! marks its 10th anniversary

Mike Balsom The Local

The 2023-2024 Bravo Niagara! festival season marks a milestone for co-founders Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner.

"I moved back to Canada a little more than ten years ago," Mori says, "and when I ended up in Niagaraon-the-Lake, I didn't know anyone, except my father. But it had been something that I had always dreamed about doing."

Juilliard-trained The former principal pianist of the Florida Orchestra had organized performances for herself and some of her sunshine state friends many years ago, but she had never created an ongoing, annual festival.

Spieldenner, meanwhile, had just finished her studies in music at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

take a gap year," remembers Spieldenner, an accomplished harpist. "I was thinking of going to law school. Then my mom had this idea about starting a music festival. She said 'let's Year. see where it goes."

"We were very lucky," Mori says. "We moved to The Village, and (Village developer) John Hawley was supportive from the beginning. He encouraged us to do this. It's been an incredible journey."

really embraced it," adds Spieldenner. "That's what has made Bravo Niagara! community that we live in."

The festival launched in 2014 with its first show at Stratus Vineyards, featuring two of Mori's former colleagues in Florida. into the press alley at Strathere. We had no idea how

it would sound in there. We Partridge Hall on Dec. 3. went in the night before to hear it, and it sounded in- tour," Mori says. "And it's credible."

tured shows by Molly John- iconic." son and Robi Botos. They followed the spring line-up with a fall appearance from with Blue Note Records the Ehnes Quartet at Chateau des Charmes Winery.

Ten years later, violinist James Ehnes and his quartet return to Bravo Niagara! Festival as one of seven Blue Note Quintet's musishows, a mixture of classical, cal director. Rounding out jazz and soul along with the the group is vibraphonist world premiere of an original ballet based on Mori's manuel Wilkins, drummer family's experiences as Japanese Canadians during the Matt Brewer. second world war.

at the FirstOntario Per- Blue Note. "This is the On-"I was initially going to forming Arts Centre's Re- tario debut of their 85th cital Hall in St. Catharines Anniversary tour. This with a performance by quintet features some of the Haitian-Canadian singer hottest young names in jazz Dominique Fils-Aime, the that are all Blue Note art-2020 Juno Award winner ists. They'll play some of the for Vocal Jazz Album of the classics and some of their

Fils-Aime is touring on the strength of her fourth turn of the Cheng² Duo of album, Our Roots Run *Deep*, the first in an expected trilogy through which And on May 9 the festithe jazz/soul singer plans to val takes a trip to Toronto, delve into intergenerational treasures in hopes that the ner will present pianist Hamusic will help dispel ta-'The community has boos surrounding mental health that are present in **BIPOC** communities.

what it is, it's because of the raves. "This is her first time in the Niagara region. She's a mix of R&B, soul and jazz. She brings something different from our usual offerings."

Grammy Award win-"I had this wild-eyed ning violinist Ehnes apidea to bring a Steinway pears with his quartet at the same venue on Nov. 19, tus," says Mori. "They had while the Manhattan Transnever had a concert grand fer brings their 50th Anniversary Tour to the PAC's

"This is their farewell holiday time, they'll be do-That spring also fea- ing holiday music. They are

> The second half of the season starts on Feb. 25, 85th Anniversary Celebration back at the Recital Hall.

> Six-time Grammy Award nominee and pianist Gerald Clayton is the Joel Ross, saxophonist Im-Kendrick Scott and bassist

"It's a legendary record It all kicks off Oct. 28 label," Spieldenner says of original compositions."

> March 10 will see the recellist Bryan Cheng and his sister, pianist Silvie Cheng. where Mori and Spieldenyato Sumino at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.

"It's an exciting new partnership with them to "She's incredible," Mori showcase some of these phenomenal Japanese pianists who are not performing elsewhere in Canada," Mori explains. "This will be his (Sumino's) Canadian debut."

new ballet commissioned by Mori and Spieldenner, is scheduled for two performances June 22 and 23 at dorsement from them," the PAC. The ballet honours Spieldenner says. "It will the resilience of the Japanese Canadian community and sheds light on a dark chapter *iko's Pearl* but will also supin Canadian history.

Bravo Niagara! announced yesterday that the ballet is the recipient of a

Finally, the world pre- \$130,000 grant from the duction. miere of Kimiko's Pearl, a National Arts Centre's National Creation Fund.

> support, to have that ensupport not only the creative development of Kimport the commissioning of a new orchestral suite."

The gift will also allow the creative team, including dancers and visual artists, to undertake two residenthe sound, video and projection design for the pro- er. It's really a dream."

Looking back on ten years, Mori and Spieldenner "It's a dream to get the are asked about whether or not they have become closer as mother and daughter through their decade working together.

"We've always been close," Spieldenner insists. "I think it's our close relationship that has made Bravo Niagara! work, made it so successful."

"It's so special to be able to not only support artists," cies to develop and finalize adds Mori, "but to be able to create something togeth-



Bravo Niagara!'s Alexis Spieldenner and Christine Mori. (Photos supplied)



Dominique Fils-Aime, the 2020 Juno Award winner for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year, will perform at the FirstOntario Performing Art Centre Oct. 28.







The world premiere of Kimiko's Pearl, a new ballet commissioned by Mori and Spieldenner, is scheduled for two performances June 22 and 23 at the PAC.



Preds lose heart-breaker to strong Durham team

Mike Balsom The Local

With his Niagara Predators holding a 2-1-0 record against teams from the middle of the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's South Division pack, coach Kevin Taylor was expecting last Friday's game against the Durham Roadrunners to be a litmus test for his young squad.

Despite dropping a 3-2 decision to a team that swept all four of their games during the 2022-2023 season, the Preds passed the test in front of a large home crowd at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena.

"I think we outplayed them," an amped-up Taylor said after the game. "They outshot us in the second period (23-13) but I didn't think they were dominant by any means. I said to the guys that I didn't think we'd win this game. I thought we'd be beaten badly tonight. They're a championship team that knows how to win. They know how to capitalize."

Roadrunners did. After Shane od power play, when Burns in-Kaplan scored on the power tercepted the puck at the Roadplay in the first period, then runners' blue line and skated added his second goal nine minutes into the second to put Niagara up 2-0, Durham took advantage of the opportunities that came their way to steal the Durham up for good. game back.

buzzer sounded, Roadrunners forward Yenri Jibb had scored twice, once on the power play, to knot it up at 2-2. Both goals were the result of heavy traffic in front of Predators' goaltender Zane Clausen, who was named the game's first star for stopping 47 of Durham's 50 shots.

"I thought their first goal didn't even go in," Taylor said. "I thought they pushed Zane into the net. I didn't think it should have counted. The second one was a breakdown of our penalty kill. There was some miscommunication on my end about what I wanted there."

The winning goal by Durham's Zach Burns came

That's exactly what the during a Predators' third periin on Clausen. With Preds defender Dylan Denning in pursuit, Burns slipped the puck between Clausen's pads to put

"It was a bad play at the blue By the time the second period line," lamented Taylor. "Scoring between the legs on Zane on a breakaway, that never happens."

That power play followed a four-minute man advantage for Niagara, during which they had few opportunities to challenge Durham goaltender Jacob Hodgson.

"We didn't take it to them during that power play," said Taylor. "We kind of just stood back. The hardest part for the past two years has been our power play. It's been a problem. Sometimes you just can't make a play."

Despite the missed opportunities and the mistakes that led to the loss, Taylor saw Friday's game as a positive step for the Predators.

"I'm never happy with a loss, but I'm happy with their performance," Taylor summed up. "We played well against a team that has the skill and the knowhow to win. This shows that we can compete with this team."

Friday marked the first time for two overseas imports to suit up for the Preds this season. Georgy Kholmovsky arrived from Russia last week and donned number 13, the same uniform he wore in the Preds inaugural Niagara season two years ago. Visa issues kept the forward from returning for 2022-2023.

Kholmovsky joined new acquisition, Ukrainian Yakov

by Rhys Jones.

"Jones wants to play centre," explained Taylor. "He's a player who can get the puck to them. He doesn't take many shots on net. He's more of a playmaker, and his defensive capabilities I assumed would be a little better than the two new players coming in. He knows the system."

Unfortunately, Kholmovsky went out early in the game with a wrist injury.

Preds have yet to hit the road for an away game. A Sept. 23 road trip to Windsor was cancelled when the Aces folded due to an inability to assemble a competitive team this season. And last Saturday's visit to the Northumberland Stars will need to be rescheduled after the ice surface at Colborne's Keeler Centre melted.

"It kind of sucks," said Taylor, who relishes the opportunity to prepare a feast for his players for every road trip. "That's really where you have that important team bonding."

They will hopefully get that first chance to bond next Monday, Oct. 16, when they travel to Oshawa for a rematch against the Roadrunners.

Before that, though, there's a home game against the St. George Ravens this Friday night. The Preds beat the Ravens 5-2 on Sept. 22.

"This one week between games is terrible," Taylor said. "We just have to try to keep the guys focused. Knowing that (Durham) that will be a first- or second-place team, we have to continue our good play against a team that is not going to be up there in the standings."

Game time Friday is 7:30



Now in the fourth week of Durham goalie Jacob Hodgson was able to stop Isaac Locker the young league season, the on this second-period breakaway. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Preds' Reece Bisci's shot is tipped by Durham's Giulian Pronesti.



Georgy Kholmovsky played his first game for the Preds since the 2021-2022 season after visa problems last year.

Shevchenko, on a line centred p.m. Local Staff finish at a Niagara Swim the council chamber and giv- practised at both pools

the region.

Pocal HAPPENINGS ST. DAVIDS & DISTRICT **LIONS & LIONESS LIONS** St. Davids Lions Hall, 1462 York Rd. Harvest Breakfast **October 29, 2023** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Buffet Style Side Bacon - Back Bacon - Sausage Home Fries - Pancakes - Tea Biscuits Sausage Gravy - Scrambled Eggs Fruit - Tea - Coffee - Juices All ages - \$12.00 Children Under 5 years - FREE PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

NOTL swim team recognized by council

council recognized the Elec- versity. trifying Eels swim team during Tuesday night's committee- 40 swimmers ages five to 16.

The team consists of about of town hall.

League regional competition en a medal by Coun. Sandra throughout the summer and Niagara-on-the-Lake held in August at Brock Uni- O'Connor before having their competed at Memorial Park photo taken outside, in front as well as at other pools across

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Prices starting at \$25. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Joy 416•817•0920 or email: joy@notllocal.com

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CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, October 15th 9:45 a.m. **Cornerstone Kids Sign In** (Nursery - Grade 8) 10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering

Online & In-Person

Message: Kevin Bayne The Church | The Fellowship (Acts 2:42-47 | 1 John 1:5-2:2)

www.ccchurch.ca

The team, made up of of-the-whole meeting follow- Those in attendance Tuesday swimmers from St. Davids rique and Sierra Kelly, former ing the group's second-place were called to the front of and Memorial Park Pools, lifeguards at the town pools.

The coaches were Ella Car-



Niagara-on-the-Lake council recognized the Electrifying Eels swim team during Tuesday night's committee meeting following the group's second-place finish at a Niagara Swim League regional competition held in August at Brock University. (Kris Dube)



PUZZLE ANSWERS





Across: 1 Custom, 7 Shiloh, 13 On time, 14 Suicide, 15 Herein, 16 Berkeley, 17 Overt, 18 Solves, 19 Sees, 20 Formed, 21 Tot, 24 TUT, 25 Defray, 26 Trio, 27 Studio, 29 Shale, 30 Be mad, 32 Awe, 34 Codys, 35 Adams, 36 Mature, 38 Sire, 39 Pro tem, 41 Urn, 44 Set, 45 Guinea, 46 Knee, 47 Werner, 48 Raids, 49 Lewinsky, 52 Air out, 53 Ovaries, 54 Spence, 55 Say yes, 56 Tensed.

Down: 1 Co-host, 2 Uneven, 3 Street-smart, 4 Tiers, 5 Omit, 6 Men, 7 Survey, 8 Hiked, 9 Ices, 10 Li'l, 11 Ode, 12 Hey, 14 Selma, 16 Borrow money, 18 Sofia, 20 Fed, 21 Trade unions, 22 Oily, 23 Toes, 25 Duds, 26 Thor, 28 Tame, 29 Scum, 30 Bass, 31 Edie, 33 Eater, 37 Tea, 39 Purses, 40 Rinks, 42 Reduce, 43 Nested, 45 Genie, 46 Karen, 47 Wiry, 48 Ripe, 49 L Os, 50 Eva, 51 Way, 52 A S T





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