Teacher Bryce Honsinger receives Prime Minister’s Award

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 principal Carl Bartlett, one of 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 Simone and Mississauga streets.

A smiling Honsinger entered the building, he was greeted by students on both sides of the hallway armed with noise-makers, silly string, balloons, streamers and confetti. A smiling Honsinger walked through the crowd high-fiving as many as he could as he worked his way back toward the main office, out the front door, past the Kindergarten drop-off area, around the side of the school and back in through the Laura Secord primary wing toward the main office.

But the celebration wasn’t over yet.

Just minutes later he was ushered into the gymnasium, where the entire student body had gathered to formally celebrate his achievement. Lights went down, a dry ice machine filled the gym with smoke clouds and Honsinger burst through a set of colourful laser beams of light marking his entrance.

St. Davids principal Carl Glauser stepped to the front of the gym to announce the award to rousing cheers from the students. After showing a short video tribute, he passed the microphone to Honsinger.

“To say that I’m overwhelmed 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 daily basis. I feel exceptionally thankful for all of this.”

The Prime Minister’s Award wasn’t the only honour received by Honsinger Thursday.

The tallest building on the site currently is 10.66 metres, and the proposal would put the highest point at 16 metres.

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

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 Simone and Mississauga 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 hotels fit into the neighbourhood.

Bartlett said that because of the project’s proposed height, with the hotel reaching four storeys, the development 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 structure would accommodate 149 of those spaces. The town previously said 177 parking spaces

New! FALL FLIGHTS

Gather around your own private fire table and enjoy a seasonal wine flight and fall themed local pairing board. ONLY $40/PERSO

kontzelmann
Visit konzelmann.ca for details.
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 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 Niagara-on-the-Lake in the summer months.

Now the estate, partially restored with plans to be an upscale hotel, and two other features — a restaurant, spa, and other features such as a portion of the fourth floor having a rooftop deck — was part of the public meeting.

Close to 30 people were registered to speak on this matter but about half did so, said Burroughs, who cited 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 comfortable and it’s not always so clear on our website how to get there,” said Burroughs, who 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 the town should consider a public relations campaign to create better awareness about how public meetings work and how residents can participate in them.

Burroughs said the town should “just deal with 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 create a great amount of public discussion can be delayed.

He also believes the town needs to consider moving outside of town hall for contentious projects and public meetings related to them.

“We have to start using the community centre 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 residents is never too expensive,” he said, continuing that controversial matters shouldn’t always “be in our little council chambers.”

Burroughs also said he wants to see more planning meeting agendas than just development applications.

“It looks like we’re doing it with planners,” he said.

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

“You realize some of the key projects we’re working on right now,” she said, adding staff are also juggling those with meeting planning act timeline requirements that come with applications being made to the municipality.

A massive expansion of White Oaks Resort and Spa was the fourth and final public meeting last week planning discuss. There were a handful of people registered to speak to it, but only two were still lingering when their names were called — about 11 p.m.

“Something is not right in our process,” he said.

Also during the planning meeting, Coun. Wendy Chenopita asked if a budget committee meeting scheduled for the next day at 9:30 a.m. could be delayed a later time because of Tuesday’s meeting running so long.

Clerk Grant Bivol said this was not possible because public notice had already been given about the 9:30 a.m. start.

“At this point, it’s too late in the game to be changing it,” he said.

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

Capital budget discussed but no decisions made

Kris Dube  
The Local  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The 2024 budget process continues at Niagara-on-the-Lake town hall — but 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 capital projects in the budget.

The town initially had plans for an addition at Fire Station 3 in Virgil, and spending $200,000 on a consultant to begin the project.

Instead, the staff recommendation 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 budget process to allow for additional due diligence,” he said.

Questions were also raised at the meeting about a reconstruction of Queenston Road and the project’s timing will be impacted by the Ministry of Transportation’s plans to twin the nearby roadway.

“Reconstruction of Queenston Road between Airport Road and Coon Road is not impacted by the planned 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 Mississauga Street be deferred to future budget considerations, not ongoing ones for 2024.

Staff’s recommendation to defer the Mississauga 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 Mississauga

Continued on page 3
White Oaks planning four apartment towers, up to 20 stores

Kris Dubé
The Local
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

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

The project, which would see 810 units within four new buildings, 1,510 square metres of ground floor commercial space, and more than 1,000 parking spaces in a garage and underground structure, was on Tuesday night’s council committee of the-whole planning agenda in the form of a public meeting — a necessary step for the property owner seeking Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments to allow the expansion to move forward.

The apartment complexes are proposed to be 17, 18, 21, and 25 storeys tall.

“The existing hotel and related uses on the site are re- main,” said Aimee Alderman, senior planner with the town who led a staff presentation to council.

She said the lands on Tay- 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 handle the proponents will need to overcome is an exemption from height regula- tions related to the Niagara District Airport, which is only three kilometres away. Build- ings within its radius can be no taller than 15 metres, but the biggest being pitched in this project is planned to stand 25.5 metres tall.

Stephen Bedford, a plan- ner representing the owners of the resort that has been a part of the Glendale area since 1978, said White Oaks has been a “visual icon” to the neighbour- hood since it opened.

Sitting near the Niagara College Daniel J. Patterson cam- pus as well as the 20th Century Collec- tion at Niagara, Bedford said the proposed expansion would help 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 neighbour- hood, such as the outlet mall, but will also create a “new gate- way” for the Glendale area.

Coun. Wendy Cheropi- ta asked if the residential units will be condos or rented to ten- ants.

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 compo- nents of the project are expected to involve a cafe and restaurants.

“We could certainly pull that information together,” said Freeborn.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Nov. 7.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor is chair of the budget review com- mittee. (Kris Dubé)

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 re- place construction of Conces- sion 6 with work on Missassa- gua Street is not recommended by staff.

Concession 6 “is in a deterio- rated state, nearing its end of service life and requires recon- struction to address a deteriorat- ing road base, surface conditions and drainage issues,” said staff.

“Should the road not be addressed now, significant staff time and resources will be re- quired to keep the road in a condition that does not pose a hazard to safety or to the environment,” said Coun. Burroughs asked for a similar breakdown, but of the last 10 years leading up to today.

A breakdown of what has been spent on Concession 6 Road since 2013 was also in- cluded in Freeborn’s memo to council, saying more than $3.6 million has been allocated in the last decade.

In the estimated 10-year capital budget summary, there was concern about large in- creases in the next couple of years.

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 ma- jor concern for me,” said Coun. Sandra O’Connor, chair of the budget review com- mittee.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor is chair of the budget review com- mittee. (Kris Dubé)

“The existing hotel and re- mote parking lots, and Queen Elizabeth Way are part of the proposed expansion,” said Bedford.

They are proposed to be 17, 18, 21, and 25 storeys tall.

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

She said the lands on Tay- 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.”

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

The project, which would see 810 units within four new buildings, 1,510 square metres of ground floor commercial space, and more than 1,000 parking spaces in a garage and underground structure, was on Tuesday night’s council committee of the-whole planning agenda in the form of a public meeting — a necessary step for the property owner seeking Official Plan and zoning bylaw amendments to allow the expansion to move forward.

The apartment complexes are proposed to be 17, 18, 21, and 25 storeys tall.

“The existing hotel and related uses on the site are re- main,” said Aimee Alderman, senior planner with the town who led a staff presentation to council.

She said the lands on Tay- 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 handle the proponents will need to overcome is an exemption from height regula- tions related to the Niagara District Airport, which is only three kilometres away. Build- ings within its radius can be no taller than 15 metres, but the biggest being pitched in this project is planned to stand 25.5 metres tall.

Stephen Bedford, a plan- ner representing the owners of the resort that has been a part of the Glendale area since 1978, said White Oaks has been a “visual icon” to the neighbour- hood since it opened.

Sitting near the Niagara College Daniel J. Patterson cam- pus as well as the 20th Century Collec- tion at Niagara, Bedford said the proposed expansion would help 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 neighbour- hood, such as the outlet mall, but will also create a “new gate- way” for the Glendale area.

Coun. Wendy Cheropi- ta asked if the residential units will be condos or rented to ten- ants.

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 compo- nents of the project are expected to involve a cafe and restaurants.

“We could certainly pull that information together,” said Freeborn.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Nov. 7.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor is chair of the budget review com- mittee. (Kris Dubé)

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 re- place construction of Conces- sion 6 with work on Missassa- gua Street is not recommended by staff.

Concession 6 “is in a deterio- rated state, nearing its end of service life and requires recon- struction to address a deteriorat- ing road base, surface conditions and drainage issues,” said staff.

“Should the road not be addressed now, significant staff time and resources will be re- quired to keep the road in a condition that does not pose a hazard to safety or to the environment,” said Coun. Burroughs asked for a similar breakdown, but of the last 10 years leading up to today.

A breakdown of what has been spent on Concession 6 Road since 2013 was also in- cluded in Freeborn’s memo to council, saying more than $3.6 million has been allocated in the last decade.

In the estimated 10-year capital budget summary, there was concern about large in- creases in the next couple of years.

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 ma- jor concern for me,” said Coun. Sandra O’Connor, chair of the budget review com- mittee.

Coun. Sandra O’Connor is chair of the budget review com- mittee. (Kris Dubé)
Penny Coles
The Local

After listening to almost four hours of a planning committee meeting, Glendale resident Li-anne 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 detriment to the community.”

She echoed other Niagara-on-the-Green residents who feel they haven’t had much opportu-
nity to respond to such a signif-
cant proposal. Many didn’t know about the open house, and others went to speak at last week’s pub-
lc meeting gave up — it began at 6 p.m. and it was approaching 11 p.m. before the White Oaks discus-
sion began, after three other public meetings had ended. One was regarding the proposed de-
velopment of the Phillips Estate at Queen and Mississauga streets that had almost 30 speakers reg-
istered, although not all of them made a presentation.

Gagnon had been listening since 6 p.m., waiting for her op-
portunity to speak, she says. “It seemed really important that our community have a voice in this, and I felt I had to say.”

Aimee Alderman, senior planner for the town, prefaced her description of the proposal by saying there was ample notifi-
cation of the development. Gag-
non says, “although when speak-
ing with other residents, many did not know about it.”

Alderman did encourage residents to provide written sub-
missions 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 were made or question asked — Gagnon says she believes plan-
ners are taking it as the public giving consent, when many res-
idents are opposed to some of the reasoning and Official Plan changes required.

During the discussion follow-
ing the public meeting, “coun-
cillors 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 race skylines of towers.”

“I highly doubt most res-
idents of NOTL would thank 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 fu-
ture development of Glendale as the answer to where that growth would be best suited.

“Not Glendale shouldn’t be the dumping ground” of hous-
ing other communities in NOTL wouldn’t want, Gagnon says.

“I don’t see any high-rises being proposed in the Old Town, Queen-
star, Virgil or St. Davids. I really hope all citizens will speak up. We really are one community and Glen-
dale should be given the same con-
sideration as the whole community.”

Gagnon is now amnious to know what the town’s next steps will be and is talking to neigh-
bours about starting a petition. “A number of residents have ap-
p roached me to say they would be supportive,” she says.

Speaking to councillors at the public meeting, her main con-
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 cul-
ture, and historical landscapes of which we are all proud. This was reiterated again and again in to-
night’s presentations. We all feel the same way about the quaint-
ness of where we call home. It’s what attracted us to NOTL.”

“Please let’s not lose sight of our special reputations with such a proposal” she continued. “Ap-
proving massive buildings that tower over our neighbourhood and serve as a wall of buildings next to Taylor Road, as was de-
scribed during the recent open house, is the antithesis of what we want to be known for in Niagara-
on-the-Lake. Yes, densification will occur, and we will grow, but let’s develop our neighbour-
hoods with foresight to retain the same architectural elements, charm, and unique qualities that are at the core of who we are. Let’s animate this growing com-
munity by highlighting the Niagara Escarpment, not swirling it with city skyscrapers that can be found in any metropolitan area.”

The Glendale Secondary Plan “specifically speaks to main-
taining the visual prominence of the escarpment by establishing a distinctive skyline with slender buildings if they are over five storeys high,” she says, requir-
-ing that “taller buildings should be internal to the site. That’s not what is being proposed now. It also stipulates what I am high-
lighting that any buildings over eight storeys have roof 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 be-
tween 25 storeys high, she added, “so I’m alarmed at this unseemly and unsightly modification. There is nothing visually appealing about those high-rises that says Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

The Glendale Secondary Plan, says Gagnon, in presentation to councillors, “need to be taken into consider-
ation, 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” that there is a residen-
tial development being consid-
ered, he has several real concerns about what is being proposed, he says in his submission.

Citing a recent report by a Niagara Region consultant on development restrictions and im-
pacts on Niagara District Airport, he says he believes “it’s 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 res-
idential development, the height restriction is 16.25 metres above ground, the report says, while the tallest proposed tower on the White Oaks property is 25.5 me-
tres, “which is significantly high-
ner than the restriction imposed by the Aeronautical Act and will require White Oaks request a for-
mal exemption from Transport Canada before this development can go ahead.”

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

The tallest apartment building proposed, at 25-storeys, is at the corner of Glendale and Taylor roads, directly across the inter-
section from the low-density Niagara-on-the-Green neigh-
bourshood 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 low-
er 18- and 17-storey towers are behind and closer to the White Oaks property.

Hardaker would like to see the developer consider moving the two higher towers to the area closest to the White Oaks Resort and moving the two lower tow-
ers to where the current 25- and 21-storey towers are proposed.

“This would then pro-
voke a bit more of a transi-
tion from the low-density Niagara-on-the-Green neigh-
bourhood through a tiered step up in building heights in the high-density White Oaks pro-
posal,” he says.

The Glendale Secondary Plan includes distinct setbacks for the White Oaks property, Hardaker says — buildings above eight sto-
 reys 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 appropri-
ate 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 propos-
ers to show a little less of the res-
idents of Niagara-on-the-Green,” said Hardaker, “and lower their proposed tower heights to be-
come more in line with the Glen-
dale Secondary Plan.”
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 would 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 surrounding whether the units will be offered as short-term rentals are two issues Coun. Wendy Cheropita says she “kept hearing from residents who 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 Delatite 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 older homes.

The staff report says the apartment building is compatible with its surroundings.

“I think the 177 spaces 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.”

Makarewicz said a shared services formula was applied to the number of parking spaces needed, using an example of spa users visiting the site only during the day opening up spots for restaurant guests in the evening.

During an open house held Sept. 11 residents also voiced concerns, and to date, the town has received 19 letters that include issues with the proposal, said heritage planner Denise Horne.

The historic home at the site was built hundreds of years ago as a refuge for wealthy Americans who visited Niagara-on-the-Lake in the summer months.

During an open house Sept. 11 residents also voiced concerns, and to date, the town has received 19 letters that include issues with the proposal, said heritage planner Denise Horne.

The historic home at the site was built hundreds of years ago as a refuge for wealthy Americans who visited Niagara-on-the-Lake in the summer months.

McCauley agreed with that during Tuesday’s meeting, saying 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 I can tell. So why do we have them?”

Residents’ concerns have been brought forward but not considered.

“I’m just curious as to how we justify the effort and good intentions of residents to understand the process and make well thought out suggestions, if developers are allowed to usurp all the rules.”

Coun. Gary Burroughs 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 one and two archaeological assessments were submitted with the applications, 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 bylaw, to be removed upon receipt of all the required documents, the report says.

The staff report says stage one and two archaeological assessments were submitted with the applications, 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 bylaw, to be removed upon receipt of all the required documents, the report says.

The next steps include

The development will then go to council through the form of a recommendation report before a decision is made.

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

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

The next steps include

The development will then go to council through the form of a recommendation report before a decision is made.

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

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

The next steps include
Thank you to firefighters who help keep us safe

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

They have intense training for situations beyond basic firefighting. They are also trained to act as volunteer first responders, and train weekly at their fire stations after that, as well as receiving extra practice during particular emergencies they may be called out to attend.

Many of our Fire and Emergency full-time staff begin as volunteer firefighters, and while this is their time to remind and educate community members of ways to keep themselves safe, it's also an opportunity for them to say thank you to them.

And to acknowledge the time they give to the community, the skills they learn to keep their neighbours safe, and express our gratitude for their help. The Niagara-on-the-Lake community is grateful for the sacrifice of NOTL's firefighters, and we are thankful for their work or family, at any time of day or night, never knowing exactly what might face, or who they might discover needs their help.

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

“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 ‘de- fence’ against this tiny gal 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. What impressed me even more was how the next moment in the game unfolded. Suddenly, a drone-like sound approached me from be- hind. 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 two plus inch tarantula hawk landed square on her face, I immediately felt the empathetic shock and horror that was about to interrupt this kids game. I was pleasantly wrong. Without panic or any sud- den movements, the girl simply pulled her arm up to her face and gently grazed the monstrous-looking wasp off her face. Not a stings, a shrill, nothing. We guarantee all of you readers, myself included, if the tarantula hawk wasp landed on our faces, we would probably instinctively swish our own face so hard as to give us a black eye. Espe- cially if you know this. Following the bullet ant (which I have han- dled, intentionally), it has the most painful sting of any insect in the world.

Thank you kindly for run- ning into today’s sports broad- cast. We hope that you look at the relationship between hu- mans, sport, and animals in an exciting and different view from now on. Goodnight.”

Owen Bjorgar
Special to The Local

Wildlife, humans and sports go together around the world

Donald Combe
Special to The Local


How can a film go wrong when there is a great story, a great writer (Roald Dahl) and great actors (Benedict Cumberbatch and Ben Kingsley) spinning the tale of a man who could see without using his eyes? (There are four short videos in this series.) Pure magic. Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet” exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Where’s Ben?

Eden student Ben Fos- ter 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 iden- tified by Doug Hernder. The building is part of Butler’s Barracks, a na- tional historic site man- aged by Parks Canada.

Owen Bjorgar has played golf with Canada geese and with karoceas. (Supplied)
Monarch migration, other sights to see at Darlington National Park

David Gilchrist The Local

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 cliff edge and the beach stretching along, as they do, along the lake, especially as the sun went down.

As I was sitting outside, I noticed some monarchs flying high above the trees across from our site, heading west. Later, on a short walk along the cliff edge (it’s fenced), I noticed more that were fluttering along, as they do, along the cliff edge and the beach below. There were stands of plants that they would periodically settle down on before continuing on their way. Claudia and I watched for some time as dozens of them passed. I, of course, took a number of photos. We figured they were on their way to the Petre 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.

In 1774, with the offer of free land by the first European settlers arrived by bateau along the shore. The boat had three United Empire Loyalist families from New York State: the Comants, Burks and Trulls. Roger Comant was the first of the families to hold the lots which now compose the park, but he later sold some of the land to Samuel Burk, the son of John Burk. The pioneer cemetery located along the 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 trees have grown tall.

Later, our walk to the beach passed through a lovely picnic area for day visits. This area 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.
Gillian’s Place offers training in gender-based equality

Mike Balsam
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 female 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 councillor 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, they get a significant grant to do it. But when it’s a woman, the structure and language is different,” she says.

Ip points out that she and 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 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 a number of equity-seeking groups in the region.

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 con- sider 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 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 lack of diversity in the field of journalism itself.

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

“Journalists and society re- flect each other back and forth,” Ip explains. “They report on what they do because it’s what we want to read or watch. If we don’t 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 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, they say, ‘women tend to be more likely in leadership 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, including this NOTL Local reporter, have registered for the online version, which includes a series of videos as well as the guide.

But Ip is eager to deliver the 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 media studies of journalism programs, as well as the Niagara Regional Police and Niagara 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-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.

Yes, the readers of the NOTL Local, are encouraged to visit gillianplace.com to check out the guide, and to consider working through the program yourselves. Once you have completed it, be sure to provide this reporter with feedback of your own at balsam@gmail.com, or to The Local at pen- nys@notl.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.

And if we don’t, please let us know.

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

Renovating NOTL one home at a time...

“...The foundation of Ravenshead Homes lays in our integrity, our clients, our team, and our abilities. We are driven by innovation and execution and pour our hearts into every project we do!”

- James Green, Owner

Ravenshead Homes

Get a FREE ESTIMATE on your dream remodel project.

CONTACT US:
289.969.5991
info@ravensheadhomes.com

BATHROOMS
BASEMENTS
ADDITIONS

NOW OFFERING FINANCING!

Anyone interested in learning about gender-based equality can find the guide at gillianplace.com. (Supplied)
Students, staff and family help celebrate award

Continued from page 1

Prior to the opening bell, Glauser led the staff mem-
bers from the main office to Honsinger’s classroom where he was conducting an ear-
ly morning meeting of his robotics team. With DSNB
director of education Wär-
ner Hoshizaki, superinten-
dent Darren Van Hoooydonk and 30 students looking on, Glauser presented him with the card table in the living room
helping her out. We learned right away that they had
nearly 9,000 cases and 500 deaths.
North America was de-
dared polio free in 1994. Polio
has been part of the routine, mandatory vaccine schedule in Canada for decades.
Only two countries remain
endemic: Afghanistan, which
has had six cases in 2023, and
Pakistan with two cases.
The job is not done until we
are polio-free for three consec-
tive years, globally.

Eradicating polio within 10 years, as many as
200,000 new cases could occur 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 to
Rotarian Cosmo Codina,
our top fundraiser, for raising
over $11,000!
In 1980 the World Health
Organization declared small-
 pox eradicated — the only in-
fectious disease to achieve this
distinction.
We’re close to ending the sec-
ond human disease in history.
Oct 24 is World Polio Day.
Together we can end polio, for-
ever more.
For more information or to
donate go to endpolio.org.
Dr. Mustafa Hirji, associ-
ated medical officer of health
for the Niagara Region, will be
our guest speaker on Oct. 24.
Members of the commu-
nity are welcome. Lunch is
$20. Please register at info@
naughtonhallschool rotary.ca
by Oct 20.

The nomination process
for the Prime Minister’s
Award began with Amanda
Adams, 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 this for
the same reasons for hundreds
of other students and students over the
last 20 years,” says a quote from Adams on the Govern-
ment of Canada website. “Mr.
Honsinger takes advantage of
every opportunity to use the
latest technology, bring to light
a global issue to make his stu-
dents more socially conscious,
and enlighten them with his vast
knowledge of history.”
“They chose the right person
for the Prime Min-
ister’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 polio

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 gene-
ralization of what is now Rotary Inter-
national’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 mil-
lion volunteers.
We are in the last mile of
eradicating the disease forever,
but the last mile will require a
vast knowledge of history.

“Vaccines prevent over 2.2
million cases every year and
the world is very close to eradi-
cating polio,” said Honsinger.

“Polio mainly affects chil-

Case studies:

Gerry Weber

Mr. Weber is a Rotarian and has been
with Rotary for 36 years.
In 1991, he was on the board of the
Fund for the Eradication of
Polio.
Mr. Weber is the current chair of the
Polio Plus Committee for Rotary
Club of NOTL.

Mr. Weber is also a member of the
Rotary Club of NOTL’s
Polio Plus Committee.

Mr. Weber is a Rotarian and has been
with Rotary for 36 years.
In 1991, he was on the board of the
Fund for the Eradication of
Polio.
Mr. Weber is the current chair of the
Polio Plus Committee for Rotary
Club of NOTL.

Mr. Weber is also a member of the
Rotary Club of NOTL’s
Polio Plus Committee.

Mr. Weber is a Rotarian and has been
with Rotary for 36 years.
In 1991, he was on the board of the
Fund for the Eradication of
Polio.
Mr. Weber is the current chair of the
Polio Plus Committee for Rotary
Club of NOTL.

Mr. Weber is also a member of the
Rotary Club of NOTL’s
Polio Plus Committee.
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 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 homeowners and the town on how to retain iconic features. Having also 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 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 College School of Horticulture and the formation of a plan to harvest Chautauqua acorns to grow, and plant back into the neighbourhood. A true win-win, it provided a meaningful learning opportunity for the students while repopulating Chautauqua canopy with the actual offspring of its beloved 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 young oaks ready to assume the role of the 166 heritage oaks. They will be the New Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy, ready for future generations to enjoy.

“Our work is now done” says Frankish. “The restorative experience of Chautauqua 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 Chautauqua 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 Diem, J.B. Hopkins, Ruth Denyer, Mary Jane Clark and Shamina Dickson, and the great support of Niagara College School of Horticulture, Town of NOTL public works department, and, of course, members of the Chautauqua community who pitched in and participated, including the 93 homeowners who welcomed the future Great Chautauqua Tree Canopy into their gardens and yards.

It may not be so apparent now but over the next hundred years a forest will rise, similar to the one that exists today. Hopefully someone will do something similar in 100 years time.
SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS

FABULOUS FOOD
AWARD WINNING
FARM TO GLASS
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS
LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK
JAZZ, BLUES &
PIANO TUNES
NO COVER CHARGE

OPEN 11AM - 8PM DAILY
SPIRITINNIAGARA.COM | 905 934 1300
458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

~ FEATURING ~

MONDAY:
Wilber James Blues Band or
On The Mark Jazz Trio

THURSDAY:
Eddie Pizzo
on the Baby Grand

FRIDAY:
Dragan on the Saxes

Happy Hour Every Friday!
$8 Cocktails 4-6 PM

THE FARMHOUSE CAFE
Open For Lunch Daily
Reservations Strongly Suggested
Online Booking Now Available!
Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814

Caroline Cellars Winery
WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR
Open 7 Days a Week
Wine Tastings Offered Daily
Reservations Strongly Recommended for Wine Tasting
1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com
Paul Murray says he’ll miss his customers, and their dogs, when he retires. (Photos supplied)

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 Niagara-on-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 Niagara-on-the-Lake 34 years ago. "Back then, I used to deliver to the bridge at Port Weller and the dry docks all the way out past the Whirlpool golf course," and into St. Davids, Queenston, Virgil and the Old Town.

"It's so busy now," he said, "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 runs a delivery every four minutes, including drive time. He averages between nine to 10 hours of delivering every day. "They just load you up. It's full every day and you go and you don't come back until it's empty."

"That's the main reason 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 fit because all the lifting. 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 remembers when, even in 2005, Amazon started its own delivery system. "You could have 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 get anywhere, so they were ordering wine at all hours of the night 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'd say that for two years before things started to slow down," said Murray.

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

"I have loads of favourites," he said, referring to particular dogs. "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 had a few tense moments, but usually with small dogs. "That is when I let my guard down," he said. He is on 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."

"Some of the dogs are even in the truck before I stop."

Murray worked at odd jobs after high school, doing renovations, and at DoItwell 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 so I started working at coffee shop said 'have you heard of UPS?' I said, 'what's that?' and 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 too long, so it's time to relax."

While she occasionally gets deliveries from her husband, "it's a lot more relaxing," 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 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 said.

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

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

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has amended By-Law 4308-09 to establish an all-way 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.

With questions are encouraged to contact Marc Weston, Traffic Engineering Technologist for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake by emailing marci.weston@notl.com or calling (905) 468-3266.
We are proud of our VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

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

From the Lord Mayor, Members of Council and Town Staff
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 leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. 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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Brad Disher
Chief Fire Prevention Officer
Darryl Janzen
Training Officer
Karley McKeigan
Fire Prevention Officer
Jay Plato
Fire Chief
Bobbie-Jo Talarico
Program Administrator
Darren Trostenko
Deputy Fire Chief

From Our Families To Yours...
Thank you Volunteers for your tireless efforts!

Thank you for keeping our community safe!

Thank you for all of our courageous Volunteer Firefighters for your dedication to our community!

Open microwaved food slowly, away from the face.
Thank You
DISTRIBUTION 2
St. Davids

Dave Rigby
District Chief

Derek Rooney
Assistant District Chief

Henry Boese
Firefighter

Katie Graziano
Firefighter

Alex Grencovski
Firefighter

Christian Hernandez
Firefighter

Stanley Lament
Firefighter

Steven Lebrasseur
Firefighter

Rick Legros
Firefighter

Robert MacLeod
Firefighter

Arthur Martin
Firefighter

Mark Newman
Firefighter

Greg Pillitteri
Firefighter

Nick Poloniato
Firefighter

Steven Roy
Firefighter

Milan Vujovich
Firefighter

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. Stand by your pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the burner.

Firefighters save more than homes. They save hearts, memories and dreams. Thank you for always coming to the rescue!

Thank you for keeping our community safe!

From the Team
at Bosley Real Estate NOTL

LAKEVIEW VINEYARD EQUIPMENT INC.
40 Lakeshore Road, R.R. #5, NOTL
905-646-8085 or Toll Free: 1-866-677-4717
www.lakeviewvineyardequipment.com

Thank you for always coming to the rescue!
Thank you to our amazing Volunteer Firefighters!

Keep your loved ones safe with our carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms.

500 Penner St., Virgil
905.468.3242
pennerbuildingcentre.com

Thanks to all the Volunteer Firefighters of Niagara-on-the-Lake!

242 Mary St., Unit 6, NOTL | 289-868-9607
Store hours: DAILY 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Thank you to our wonderful Volunteer Firefighters!

Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so that no one can bump them or pull them over.

Learn more about cooking safety at fwp.org

Located next to the NOTL arena, Bricks & Barley is a family restaurant with something for everyone.

Featuring gluten-free and vegetarian options.

905-468-8808
1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake
bricksandbarley.ca
Thank you to our brave Volunteer Firefighters

Wayne Gates
MPP Niagara Falls Riding
Representing Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie
905-357-0681
w gates-co@ndp.on.ca

WATCH what you heat. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

FROM THE TEAM AT BOSLEY REAL ESTATE NOTL...
THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Keep stovetop, oven, and burners clean.

Learn more about cooking safety at fpw.org

SeaWay Farms
A special Thank you to all of our Volunteer Firefighters!

175 Lakeshore Rd.,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-934-5066
www.seawayfarms.ca
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 over-looked 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 boiling food. If you have to leave for any amount of time, turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool. • Have a child and pet-free 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 is ever one in your home. To find out more about fire safety programs and activities in Niagara-on-the-Lake, please contact the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services at firedepartment@notl.com.

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

Fire & Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction Division

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.

It’s a courtesy request from large urban areas to Niagara-on-the-Lake to show their support to a tourism community, says Plato, who don’t recognize the lights and what they mean. Some may be new residents, who have moved to the town from large cities, 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.

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.

Fire & Emergency Services Reducing the Risk of Fire Gonge

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

Fire & Emergency Services Community Risk Reduction Division

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.

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.

Fire & Emergency Services

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.

Fire & Emergency Services

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.

Fire & Emergency Services

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.

Fire & Emergency Services

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.

Fire & Emergency Services

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.

Fire & Emergency Services
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 Niagara-on-the-Lake, I didn’t know anyone, except my father. But it had been something that I had always dreamed about doing."

The Juilliard-trained 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. "I was initially going to take a gap year," remembers Spieldenner, "and I was thinking of going to law school. Then my mom had this idea about starting a music festival. She said let’s see where it goes.”

“We were very lucky,” Mori says. “We moved to The Village (a community that we live in). He encouraged us to do this. It’s been an incredible journey.”

The community has really embraced it,” adds Spieldenner. “That’s what has made Bravo Niagara what it is, because of the 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. "I had this wild-eyed idea to bring a Steinway into the press alley at Stratus,” says Mori. "They had never had a concert grand there. We had no idea how it would sound in there. We went in the night before to hear it, and it sounded incredible.”

That spring also featured shows by Molly Johnson and Robi Botos. They followed the spring line-up with a fall appearance from the Elhes Quartet at Chateau des Charmes Winery.

Ten years later, violinist James Ehnes and his quartet return to Bravo Niagara! Festival as one of seven famous shows, a mixture of classical, jazz and soul along with the world premiere of an original ballet based on Mori’s family’s experiences as Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

It all kicks off Oct. 28 at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Recital Hall in St. Catharines with a performance by Haitian-Canadian singer Dominique Fils-Aime, the 2020 Juno Award winner for Vocal Jazz Album of the Year.

Fils-Aime is touring on the strength of her fourth album, Our Roots Run Deep. This is an exceptional trilogy through which the jazz/roots singer plans to delve into intergenerational treasures in hopes that the music will help dispel taboos surrounding mental health that are present in BIPOC communities.

“She’s incredible,” Mori 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.”

Finally, the world premiere of Kimiko Pearl, a new ballet commissioned by Mori and Spieldenner, is scheduled for two performances June 22 and 23 at the PAC. The gift will also allow Bravo Niagara! work, made it a dream to get the neurological Creation Fund.”

Looking back on ten years, Mori and Spieldenner are asked about whether or not they have become closer as mother and daughter through their decade work 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,” adds Mori, “but to be able to create something together. It’s really a dream.”
Preds lose heart-breaker to strong Durham team

Mike Balsom
The Local

With his Niagara Predators holding a 2-1 lead 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,” said Taylor. “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 communication on my end about what I wanted there.”

The winning goal by Durham’s Zach Burns came during a Predators’ third-period power play, when Burns intercepted the puck at the Roadrunners’ blue line and skated it on in on Clausen. With Preds defender Dylan Denning in pursuit, Burns slipped the puck between Claussin’s pads to put Durham up for good.

“It was a bad play at the blue line,” lamented Taylor. “Scoring between the legs on Zane is 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.

“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 know-how to win. That 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 manned number 15, 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 Shevchenko, on a line centred 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 guys coming in. He knows the system.”

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

Now in the fourth week of the young league season, the 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.

“I kind of sucked,” 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 p.m.
$1,849,000 - BACKYARD PARADISE
123 WILLIAM ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
$1,199,000 - QUIET & LUSH NEIGHBOURHOOD!
$849,000 - LOCATED IN ENNS ESTATES COMMUNITY!

$1,499,000 - FABULOUS BUNGLOW WITH FINISHED BASEMENT
609 VICTORIA STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

270 FT- PRIME WATERFRONT 5.5 ACRES
515 SANDY BAY RD, HALDIMAND COUNTY

$1,689,000 - CAPTIVATING 2-STOREY TRADITIONAL HOME
5 LOWER CANADA DRIVE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
OVER 300K IN RENOVATIONS & UPGRADES IN PAST YEAR!

$999,921 - 2.09 ACRES
$1,365,000 - STEPS TO THE LAKE

OPEN HOUSE OCTOBER 14 & 15TH 1-3PM

Angelika & Associates
LUXURY REAL ESTATE

McGILLIVRAY
Trusted
Angelika Zammit is proud to have been recognized as the exclusive McGillivray Trusted Agent in the Niagara-on-the-Lake market.

Angelika & Associates
LUXURY REAL ESTATE

T. 905.468.8777  C. 289.214.4394
www.angelikazammit.com
496 Mississauga Street
Local Office: Niagara-on-the-Lake

#1 BROKERAGE in the GTA.
The largest independent real estate brokerage in Canada - 6,000 Agents across 10 branches in Ontario.

HGTV Celebrity, Scott McGillivray