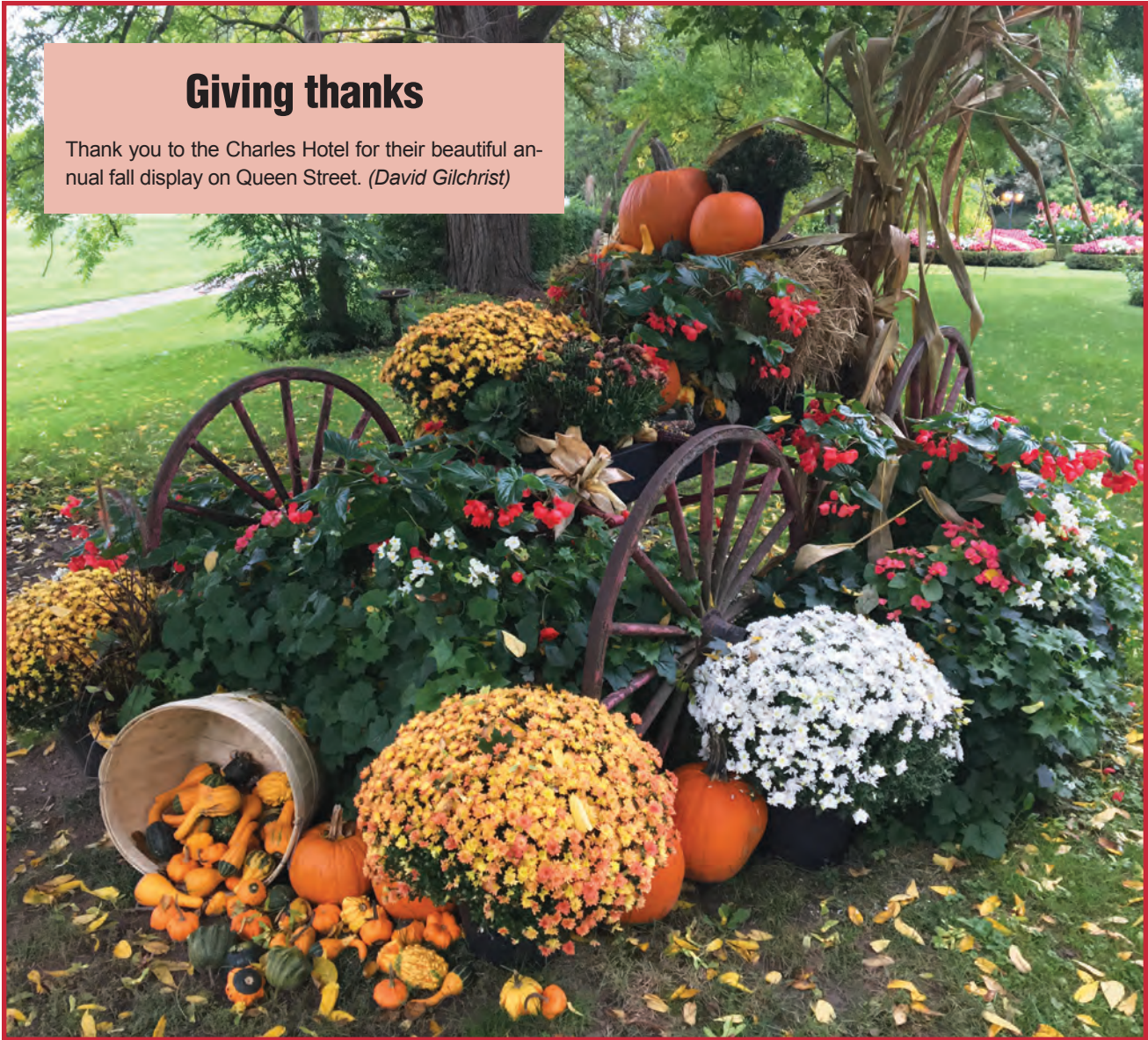




**NNS kids
love their
new home**
page 12



Giving thanks

Thank you to the Charles Hotel for their beautiful annual fall display on Queen Street. *(David Gilchrist)*

**Short-term rental
solutions in the works**

**Penny Coles
The Local**

Coun. Gary Burroughs has lived in the Old Town for almost 60 years, and has seen a lot of changes, especially in the growth of the tourism industry. He likes to tell the story of his long-time friend Gerry Wooll, Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the '60s, who passed away in 2007. Wooll, in an effort while mayor to encourage visitors to Queen Street, asked anyone who had a spare car to park it on the street, making it look busier than it was. "And it worked," says Burroughs, who has witnessed the enormous growth in the town as a tourism destination since then. For many years he was part of it as the former owner of the Oban Inn, which he took over from his parents in 1975, and sold in 1999. As visitors began to come to town, many attracted by the Shaw Festival, the hotel industry grew, and along with it came the proliferation of

bed and breakfasts, a popular choice for tourists looking for accommodations. More recently has come an increase in cottage rentals, country inns and villas, defined by the town according to the number of rooms. Burroughs says the variety of accommodations encourages people to stay in town longer, offering more affordable prices, especially for families. That's important for the Shaw, the restaurants, wineries, and other amenities in town residents enjoy, but on their own wouldn't be enough to support those businesses year round — that has become painfully obvious during the arrival of COVID-19 and the ensuing pandemic travel restrictions. "I think we're very fortunate to have them," says Burroughs. When the town formed a short-term rental committee early in 2021, to look at possible changes in the SRT licensing bylaw that could potentially

Continued on page 4

More than 20,000 people support Eden principal

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Sharon Burns is a huge fan of British heavy metal band Iron Maiden. And for some reason, that love resulted in her becoming the target of a group of parents who misunderstood her intentions. Burns posted on her Twitter account a photograph of her and her husband Rob, most likely taken in the parking lot at an Iron Maiden concert, both flashing the "devil's

horns" (pinkie and index fingers raised). It's a gesture that long ago became tied more directly to the heavy metal world than to any devil worshipping anti-religion. There's also a photo of a homemade poster on which the number 666 is crudely written. The name of her account, by the way, is @EdenPrincipal. The post prompted either someone named Debbi Lynn or LC, each of whom has been credited for it, to start a petition on the website change.org titled "Eden High School Principal, Sharon Burns,

Needs to be Transferred Immediately." It immediately drew a counter-petition, We Need Mrs. Burns, begun by someone identified as R.R., to defend the principal. As of Monday, the anti-Burns petition had fizzled out after gathering 553 signatures, and was marked as closed. The pro-Burns response had amassed a whopping 20,182 supporters and was still gathering steam. Rightfully so. In the drive for signatures, the petition that sparked the

controversy stated that "our school is based on inclusion, and openly displaying Satanic symbols (on a public social media platform) that directly goes against the principles of the vast majority of families who represent the school, is not inclusive. As parents we are demanding her transfer to another school. Please replace her with another principal who aligns with the values of the families at Eden and will not sabotage the teaching or upholding of those values and

Continued on page 7



Sharon Burns (Photo supplied)



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Local restaurants react to continued capacity restrictions

Penny Coles
The Local

“To say it’s disappointing is an understatement,” says Paul Harber of Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery.

When the Ontario government announced Friday afternoon that starting Saturday it was “cautiously” lifting capacity restrictions at most venues requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination, restaurants and bars were not included. They remain at 50 per cent capacity, with tables two metres apart.

It’s been “a roller coaster” throughout the pandemic, waiting to hear what changes were coming, with little time to deal with them, Harber said.

This time, after months of closures and takeout only, and then being able to open with limited capacity, restaurant owners were hoping to finally hear some good news, but instead discovered there would be

no change in store for them.

Spectator facilities for sports, recreational fitness, cinemas, theatres, and concert arenas have had capacity limits lifted, with a limit of 20,000 people.

In settings where capacity limits have been lifted, the requirement for individuals to maintain two metres of physical distancing are being removed, with limited exceptions. In addition, proof of vaccination will continue to be required in outdoor settings “to help keep these venues safe for patrons,” the government website says.

Indoor meeting and event spaces are able to operate with numbers that enable physical distancing.

Harber has a meeting space, and events such as weddings booked, but still with limited capacities, because of the distancing required.

“People who are total strangers can sit shoulder to shoulder to watch the Raptors or the

Maple Leafs play in front of a packed crowd at Scotiabank Arena, screaming and cheering for their team while they eat their hot dogs,” says Harber. “Yet family and friends sitting a couple of feet apart at tables, with no yelling going on, having their food delivered to them by servers, is not deemed safe. How does that make sense?” he asks.

At this point, he says, he feels “severely beaten down.”

It is also extremely frustrating not to have a good explanation from the province about why it’s safe to lift capacity limits at some venues, but not others.

After Friday’s announcement, a government spokesperson described eating indoors at a restaurant as being a higher risk setting, with prolonged close contact in enclosed spaces where face coverings are removed for the duration of the visit.

Harber disagrees — if anything, there is less risk, and at least in restaurants, as well as patrons being fully vaccinated, information for contact tracing is taken, and all surfaces, including washrooms, are wiped down regularly.

Harber is also frustrated that announcements are made with little time for business owners to adjust, and train staff, and that there has been no word whether the financial support from CERB (Canada Emergency Response Benefit) for workers, which is supposed to expire Oct.

23, will be extended.

What is most disappointing, says Harber, is “the way this industry has been hurting the whole time. I’m blown away that sports facilities can be 100 per cent, but not restaurants. Nothing adds up to me. We keep hearing about the fourth wave, the rampant variant, and yet the province is opening up different avenues that seem to be a whole lot worse than restaurants. Any venue where people have to be double vaccinated should be allowed to operate at full capacity.”

He says he hopes restrictions will be lifted before it gets too cold to operate patios, and when that happens, “they won’t do it at the last minute, without

any warning. Worrying about what is going to happen and how to deal with it is exhausting. It would be good to at least have a heads-up.”

Harber, however, is quick to say he feels “very blessed. I don’t have to worry about having a roof over my head. Some of my friends do.”

Maria Mavridis of Corks Wine Bar and Eatery on Queen Street, and the Firehall Flame across the street, is in the process of organizing several fundraising events at different venues, which had been put on hold during COVID. At each location, the capacity remains at 50 per cent, because there has to be

two metres between tables — and although it means less money being raised for important causes, at least she knows it’s safe.

On the Corks patio, which is a popular destination for diners, and is partially closed in, capacity is more like 40 per cent, to keep tables far enough apart.

“I don’t mind that we’re not jammed together in the restaurant, in the interest of safety,” she says. “We still have COVID with us, and you can still get it, even if you’re vaccinated.”

“I’m comfortable with it (limited capacity) for the safety issue. But for the business issue, when you’re turning people away at the door, it’s tough.”



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Wrapping up Fire Prevention Week



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services team delivered 1,080 packages to local students at St. Michael Catholic, St. Davids Public, and Crossroads Public Schools Tuesday morning, to conclude Fire Prevention Week. The packages included a Fire Prevention Week newsletter for parents, activity books, fire hats and magnets for the younger students, and magnets, pencils and erasers with fire safety messages for the older students. (Photo supplied)

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Kids helping kids



Hunter, Max, Preston and Jacob (front), with Dad Martin Lindqvist, Mom Krystle Bernier, and family friend Thanna Kuroopan were at The Grist Craft Kitchen and Brewery in St. Davids recently — they go there often, and love it. The kids wanted to have a lemonade stand and raise some money, and chose Pathstone Mental Health for Kids programs as the recipient of the \$1,400 they made from selling 75 litres of lemonade. (Photo supplied)




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Music Niagara's Oktoberfest celebrates Brahms

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Music Niagara Festival's founder and artistic director Atis Bankas prefers a tall glass filled with a dark stout to be served with his Brahms this month.

Unfortunately for Bankas, the Foreign Exchange Stout might not be on the menu this Thursday, Oct. 14 at the live taping of the Brahms Oktoberfest concert at Queen Street's Exchange Brewery.

There, concert-goers will enjoy the music of Adam Diderrich on violin (who has recorded with Gloria Estefan and Natalie Cole), and Matti Pulkki on accordion (from the renowned ensemble Quartetto Gelato), while enjoying a German-inspired flight of six beers along with an accompanying platter of Oktoberfest snacks. Stout, of course, is tied more closely to Great Britain.

The duo known as Adamatti will regale the live audience with sing-alongs and polkas in true Bavarian Biergarten style in the second instalment of the tribute to the beloved beer-loving composer. The ticket price for the show that begins at 2:30 p.m. is \$50.

On Monday, Oct. 18, the celebration of Brahms continues at the new Blackburn Brew House, located near Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls. The Blackburn Brauhaus Hefeweizen is sure to be on the menu as Joe Pillitteri hosts an exciting afternoon of special live performances from Victoria Kogan (piano), Peter Stoll (clarinet), Cameron Crozman (cello) and Quartetto Gelato.

Again, Oktoberfest snacks including German salami, kielbasa, pretzel bites, triple crunch mustard, pickled beets, sauerkraut, emmenthal-style cheese, roasted nuts

and grapes will be served along with a five-beer flight of Blackburn German-inspired brews. Ticket prices are also \$50 for the noon program.

The fourth and final Brahms Oktoberfest show is a virtual performance of music from Brahms, Dvořák and Schumann by Toronto's Odin Quartet, who recorded their program last week at Oast House Brewers in the upstairs loft.

Actor Joe Ringhofer also returns to Music Niagara to narrate the program, providing context and some history of Brahms and his connection to the other composers. Now living in Wasaga Beach, Ringhofer taught music theory for many years alongside Bankas at Toronto's Royal Conservatory.

"I've known Joe for over 30 years," Bankas says. "As our emcee, I give him programs and he finds the material and presents it. He's done a lot of excursions to Europe for operas that were groundbreaking at the time. He understands the music and the composers."

Bankas takes special pleasure in welcoming the Odin Quartet back to Music Niagara. After all, violinists Alex Toskov and Tanya Charles Iveniuk are former students of his at the Conservatory.

Toskov, who speaks Spanish, Russian, German, Norwegian and Serbian as well as English, formed the Odin Quartet in 2015. The winner of The Glenn Gould School Chamber Music Competition in 2011 has appeared as principal violinist with the Toronto Concert Orchestra and Toronto Mozart Players, and has also recorded soundtracks for CBC.

Toskov enjoyed collaborating on the Brahms Oktoberfest repertoire with Bankas.

"It's always a great experience," Toskov says. "We

went from teacher-student to friends, colleagues, to all of the above. We definitely have very high respect for all of his input. He's been such a very good collaborator for the quartet over the years."

He continues, "he's been open and always supportive of young talent. And we love performing with Mr. Bankas, as he is such a passionate performer. I think we match very well with our intuition and musicality."

Charles Iveniuk has performed with the Odin Quartet and also as a solo performer in the past with Music Niagara. She looks forward to visiting the region every time she travels here, and missed seeing the familiar faces of Music Niagara patrons and supporters this summer.

The Hamilton native with roots in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has performed across Canada, the U.S., South America and the Caribbean. She is the recipient of the Women's Art Associate of Canada - Luella McCleary Award, the Gabriella Dory Prize in Music, and the Hamilton Black History Association's John C Holland Award.

She sheds light on the varied talents of her Toronto-based ensemble.

"All of us have different backgrounds that we come from," she explains, "also musical backgrounds that we pull from. Myself, I play mariachi in the Mexican style, Alex is Serbian, and (cellist) Samuel (Bisson) writes film scores. We all pull from our respective backgrounds and we make projects together using some of those elements."

Those elements might not be so evident in this particular program, but the quartet's well-rounded backgrounds and education certainly make for a more adept, masterful quartet overall.



Alex Toskov on violin, Tanya Charles Iveniuk on violin, Jacob Clewell on viola and Samuel Bisson on cello perform at Oast Brewery. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

During the performance, to be aired on Oct. 28 on the Music Niagara website and the festival's YouTube channel, the four musicians worked together for a flawless performance, including a wonderful rendition of Brahms' *Hungarian Dances Numbers 2 and 5*.

Brahms enthusiasts are invited to pick up a special Brushfire Oktoberfest take-home feast for two as they enjoy the Odin Quartet that day. For \$110 per couple plus HST they will receive a bottle of Farmhouse Ale, a beet and cucumber salad with yogurt dressing and aged gouda, and a main course of choucroute garnie smoked white ham with bratwurst and confit pork belly, barnraiser braised cabbage and garlic dill potatoes with beer mustard cream.

And perhaps if Bankas asks politely, Oast House just might consider substituting a couple of cans of their Russian Imperial Stout for his personal take-home feast.

Information and tickets for all three events are available at musicniagara.org/brahms-oktoberfest.



Actor Joe Ringhofer returns to Music Niagara to narrate the Brahms program recorded at Oast Brewery.



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No timeline set for action on recommendations

Continued from page 1

find solutions to perceived problems in the industry, Burroughs wanted to be part of it. He and Coun. Norm Arsenault represented council on the committee, with residents, some who were owners of STRs, and some who were not, making up the rest of the membership. The two councillors, Burroughs says, “were just there to help, not running the committee.”

The committee began meeting weekly in March, and continued until the summer, when their report, with 33 recommendations, was presented to council mid-July.

It’s “a fabulous report,” says Burroughs, and is now in the hands of town staff, who will make their own recommendations to council, based on the information they’ve received.

The staff report, and council’s actions in response, can’t come soon enough, he says, although he’s not sure of the timeline. “I’m not thrilled that we haven’t moved it forward yet.”

Once that report goes to council, “we can start making important changes to bylaws, based on the recommendations, that will fix short-term rentals.”

Burroughs says for decades, no records were kept of complaints about the accommodation sector, which made it difficult to quantify the problems — the committee was working with anecdotal information and some documentation from the public. He says looking at what evidence the committee could find, complaints have been rare. “Are there some bad ones? Yes,” he says. “How big a problem are they? We’re finding out they’re not.”

One of the recommendations of the committee is to redefine B&Bs and other short-term rentals as hosted and unhosted — not surprisingly, when looking at

the limited data the town has collected, it appears that more complaints are received in unhosted STRs. “This seems logical as the renters’ activities are unsupervised for the most part. There are many well-managed unhosted STRs, and a minority that are not. These are the ones that create negativity about the industry,” the committee’s report says.

Most issues arise only from unhosted, but unlicensed rentals, says Burroughs, and the town has begun to crack down on those, with the hiring of a firm that checks advertisements to see who is licensed and who isn’t, and tracks any complaints received.

The committee also looked at noise complaints, over-licensing within certain areas, the impact of STRs on affordable housing, and enforcement issues.

But again, says Burroughs, there isn’t data available to help quantify those problems.

Most issues, such as excessive noise, occur after hours and on weekends, when there is no bylaw enforcement available, and the Niagara Regional Police would be called. In its report, the committee says it checked with NRPS, and records indicate that very few charges, if any, are laid by the police, leaving residents “very frustrated and unable to enjoy their homes.”

John Buchanan is a Garrison Village resident, and one of those frustrated by a very disruptive neighbouring short-term rental used as a party house.

The noise, parking violations and garbage issues were left largely uncontrolled by the town, despite neighbours complaining for years about it. Buchanan moved to NOTL in 2019, and last summer he too began registering his concerns with the town, and lobbying for some action with his neighbours, he says. As a result, he learned there was a “small number of oth-

er problem STRs in NOTL,” including some with other neighbours who joined Buchanan’s initiative to have the town address their concerns.

Toward the end of 2020, he explains, the town launched one of its Join the Conversation online events, looking for comments and concerns from the public. He says there were 268 responses received; the majority discounting a suggestion made that STRs should also be principal residences. Of the comments, 33 concerned enforcement, party houses and noise issues, he says.

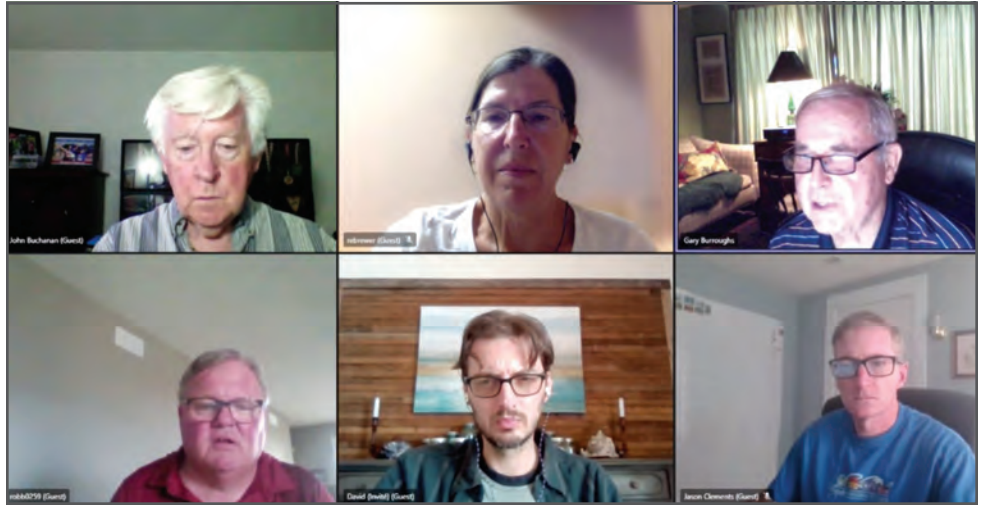
Buchanan says he and his family have stayed at various kinds of accommodations in several places, including Europe, the Caribbean, and in NOTL, including STRs, and enjoyed having the choice.

With his personal experience of the problems caused by the neighbouring STR, and an owner unwilling to address the concerns, when he learned about the formation of a committee and its mandate to review the town’s licensing bylaw and provide recommendations to council, he applied to sit on the committee and was accepted.

After “hundreds of hours” reviewing the town’s existing bylaw, the committee came up with a number of recommendations that were just “fine-tuning” what was already in place, and others that suggested substantial changes.

Although there was discussion about the need for more enforcement, Buchanan suggested existing enforcement staff need to write “strong letters” to rental owners not in compliance with town legislation, with escalating fines in place if non-compliance continues.

The committee report encourages hosted STRs, occupied by the owner, versus unhosted, would bring stability and a sense of community to neighbourhoods where they exist.



The last meeting of the town’s short-term rental committee, when recommendations were decided, included (top) residents John Buchanan and Rene Brewer, Coun. Gary Burroughs, resident Rob Browning, and David Levesque and Jason Clements, both representing the short-term rental community. Missing from the photo is Coun. Norm Arsenault. (Screen shot)

The committee also recognizes the STR industry “is critical to supporting the local businesses in NOTL by providing convenient accommodations close to the attractions, so that tourists can enjoy memorable experiences in our town.” The recommendations are intended “to strike the right balance,” supporting the tourism economy while respecting neighbourhoods.

To avoid commercialization of unhosted rentals, the committee has included recommendations suggesting that corporations not be allowed licences, and putting limits on the number of licences one can possess. “The intent is to ensure that a person is accountable for the actions of the STR,” the report says.

The committee also stated “there should be no leniency, and unlicensed operators should be charged and advised to cease operations immediately.”

With the help of Granicus, the company contracted by the town to investigate unlicensed rental accommodations — and, importantly, funded through the fees of licensed rentals, not by taxpayers — that is already happening, with some unlicensed rentals recently shut down, says Burroughs.

Since mid-July, Granicus

has been looking for people advertising without a licence. They are being contacted, and “closed down left, right and centre,” says Burroughs. He knows of a couple of rentals that were considered party houses, and were not only shut down, but have since been sold. “We’re getting rid of the bad apples,” he says.

The committee also asked that council collect data to make changes to bylaws, if necessary, in response to complaints and concerns, such as the number of STRs threatening neighbourhood communities, says Burroughs.

Since the majority of complaints relate to “party houses” which are typically unhosted, and with a large number of rooms, the committee recommends limiting the number of bedrooms in rentals, to eliminate those nuisance complaints.

Granicus is also helping to create records of complaints, which will give the town the data needed to make policy changes. When complaints are received, the goal is to reach out to those responsible and rectify any problems within 45 minutes of contact.

But without sufficient bylaw enforcement, and police who don’t consider those complaints a priority, the committee “strongly recommends” council explore cost-effective means of providing after-hours enforcement.

For the STR program to be self-funding, and fees based on a cost-recovery basis, staff should build a budget that reflects the revenues and expenses, says the report. Licence fees should be based on the budget, with activities

such as inspections included in the budget. Should “council decide to expand municipal law enforcement services to include after-hours and weekend services, an appropriate portion of the costs could be assigned to the STR budget,” the report says.

Also, in September, council approved the implementation of an Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) for non-compliance of certain town bylaws, to provide a more efficient process for payment, appeal and collection of penalties, which has been an issue in collecting fines for STR infractions. Noise, nuisance, and short-term rental bylaws are included.

While there are problem STRs, says Buchanan, he believes it’s not a long list — that about 95 per cent are well-run, respect town bylaws, and provide an important service to the tourism sector. Like Burroughs, he believes those renting such accommodations provide value to the town and local businesses, staying longer and spending more.

The annoying issues of the other five per cent are being addressed, he adds.

The charge of “hollowing-out” of neighbourhoods by STRs, if data supports that and it can be quantified, is also easily addressed, by restricting the number of licences per town block, Buchanan says.

And with Marnie Cluckie, the CAO in town, at the helm, Buchanan adds, he is confident she will deliver the necessary leadership expected as the STR recommendations move through the process.

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Shaw Festival announces its 2022 season

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Heading into season number 60 in 2022, the Shaw Festival has announced a line-up full of favourites, timeless classics and new works for the milestone year.

"We have a lot to celebrate as we look forward to our diamond anniversary season," said artistic director Tim Carroll in an Oct. 6 press release. "In what might be our most ambitious program ever, we intend to show off the range of experiences available at the Shaw."

That range of experiences

includes a return of outdoor events, something that was necessary during earlier COVID restrictions on indoor attendance at live performances.

The popular puppet show *A Short History of Niagara*, created by Alexandra Montagnese and Mike Petersen, with sound design by Ryan Cowl and in partnership with Parks Canada, will be back for another outdoor run.

As well, both Fairground and Shawground return in 2022. The hour-long interactive experiences created by the Shaw ensemble guide participants through the Festival Theatre

grounds with charming charisma, and end with an exhilarating finale. One features the tempting sensory delights of music, poetry and dance, while the other ignites the internal Shavian with lively deliberations, spoken word and spirited music from Shaw's lifetime.

Old favourites include *Damn Yankees*, presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) at the Festival Theatre. The well-known play about middle-aged Joe Boyd making a Faustian deal for his Washington Senators to beat the powerhouse New York Yankees previews on April 23.

Carroll himself will be directing Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the same venue. The three-act satire mingles truth and comedy with sarcastic and blistering banter to skewer Victorian attitudes and social structures. It was last seen at the Festival in 2004.

Kate Hennig's translation and adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac* returns to the Royal George Theatre after a successful 2019 run. The tale of the unrequited and selfless love of a 17th century swordsman for Roxane is an eloquent and poignant tale for anyone who has ever loved from afar.

Fans of Bernard Shaw will enjoy *The Doctor's Dilemma*, directed by Diana Donnelly. Previewing July 16 at the Festi-

tival Theatre, it was last seen here in 2010. The playwright's exploration of medical ethics continues to be relevant and timely in 2022 as it ponders the moral questions concerning life and death: If one patient can only live at the cost of another's life, who lives and who dies? What is the value of a human life? Queries which still have urgency are brought to thrilling life in this tragicomic tour de force.

The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre will play host to Shaw's *Too True to Be Good*, last seen at the Festival in 2006. In this comedy featuring a talking microbe, Shaw takes aim at doctors, preachers, the military and the aristocracy. The play fore-shadows the insanity that was about to engulf the world after the end of the First World War.

Keith Barker, artistic director at Toronto's Native Earth Performing Arts, Canada's oldest professional Indigenous theatre, directs his own play, *This Is How We Got Here* at the Studio Theatre. The member of the Métis Nation of Ontario is a previous winner of Dora Mavor Moore and the Playwrights Guild of Canada's Carol Bolt Awards.

Keith was also a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for English Drama in 2018 for the play, which follows a family torn apart by a suicide, struggling to find each other

again, when a mysterious fox shows up with a curious gift.

Gaslight previews at the Royal George on May 4. Directed by Kelli Fox, it's a gripping thriller based on Patrick Hamilton's 1938 play *Angel Street*. The play has been credited for coining the term that has become commonly used in recent years to describe an insidious form of mental abuse.

The lunchtime one-act play *Chitra* returns for the second straight year. Directed by Kimberley Rampersad, the poem of false appearance and true love was written by Rabindranath Tagore, a Shaw contemporary. Based on a tale from the Sanskrit epic *Mahabharata*, the play follows the titular character, a warrior princess raised as a boy, as she begs the gods for perfect beauty so she can win the affections of Arjuna. There's no word yet whether or not this year's cast will return, but it will be presented at the Royal George.

Also at the same theatre, *Just to Get Married* was written by another Shaw contemporary, actress, journalist, playwright and suffragette Cicely Hamilton, who wrote more than 20 plays, many feminist in nature. In this one, a poor, but clever woman knows that the quickest way to financial stability and independence is to get married, but is not sure her conscience will allow her to go

through with it when a suitable man proposes.

Rounding out the playbill at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre are August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, directed by Phillip Akin, and *Everybody*, by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, who also wrote *Octoroon*, which the Festival presented in 2017.

In the latter, László Bérczes directs the Canadian premiere of the provocative modern riff on the 15th century medieval morality play *Everyman*. In an interesting twist, the character of *Everybody* will be played by one of five actors selected by lottery at the start of each performance.

In addition, the 2022 holiday season will see the return of both *A Christmas Carol* and Irving Berlin's *A White Christmas*, both at the Festival Theatre, directed by Molly Atkinson and Kate Hennig respectively.

Casts, creative teams and the series of outdoor concerts and activities for the 2022 season, will be announced at a later date. Further updates will also be available at shawfest.com.

Tickets to the 2022 season will be on sale beginning Nov. 6 for Friends of The Shaw and Dec. 4 for the public. Orders can be placed through the box office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) or online at shawfest.com.



Shaw Festival artistic director Tim Carroll (David Cooper)

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TD READY COMMITMENT

EDITORIAL

Eat and shop locally, for good of the community

Restaurant owners can be forgiven their disappointment over not being permitted to lift capacity venues, as has occurred in other venues.

They are probably the hardest-hit of all industries during this pandemic, and they continue to struggle.

Cinemas, theatres, concert and spectator sports venues are now open at full capacity. We can see people sitting shoulder to shoulder, in tight spaces,

unmasked, on TV broadcasts of sporting events, and to some of us, it looks a little unnerving.

But the province has said there have been few outbreaks in those settings, but there is apparently a higher risk in indoor eateries. That really doesn't seem logical.

If you feel comfortable eating out, it would be good to show your support for local restaurants. And if you don't, takeout is still an option.

We're also being encouraged to shop locally — and share our experiences on social media with the hashtag #NiagaraMyWay, to trigger a personal response among users to fill in their own Niagara experiences. It's a joint effort between the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, to paint a broad picture of what Niagara means to different people, and to help build a

sense of community where people are encouraged to shop locally, we're told.

"We cannot stress enough how important it is for people to get out and support the businesses in their community," says Eduardo Lafforgue, president and CEO of the NOTL Chamber. "Small, family-owned businesses were hit hard during the pandemic, enduring long periods when they could not open their doors. They can use our help now."

Niagara residents are asked to show their support in many ways:

- Frequent local businesses. Shop in local stores, whether looking for food, clothing, toys or trinkets.

It not only does the business a favour, it also supports the economy of the entire community.

- When on social media, share local shopping experiences with #NiagaraMyWay. If you come across a #NiagaraMyWay post or ad, sharing it.
- Talk to business owners and encourage them to register their company with #NiagaraMyWay. There is no cost to them, but this will place their business on a landing page that people will see when they click through one of the ads.

"We have all lived through the same pandemic and are well aware of the impact it has had on our

Niagara community, both socially and from a business perspective," says Lafforgue. "But from that, we have seen anecdotal evidence of an increased awareness to shop in local stores and support local businesses. We want to keep pushing that momentum forward."

If we're shopping, we can shop locally. If we're eating out, we can choose local restaurants.

We want our businesses to survive and thrive, so we will all be here together when this pandemic is finally over. And we can each do our part to help make sure that happens.

Penny Coles
The Local

Congratulations, Ernie, on 39 years

Last week, Jane Andres wrote about Ernest Bell, who had been leaving his family in Clarendon, Jamaica to come to NOTL as a farmworker for 39 years. He is retiring, and is looking forward to being home for all the family milestones, and celebrating his grandchildren's birthdays with real hugs. Unfortunately, the photo of Ernie was missing from the story, so this week, we apologize to Ernie for the error, and say thank you for 39 years of working hard in NOTL to help our local farmers. (Photo by Jane Andres)



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The Lady in the Van (Prime, 2016) is one of the masterpieces of our time. It is an unlikely tale, yet a real life story of two lost souls who

support and aid each other in their quests to find their true selves. Maggie Smith and Alan Bennett (author of the memoir on which it is based) are, in every way, national treasures.

Donald Combe is a retired

English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you'd like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won't publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.

Shift away from today's egocentric society needed



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

The year is 2031, or perhaps 2051. Let's imagine the following narrative unfolding in the realm of the media, and how it might influence our mindsets to protect the environment.

Things are getting tough now. Modern and civilized pockets of the world are beginning to notice the storm at their front door. Their grey plastered cities overheat to record levels every summer. The tap water smells kind of funky, and there are only a couple of species of birds left in town. The soil for the backyard garden or the industrial-scale farm no longer holds moisture and nutrients like it used to. The air quality is so horrendous and ripe with fossil fuel pollutants that nobody needs reminders to wear a mask.

We are shifting as a society that was once egocentric, where we focused primarily on just ourselves. In an egocentric model, we subconsciously placed our own species front and cen-

tre, surrounded by the rivers, the bears, and butterflies and bees, deemed living entities that existed to serve us. Now, though, time is of the essence, and we need to become eco-centric — a model where we place ourselves on par with other living things in order to successfully continue our biological existence. We live in a future where the bear, the butterfly and the bee are now as important as you and I.

The developed world will find itself in a new predicament where it suddenly becomes desperate, even hungry, for environmental solutions to sustain ourselves. It will take every generation to do its part.

In 2021, popular TikTok videos featured trends such as school children destroying public washrooms, and then challenging their pals to follow suit and outdo the act of vandalism. This was their simple yet grotesque entertainment that caught the eye of social media and the news alike. Fast-forward to the future, and the youth have moved to something much more daring. They've stopped wrecking washrooms, eating Tide Pods, and filming themselves dance for artificial intelligence. They've moved on to something bigger and

more important.

The teens and tweens of the world are competitively tree planting. They post videos of themselves randomly planting native tree species around the city. Because one girl watched a video of a guy posting about his three sneakily planted trees, she thinks to herself, "well, I need the followers, and I can do better than that." She plants not three, but 10 native trees, some maples, some hickories, and a handful of tulip trees in an abandoned field at the city's edge. The trend becomes addictive, and now youth are planting trees like the very machines that removed them.

As if someone hit a switch, all mainstream news becomes hyper-focused on a certain statistic overnight. The family huddles around the television in the comfort of their home. Although there are scores of other events happening in our world, all they hear about is habitat loss.

The anchor comes on the screen with dramatic music and a stunned yet serious look on his face.

"Today, Ontario is reporting an additional loss of 422 hectares of forest coverage. The province is also seeing a spike in wetland loss, with 20 hectares drained over the weekend." The family looks gobsmacked. "Agh, you don't want to hear about this right now," says the father. He switches the channel to a different news outlet. A different anchor appears.

"In tonight's top story, experts are saying that Ontario could be losing up to 700 hectares of forest by this weekend. Wetland loss is pre-

Continued on page 7

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
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COMMENT

Burns has worked to make Eden more inclusive

Continued from page 1

will not try to introduce impressionable students to Satanic practices or symbolism.”

The word “inclusion” must take a bit of the focus here. I recently spoke with a parent of both a former and current Eden student who preferred not to be named.

This parent spoke in complete support of Sharon’s ongoing efforts to make Eden a truly inclusive school. He said she found a space for non-Christian students to gather to recognize and practise their own beliefs outside of class time. And he also lauded her efforts to ensure that young LGBTQ+ students felt safe and comfortable within the halls and classrooms.

As a recently retired DSBN teacher who had the pleasure to work with Burns when she was the vice-principal at Laura Secord, I have watched in awe

as this volunteer firefighter and cancer survivor has used her social media presence to build up the Eden profile in an effort to include all students in campus life. She is by far one of the most enthusiastic school-boosting principals I have ever seen in my 29-year career.

Is that not the true meaning of inclusion?

The use of the phrase “Satanic practices” comes next. Loving a heavy metal band and appropriating its symbols does not make one a Satanist. I was a huge fan of Iron Maiden beginning with their first album back in 1980. While in high school, I copied their logo and drew rough sketches (very rough!) of their mascot, Eddie, all over my notebooks.

I can attest to the fact that I am not now nor have I ever been a worshipper of Satan. My love for the driving beat and screaming guitars of bands such as Black Sabbath, Judas Priest and Iron Maiden did not lead me down

that path. It was and still is aggressive, loud, virtuosically-played fast-paced rock that has appealed to me for more than 40 years.

When Iron Maiden released their third album, *The Number of the Beast*, in 1982, church groups were up in arms over the title song. Back then, just as these concerned parents might be doing today, the lyrics were misinterpreted. The song is actually about someone accidentally discovering a black magic ceremony in the middle of the night and running away from it in fear. It most definitely does not encourage or espouse the worship of the devil.

A quick search of the internet Monday resulted in finding that the accusation against Burns had captured worldwide attention. Music-oriented websites such as Louder Sound, New Musical Express and Ultimate Classic Rock all picked up on the story. So did the New York Post.

It wouldn’t surprise me if Iron Maiden’s lead singer Bruce Dickinson reaches out to Sharon and Rob. Dickinson, by the way, is a licensed commercial pilot. He also created his own pilot training company, has hosted television documentaries, written novels and film scripts and competed in fencing internationally. He is well-known as an upstanding contributor to British society.

Anyone who knows Sharon Burns knows her contributions to the NOTL community. For many years she has participated in the Terry Fox Run locally, and has been an advocate for breast cancer charities.

The fact that she loves listening to a heavy metal band should not preclude her from being a principal at any school.

The petition-starters speak of the values of the families at Eden. I would assume by that they mean the Christian

values upon which the school was originally founded.

I probably don’t have to explain to many of the readers of The Local that Eden Christian College, as it was then known, was begun by the local Mennonite Brethren community. It sat on Niagara Stone Road until 1996, when it was brought under the auspices of the DSBN and moved first to Scott Street and then to its current location on Lake Street in St. Catharines.

Once it came under the DSBN’s purview, it effectively ceased being a Christian school. Yes, I know Eden has a chapel, or Spiritual Life Centre. As I have always understood, that Centre and the spiritual advisors who staff it are funded by private donations. As well, chapel time is conducted outside of the regular school day so as to not infringe upon public school curriculum.

I know that many in the community still refer to it as a Christian school. And I am

not faulting anyone for standing up for what they believe in.

But it’s important to remember that as a publicly-funded school in Ontario, no one has the right to push for the dismissal of a school leader because of a post that so obviously shows her support for a rock band and not for the prince of darkness.

Should Burns have perhaps refrained from posting those photos on that Instagram account? Probably. She has wisely since removed them from her profile. Perhaps it would have been acceptable for her to have posted them from an account not linked in any way to the Eden community.

And perhaps the offended Eden parents would have gotten better results by just talking to Sharon about their concerns. By starting a petition on change.org they began a public battle that was impossible for them to win.

Future will see society more ecocentric

Continued from page 6

dicted to hit an all-time high, with political leaders begging the public to please, plant a tree.”

The son of the family grows tired of the apparent alarmism on TV. He jumps into bed for a good night’s sleep, pretending everything is just fine. Later the next day, while taking a break from his online learning, he checks his phone and the world of social media. The first three items he sees are about Ontario reporting an additional 467 hectares of forest loss, and an additional 30 hectares of wetlands drained today. He notices some beleaguered and annoyed friends of his commenting on how this can’t be true, so Facebook has used its algorithms to fact-check their very comments.

Bored of the noise, the boy decides to check out some sports highlights. Wait — he wonders why on earth is there a separate page about forest

loss on this website about sports? Curiously, he switches over to see what’s playing at the local cinema. Across the top of the theatre’s website is a heading talking about Ontario’s forest loss percentage. He then realizes that this theme has infiltrated every aspect of his life on a screen. Still, he decides to go to the movies that night.

At the theatre entrance, a man scans the boy’s QR code, which he displays on his phone. The door security looks unimpressed. “Young man, your QR code scan indicates that you and your family have only planted two trees since this all began. You know that five trees is the new normal to participate in these sorts of activities, right?”

Saddened but understanding of the circumstance, the boy turns around and heads home. He walks by a massive sign, awkwardly placed on the sidewalk with blaring orange letters saying, “Plant trees, save lives.”

He realizes that this situa-

tion is enormous and impossible to ignore.

The boy, fascinated by all of this hysteria and techno-media influence, decides to do some research. He learns that while his parents lived a comfortable, luxurious, and free lifestyle in their early days, that something more sinister was happening in the background.

The economic world lost sight of how forests and wetlands are irreplaceable carbon sinks — these special ecosystems which absorb and hold more carbon than they emit into a warming world. He learns that just because a specific area of the world doesn’t feel warmer, per se, that doesn’t mean that other areas of the world aren’t sweltering and drying up, or oceans aren’t becoming more acidified by working overtime to absorb the excess carbon we’ve burnt off. He sees how scientists from the 2020s tried to sound the alarm about how losing biodiversity would have direct ties to overall eco-

system health, and that ecosystems keep water, healthy soil, and pollinators close to our communities.

It is then the boy realizes he has an opportunity for his generation. When the

environment finally becomes not just one, but the one and only contentious topic during election season, he will vote to protect the natural world. At this point, the trivial and fabricated divisions between

people focusing on themselves have become obsolete, as the world wakes up and realizes that a healthy natural environment equals a healthy human society — an ecocentric society at that.



Imagine if we had breaking news every day about the loss of ecosystems, says Owen Bjorgan, like this forested wetland he photographed in Niagara Falls, that is to be developed. (Owen Bjorgan)

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Learn about Redan Battery and Battle of Queenston Heights

Local Staff

Join the Friends of Fort George for a special Zoom presentation on the Redan Battery at Queenston Heights with archaeologist Suzanne Plousos, this Friday at 10 a.m.

The Battle of Queen-

ston Heights holds great significance in Canadian military lore, says Amanda Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort George.

This major victory early in the War of 1812 cemented Niagara Loyalists' sympathy for the British cause and inspired many to stand

against American invasion of Upper Canada. Major General Isaac Brock's demise, while leading a frontal attack to retake the Redan Battery, gave loyalists their exemplary hero, explains Gamble.

Throughout this engagement, the Redan Battery played a pivotal role

and would later become a stopping point for visitors to the battlefield. In 1975, Parks Canada archaeologist Elizabeth Snow excavated the site to record the structural layout for restoration of the gun emplacement. Review of her artifact collection in 2012, 200 years after the battle,

yielded unanticipated evidence of that fateful day, Oct. 13, 1812, Gamble says.

Plousos enjoyed a research career with Parks Canada cultural resources, where she worked as an archaeologist, later specializing as a material culture researcher before

retiring in 2013.

The Zoom presentation is free for members; \$5 for non-members. Email admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca to reserve a spot.

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



School kids learn about the importance of the Redan Battery and the role it played in the War of 1812. (Photo supplied)

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Fallen workers of Welland Canal featured in museum talk

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum will be welcoming Kathleen Powell, curator of the St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canal Centre, to present the next instalment of their Fall Virtual Lecture Series Oct. 20.

Her presentation, *Triumph and Tragedy: Building the Welland Ship Canal*, will delve into some of the personal stories of the 138 fallen workers who lost their lives during the construction of the fourth and current Welland Canal.

The sights and sounds of the Welland Ship Canal are familiar to those of us who live in Niagara. Large lake freighters, or lakers, are an impressive sight as they manoeuvre skillfully into a lock, with mere metres to spare. Familiar too is the sound of the ship's whistle that is used to signal to lock masters, but we may not pay them too much attention.

The Welland Canal, with its locks and bridges, is more than just an inconvenient interruption when we get "caught by a bridge" or just another waterway that divides the region. The canal is an engineering marvel that allows ships to overcome the change in elevation between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie through a series of eight locks, thereby bypassing Niagara Falls and the Niagara Escarpment. Starting in St. Catharines at Port Weller on Lake Ontario, passing through Welland and ending in Port Colborne on Lake Erie, this commercial waterway facilitates the flow of goods to and from the ports on the rest of the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence Seaway, allowing access to international markets.

As impressive as the canal is as an engineering feat, Powell seeks to remind us that thousands of men worked on the construction on the current canal from 1913 until its completion and official opening on Aug 6, 1932. Over this almost 20-year span, 138 men were killed in accidents directly related to its construction. In her lecture, Powell will tell us more about their lives and their deaths. When you hear a number like 138, she says, you don't put faces to names, and it doesn't feel personal, until you hear those per-

sonal stories." She will be highlighting some of these stories that were uncovered during the research on the Fallen Workers Memorial project.

Some of the stories will focus on who these men were, how they died and the impact their death had on their families and the community. Her lecture will highlight the working conditions these men had to endure, the types of accidents that happened during construction, and the efforts made to prevent them. For example, she says, the beginnings of health and safety regulations were established around the time of the First World War. She adds, "there was a medical service along the Welland Canal to support the workers." Medical personnel were to get to the workers as quickly as possible in an accident, to try to mitigate any injuries as much as possible.

The material for the lecture was gathered as part of the Fallen Workers Memorial project. Back in 2015, Powell explains, a couple of local historians were doing some research on the canal. They found references to men who had died during the construction, and references to promises that were made to erect a memorial in their honour. As Powell explains, "Way back in 1932, when they unveiled and opened the Welland Canal, there was a promise that was made by the Department of Railways and Canals, at the time, that said that they would eventually build a memorial to the men who died on the Welland Canal. That never happened, because they were in the middle of the Depression and governments changed."

"That's how the whole project got started," she explains. "It was really to come up with a memorial to recognize the fallen workers."

Local historians and community members began to pressure the federal government to fulfill the promise and honour the sacrifice these men made. With funding from the federal government, municipal governments and the community, the research began.

"Back in 1932," Powell explains, "there appeared only 118 names on the list of accidental deaths. During the research, they found 20 more names that should have been on the original list." Powell cites many

hundreds of hours volunteers clocked, searching through microfilms of newspapers, death certificates and coroner's notices to make a comprehensive list. "The community really got behind it and came forward with information," she states proudly. "When the monument was unveiled, we actually had 137 names. One was even found after the monument was unveiled. He will be eventually added to the memorial." In the end, there were 138 names on the list.

The Fallen Workers Memorial was finally unveiled in 2017, 85 years after the promise was made to honour these men. The federal government, through the department of Canadian Heritage, contributed a significant amount to the project. Powell indicated that the local municipalities in Niagara contributed something to the project, including the City of St. Catharines where the memorial stands at Lock 3. She adds that they also received a "huge number of donations from local companies and from people just off the street who contributed to this project, because they found it to be worthwhile." The project culminated in a memorial and a book, published in 2020, that presents the research uncovered by the project, and stories of some of the men who died.

Powell was involved with the project from the beginning, and says some of the most rewarding parts of the project were the interactions with the community. People began to contribute stories and photos of the men who had died. "We had a few pictures to start with, but people in the community began sharing family photos, so we were able to find photos of a fair number of the fallen workers. Some families still lived in the area, other family members came from all over Canada and the United States.

We even found a family member who was over in Europe who helped contribute."

Powell continued enthusiastically, "one of the great things was that a lot of them came to the unveiling of the memorial, which was awesome. There were a lot of people at the unveiling of the memorial." She adds, as her voice takes on a more serious tone, "It was a very emotional memorial to some people. There were just a few people who had still remembered the people that worked on the canal, especially those who died closer to the end of the construction project in the 1930s. There were still family members who had been small children when that had happened, who are still alive. That was really impactful."

Their research from the project helped give these family members more information about their loved ones, she added. In some cases, the family might have had a little bit of information about what happened, but the researchers were



This view of the construction of Lock 7 of the fourth Welland Ship Canal in 1925 displays the magnificence of the engineering involved, and the dangers of a modern construction worksite. (Photos from the St. Catharines Museum)

able to contribute more from what they had learned.

Coming up after Powell's presentation, in honour of Treaties Recognition Week, three guest speakers from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs will present *Treaties and Land Claims* on Nov. 3. They will look at the significant impact that treaty responsibilities and promises have made on First Nations, in order to create a better

understanding of collective treaty rights and obligations.

All presentations start at 11 a.m. and require registration through Zoom.

To access Zoom registration link, go to www.notl-museum.ca

For more information, please contact Amy Klassen: aklassen@nhsm or at the NOTL Museum at 905-468-3912.

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The scale and engineering of the Welland Ship Canal is displayed in this photo of a canal construction worker standing in the large sluice tunnels on the inside of the lock walls.

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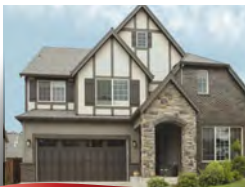


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NIAGARA NURSERY SCHOOL

New nursery school space open

Niagara Nursery School and Child Centre opened its new doors on schedule, and children and staff are settling in.

“It's been amazing,” says Candice Penny, executive director of the nursery school.

“We have had to get adjusted of course to being a

multi-room child care centre, but the staff, children and families are loving the new space. We are very grateful for our new space and all the additional friends it allows us to care for.”

The nursery is waiting for permanent fencing, which should be arriving soon, says

Penny — other than that everything is complete.

The kids are enjoying the new spaces “inside and out,” adds Penny.

The facility is now licensed for 69 children, including 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers, and 20 school-aged.



The interior space is warm and welcoming for children. (Photos supplied)



Ruby Bastedo



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Delilah Colvin



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SCHOOLS

CROSSROADS
PUBLIC SCHOOL

It's all about community at Crossroads

Classes are currently focusing on 'community' at Crossroads Public School, "so we decided to work collectively to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation, and 'Cross Canada' as a school," says principal Kate Fish.

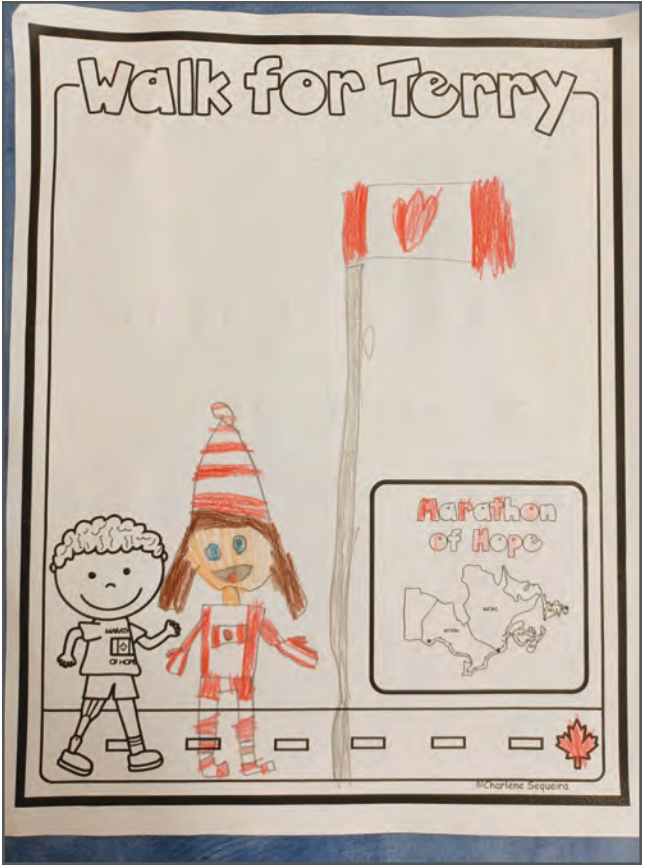
Throughout the week, students walked or ran around the field with their class during their physical education class. Cross Country Club participants contributed the kilometres they accumulated during their practices, families submitted their walked or run kilometres via a Google Form from home during the week (including those done by pets), and staff did the same.

"Our goal was to raise \$2021 for this important cause, but with the extraordinary generosity of our community, we surpassed our goal and raised \$2845, including \$185 that Tessa Braun (Grade 4 student) raised at a lemonade stand.

Together, the school community walked or ran 1786.7 kms towards their goal of the 7428 kms required to walk across Canada, "and we look forward to continuing the journey as a community over the course of the year."



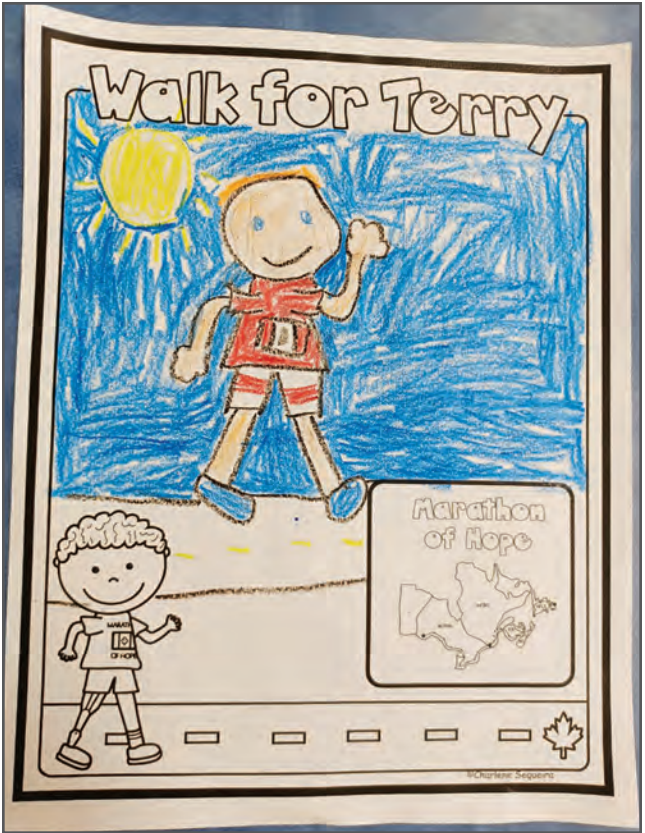
Mrs. DeBrouwer's Grade 1/2 class ran for Terry Fox. (Photos supplied)



Primary students coloured pictures to Walk for Terry.



Crossroad's goal is to have students, staff and community members run or walk 7,428 kms across Canada, and will continue the journey over the course of the school year.



Grade 4 student Tessa Braun made \$185 for Terry Fox from her lemonade stand.

Bike donations needed for returning farmworkers

Penny Coles
The Local

As many of the off-shore workers in Niagara-on-the-Lake move on to apple farms, or head home, the volunteers who have been refurbishing and repairing bikes for them are shifting gears themselves, already looking ahead to next year.

Bikes for Farmworkers, with its workshop in the basement of the former Virgil School, is winding down operations for this season and looking ahead to a winter of working on bikes for when the hard-working men and women return next year.

Mark Gaudet, who with his friend Terry Weiner began refurbishing bikes for farmworkers in their garages, with their own money, started Bikes for Farmworkers in 2016. That year the men rebuilt a modest 40 bikes, which were either donated to farmworkers through a raffle at a local health fair, or sold at a small cost. Weiner, retired from a career as an aerospace engineering consultant and with some experience restoring old cars, knew how to fix a bike. Gaudet, who had worked in management for a paper company, had to learn from his friend. Their second year, they repaired many more bikes donated from a generous community, with the help of a handful of volunteers who came on board— 270 were refurbished, and another 168 repaired. Gradually donations from the community helped to make their organization self-sustaining.

A grant from the Niagara Community Foundation allowed them to set up workstations in the Virgil School basement in 2017, and buy the tools they needed.

They charge \$20 for refurbished bikes, and although they pay for parts, some are also donated by the biking community.

But without a doubt, says Gaudet, the second summer of the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered their operations and ability to deliver bikes and

services to farmworkers — donations from the community were down this past year.

People are holding on to their bikes, or if they want to get rid of them, are selling them online, he says.

The group was still able to refurbish and sell 291 bikes and repair 200 bikes, but by October 2019, pre-pandemic, the group of volunteers had already refurbished 549 bikes and repaired about 380 bikes brought to them by farmworkers. At that time they were looking for more bodies to help, but because of COVID and the need for volunteers to be spread out in their workshop, they have cut back their team to eight men who work on bikes Tuesdays and Thursdays, in two shifts of four, says Gaudet.

As men arrived looking for bikes this season, there was no more milling around in the workshop — they come in one at a time, and both the volunteers and farmworkers are accustomed to physically distancing and wearing masks.

“At 66, I’m one of the youngest,” says Gaudet. “We have a couple of volunteers in their 80s, so we’re not fooling around. And we’ve all been vaccinated. If anyone is donating a bike, we ask them to wait on the top of the stairs, and we’ll come to get the bike.”

Any bike they sell has a dated sticker on it, says Gaudet, and they often get bikes they refurbished in 2018 and 2019 back in the shop to be tuned up. Volunteers ensure all repaired bikes meet their operating standards.

“We go through a 50-point inspection process before a bike leaves the shop,” he says, “and I’m always the last one to look at it.”

Any bikes that are not structurally safe are scrapped and used for parts.

Refurbishing bikes donated by the community is still first and foremost what they do, says Gaudet, and donations of adult bikes continue to trickle in — they accept them year

round. Although many are from NOTL, they also get bikes from other parts of Niagara, and also from the GTA. People who come to the Shaw Festival, or in town staying at B&Bs, sometimes heard about the work they do and will drop off bikes on their next trip, says Gaudet. Sometimes those who come to cycle will leave their bikes behind.

At this time of year, volunteers are looking for rideable, adult bikes to refurbish for next February or March, when farmworkers begin to arrive back in town.

Then, after a brief time off over the holidays, at the beginning of January the Winter Bike Repair Program begins.

Although some workers will crate and ship their bikes home to the Caribbean for their kids — Gaudet estimates about 20 per cent— those from Mexico would have to take them on the plane when they fly home, and not many do that. Most bikes are left behind for next year.

In November, when the workers have gone, Gaudet will begin hitting the larger farms, where he has developed good relationships

with the farmers, and will pick up the bikes left behind. In January, Gaudet, Weiner, Ken Eden and other volunteers, will get them tuned up and take them back to the farms to be stored indoors, where the workers will be happy to find them in good shape when they return. Last year they reported about 125 bikes left behind, says Gaudet. Others that were dangerous were scrapped.

“We are looking forward to expanding this program, as it eliminates one more thing the workers have to worry when they return to their em-

ployer.”

COVID is also presenting challenges with supply chains, and getting parts and components for bicycles can be difficult, with long delays and increased prices for new parts, so for now, says Gaudet, they’re focusing on mountain and hybrid bikes, for which parts are more readily available.

Any NOTL farm operation interested in having their workers’ bicycles assessed and repaired is asked to contact Mark Gaudet at 289-783-1684, or Terry Weiner at 905-321-8638 for more details.



Terry Weiner, one of the founders of Bikes for Farmworkers, shows off a newly refurbished bike to be sold next year. The bike is sporting a front reflector and 3M reflective tape that is standard issue with all bikes that leave the shop. (Photo supplied)



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Newcomers Club hosting Welcome Back event

Penny Coles
The Local

The Newcomers Club is hoping to welcome new members this fall, knowing there are likely many women who have moved to town during the pandemic, and have been unable to get out, meet people and learn about their community.

As difficult as it has been for those new to town, it's also been a challenge for the social club, which usually has many groups and opportunities to meet, most of which were put on hold or became virtual meetings during COVID-19 restrictions.

Now, with some loosening of rules, the club is planning a hybrid of in-person and virtual events.

Sue Henry, a five-year member of the social club, says as an example, one of the most popular and long-standing events, a coffee and conversation group, was mostly held through Zoom throughout the winter, although this summer met a few times in the pavilion at the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil.

The club has been embracing women new to Niagara-on-the-Lake since 1991, and at one point, had almost 400 members.

Many women come to NOTL, as Henry did, knowing all about the Shaw, the wineries and the restaurants, but not about the rest of the community. Some women are hesitant to venture out on their own, others, like herself, jump right in and join some of the activities that are available.

"Many come to NOTL from Oakville or nearby, have lunch, do a few things while they're here, and go home. But there's so much more to NOTL than that," agrees long-time member Susan Kziazkiewicz.

It's the friendships that newcomers are looking for, says member Sharon Frayne.

"You can go to the Shaw Festival, or go to the wineries or out for dinner, but you're not making the connections that are meaningful. That's what the Newcomers Club is there for. People often come here for a new stage in their



In 2016, a large group of Newcomers Club members gathered for a boat tour. (Photos supplied)



There is a cyclist club for members of all abilities. This photo was also taken pre-COVID. All COVID protocols are followed at in-person meetings.

lives, such as retirement, or bereavement. It's the connection they need, and the Newcomers Club is a good source for making new friends with shared interests, and getting to know the community."

As part of an international organization, the club is for women only. It was started at a time when events were held during the day for women who weren't working, and would get home in time to make dinner for their husbands.

Although there are many events still held during the day, there are evening groups and special excursions as well, says Frayne, that include opportunities for couples to participate.

When she came to NOTL about 12 years ago, she was retiring from a very hectic job, and was looking for some activities to continue to keep her busy.

In pre-COVID times, there would be something to do almost every day if you wanted to be that busy, she says, as well as the special tours and excursions, which in the past have included Shaw Festival backstage tours, McFarland House, Willowbank, and Niagara College.

More recently, during COVID, Zoom meetings have included representatives from various community groups, including Shaw actors, members of the



A group of Newcomers members gathered pre-pandemic for the Coffee and Conversation group.

NOTL Historic Society and the Niagara Pump House Arts Centre, and the Voices of Freedom Park were all topics of monthly meetings last winter held by Zoom.

"They are great ways to learn about the community," says Henry. Additionally, there are opportunities to join about 15 or so interest groups, such as dinner and lunch clubs, biking, hiking and walking outdoor groups, and a new one starting this fall for "weekend walkers," says Henry.

There have been three lunch groups at one time, with about 60 members, cycling groups for all abilities, and two book clubs, although a third one is needed, says Kziazkiewicz.

A group called Waterc-

colour Wednesdays has been adapted to Zoom meetings — a book on a particular subject or a picture is chosen, and then all members discuss how to go about painting what is presented.

This fall, as meetings resume, it will be "an evolving situation," says Frayne, as COVID meeting protocols determine what can be in-person and what must be virtual — what was a 25-limit social gathering restriction would not work for general meetings.

Membership has declined, partly because of COVID, but also because the club is designed for people to join, make friends and move on.

"That's a healthy club when that happens," says Kziazkiewicz. "That's the intent of the club."

Next Wednesday, Oct. 20, the club is holding a Welcome Back Event at the pavilion in the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil, at 1565 Four Mile Creek Rd. It's intended to be an opportunity to renew \$25 memberships, get together with old friends, and make new ones — newcomers are welcome to attend to see what the club has to offer.

Members can sign up for interest groups, and those who attend are encouraged to bring a lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Members will also hear of the plans for monthly meetings and special events.

"We welcome new members, and hope they too will build connections and links," says Henry.

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Local musician previews video about friendship

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Terry Kozachenko's latest song, released Tuesday, is a tribute to a friend. But beyond that, it's also a paean to friendship in general, and a cautionary reminder to the listener to stop putting off what needs to be said until it's too late to say it.

To A Friend premiered this week on Kozachenko's YouTube channel (Terry K 3TL). The stunning video was shot and produced by local videographer Stacey Koudys, who has also done work for local bands Fat Moth and Moonfox, as well as Niagara-on-the-Lake musician Michaela Bekenn. The song itself was produced by NOTL resident Rayburn Blake.

Backed by Alan Ash (co-founder of the Niagara Ukesters) on bass and Kirk Smith on violin, Kozachenko's song is reflective, mournful and celebratory all at the same time. In it he laments "plans we had and dreams we couldn't complete," and "all that we were and never will be."

During a visit to Kozachenko's Virgil home, he speaks of many of his friends through the years for whom the song fits. But one in particular takes the bulk of the conversation.

Kozachenko lost his friend Richard Howard in 2020. The co-owner of Bogart's Bed & Breakfast with his husband David Johnston, Howard lost his battle to glioblastoma, the same form of brain cancer that claimed the lives of both Rush drummer Neil Peart and Tragically Hip singer Gord Downie.

The singer-songwriter met Howard more than 35 years ago when he recognized him as a fellow member of a Toronto tennis club while at an LCBO on Lakeshore Road. They struck up a conversation and became fast friends.

"Over the years, through relationship changes and divorces and various other traumas, Richard was always there," the 69-year-old tells *The Local*. "He always had my back."

He talks of reaching crossroads in his life twice, once while living in England and another while living and working in Vancouver. In both cases, Kozachenko turned to Howard for moral support. And, he says, Howard turned to him when issues arose in his own life.

"There were times when he was on the verge of various resolutions to his problems," Kozachenko says. "I remember one time he called and wanted to talk. I told him I was willing to talk to him as long as he didn't cry. He held onto that thing about not crying for years. It

became part of it."

Kozachenko was shocked to learn about Howard's illness.

"He had these little affections that we attributed to just getting older," he remembers. "But it started to get more serious. His husband would call with concerns about how much he was sleeping. It didn't take long. When he died, I posted on Facebook that most people are fortunate if they can count their close friends on the fingers of one hand, and I had just lost a finger."

The death of Richard Howard was a significant loss for Kozachenko.

"You kind of know when you get to a certain age," he reflects, "that you're not going to get a friend of 35 years anymore, unless you live to 108. I realize that I'm fortunate. I have Richard and I have my friend Dennis back in Toronto. He's 97-and-a-half. I visit him once a week, we sit down and have lunch and a couple beers. We met at the same tennis club around the same time."

The Sudbury-area native goes on to talk about his weekly golf outings with another group of area men. He's the self-professed old guy in the group of about 10. He claims the others are often a little surprised at the things that come out of his mouth.

He's noticed that the recent addition of a new member, a doctor, has ramped up the level of conversation when they gather post-round for drinks or a barbecue. And he places a high value on those conversations. It is clear that close, meaningful friendships are important to Kozachenko, something that is clearly felt when listening to *To A Friend*.

"Even though there's not going to be a 35-year relationship," he says, "we're getting some pretty good relationships in our little male group. You kind of need some people who almost in a parental kind of way say 'it's alright to talk about that.' My wife and I have a great relationship and can talk about anything, but sometimes you just need a male perspective."

Kozachenko first picked up a guitar when he was in Grade 7. He joined a band but was never confident enough to be the guitar player. Instead, he sang as they toured the Northern Ontario bar circuit covering Steely Dan, the Allman Brothers and the Doobie Brothers. In the early 1970s, he toured the U.S. in an old school bus performing in a lounge act at various hotels.

As a mature student, he attended various universities, but says he never finished anything. The one post-secondary experience that turned out to be relevant



The song was produced by NOTL resident Rayburn Blake in Terry Kozachenko's basement studio. (Mike Balsom)



Terry Kozachenko, in the new video he has released with the song *To A Friend*. (Photo supplied)

was the graphic arts program in printing and publishing at Algonquin College in Ottawa. Before Kozachenko could finish the program, he was hired by Campbell Printing, and his career in the industry began.

Over the years, as printing technology changed, he kept up with the changes, going on to work for Siemens in Germany and the U.K., and for WorldCom in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Six months after retiring in April 2018, a heart problem landed Kozachenko in the Hamilton General Hospital's intensive care unit for 13 days.

"It was a big wake-up call," he says now. "There's a certain urgency to get stuff done."

That's about when he connected with Rayburn

Blake. Visiting the NOTL post office, he stumbled upon Blake's poster advertising guitar lessons. He had recently picked up his guitar again, and was hoping to improve his technique.

Realizing that what he really wanted to do was record the songs he had written over the years, he convinced Blake to help him learn how to properly use his Tascam DP-24 digital portastudio. They assembled a collective they call 3TL — Third Time Lucky — and set about making a CD.

"Rayburn is a special gift to me," Kozachenko gushes. "Sometimes we're down here working on a song and I'm in heaven, working on my song with the lead guitar player from (pioneering 1960s Canadian rock band) Mashmakhan. I've learned more

from him than I ever could in a course."

The collective's 2020 album *Take A Little Ride*, produced by Blake, clearly shows the influence of Townes Van Zandt, Rodney Crowell and Lyle Lovett on Kozachenko's songwriting. Tracks such as *The Queen of Broken Hearts* and *Hardrock Town* (not the Murray McLachlan song) tell stories set to acoustic guitar in a mix of folk, country and gospel.

The album earned the group a Niagara Music Award nomination for best album, while the track *Pretty Baby* was nominated for best country song.

To A Friend is set to become the centrepiece in the group's next release. Kozachenko hopes to have all the songs for *Tell Me a Story* ready for the end of March,

2022. He plans to eventually conclude the trilogy he calls *Songs for Old Men* with an album tentatively titled *Rest in Peace*.

"That (title) can be a metaphor for whatever," he laughs, "but I'm looking at it as referring to the project resting in peace, not necessarily my imminent death."

Both projects will give him further opportunities to, as the lyrics of *To A Friend* say, "sing about life, and stories never told, sing about youth and growing old." And he knows he has to sing those songs now.

"The sky's the limit," says Kozachenko. "It doesn't matter how old you are or how young you are. Sometimes you are on a road and it has obstacles and sometimes it's smooth sailing. You have to see where it goes."

LocalSPORTS

Predators notch shutout at home, 6-2 win away

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Aggressive shooting, a balanced attack, strong defence and superb goal-tending gave the Niagara Predators a convincing weekend sweep of a home-and-home series against the Tottenham Thunder.

Oskar Spinnars Nordin notched his first shutout of the season, a dominating 5-0 win in front of a home crowd of 101 spectators at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

The Preds jumped out to an early lead on defenceman Brett Lee's unassisted first period goal. Jesper Eriksson and Manitoba native Gino Carter Squire, who was celebrating his birthday, followed to spot Niagara a 3-0 lead in the first 20 minutes.

Niagara peppered Thunder goalie Jack Boudreau with 32 shots in the first, while at the other end of the rink Spinnars Nordin turned away all 31 Tottenham attempts. Both teams ended the game with 61 shots on goal.

Alexander Insulander scored on a wrist shot about five minutes into the second period. Just two minutes later, Jesper Eriksson was levelled on a drive toward the Tottenham net, but was able to push the puck to Predators captain Mario Zitella. Zitella fed a perfect pass to linemate Dante Massi, who knocked it past Boudreau for the fifth Niagara

goal.

Insulander almost added a sixth one for the Predators in the third period, when he stole the puck from a Thunder defenceman, but was stopped on a breakaway by Tottenham goalie Mack Miracle, who replaced Boudreau for the final period.

Team captain Zitella assisted on every goal except Lee's. After four games, he leads the Predators with four goals and five assists.

After Niagara's first two games the previous weekend, when they took a number of unsportsmanlike conduct penalties, coach Andrew Whalen was happy the team was only penalized twice for minor infractions in the third period.

"We talked about it all week, we just kept reiterating," Whalen confirmed. "We know what the refs are like, just keep your mouths shut and play through. If we play Predators hockey then we'll be fine. If we get yapping and let the refs and the other team get in our heads, then it's a tough situation. I was very proud of the guys tonight."

Whalen was excited for Spinnars Nordin's first shutout of the season.

"I know he wanted to bounce back after the St. George game," Whalen said, referencing last Sunday's 4-2 road loss. "I'm really proud of him, he played great today."

Spinnars Nordin was quick to share the credit with his teammates.

"The boys kept it safe and clear in front of the goal," he told The Local. "I kept my calm. It feels great to get the first shutout. And the guys deserve it. These guys here are the most talented defencemen. They keep it safe every game."

As strong as their defensive game was this past weekend, the Predators ranks on the blue line continue to be depleted. Niagara Falls native Logan Baillie watched both games from the other side of the boards while recovering from a knee injury at

St. George on Oct. 3.

"It was near the end of the game, just the way I fell back on my leg," Baillie said. "It's a sprained MCL (medial collateral ligament). I guess I'm kind of glad that it happened as early as it did, so I can recuperate quickly for the rest of the season."

With the Grade 12 A.N. Myer student expected to be out for another two to three weeks, the Predators lineup is down to three defencemen. But general manager Johann Eriksson expects some new players to make their debut for Niagara this coming week-



Gino Carter Squire scored a goal on his birthday Friday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Continued on page 20



The Predators celebrate Brett Lee's opening goal.

LocalHAPPENINGS

MURDER MYSTERY PARTY ~ TERROR IN TRANSYLVANIA ~ AGES 14 – 21

October 12 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Register for October 25th because... It's Dracula's 500th birthday, and all of his ghoulish friends are invited! But beware: One of you may end up dead. Find the murderer before you meet the same fate. Come celebrate with Dracula! Mingle, eat pizza and get down...6 feet under. When one of Dracula's guests ends up dead, you and your friends must race against the clock to identify the murderer...but watch your back, or you might also find yourself as part of the unalive. Come in character for your chance to win the Best Dressed Award, and more. Please note: Proof of vaccination is required upon arrival.

MEET LOCAL AUTHOR JEAN BAKER

October 23 @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Join local author, Jean Baker, Fireside at the Library, as she talks about her novel, "Albatross Hall". No registration required. Books will be available for purchase. For more info, please visit: <https://notlpubliclibrary.org/>

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT HERE

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

LocalWORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, October 17th

10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering -
In-Person & Online

Message:
Kevin Bayne -
Let There Be Light

Our services are also
streamed online Sunday's
at 10 AM. Visit our website
for more information!

www.ccchurch.ca

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in this section, please contact:
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Contact by fax 905-468-2365 or huebelgrapesestates@gmail.com
Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted

SEASONAL

FULL TIME FARM WORKERS required for fruit farm April-October 2022. No experience or education required. Must be available 7 days/week in all weather conditions. Job entails pruning, thinning, harvesting fruit plus heavy lifting and considerable ladder work. Must have own transportation, minimum wage \$14.39/hr. Please mail resume with references to K.L. Farms, 100 Wall Rd., R.R. #3 Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0.
Only qualified persons will be contacted. (no walk ins)

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER



LAST WEEK'S
SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from
October 6, 2021

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

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6				7	8	9	10	11	12
13								14						
15								16						
17								18						
19					20							21	22	23
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38					39	40						41	42	43
44				45							46			
			47							48				
49	50	51								52				
53										54				
55										56				

- Across:
1 Habitual practice
7 National park in Tennessee
13 Punctual
14 Self-destruction
15 In this place
16 University of California campus site
17 In broad daylight
18 Does puzzles like this one
19 Consults
20 Shaped
21 Dram
24 "The Last Ship" channel
25 Reimburse
26 King Cole's fiddlers, for example
27 Kind of couch
29 Fine-grained rock
30 Steam
32 Admiration
34 Buffalo Bill and Iron Eyes
35 President who wrote "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever"
36 Seasoned
38 Father
39 For the nonce
41 Vase
44 Social group
- 45 Experimental kind of pig, maybe
46 Your largest joint
47 "Hogan's Heroes" actor --- Klemperer
48 Sudden attacks
49 Notorious White House intern
52 Ventilate
53 Pistil parts
54 What Hepburn called Tracy
55 Agree
56 Became taut
- Down:
1 Share the emceeing
2 Bumpy
3 Wise to urban ways
4 Bleachers' features
5 Leave out
6 Chess pieces, informally
7 Questionnaire
8 Raised drastically
9 Finishes off a cake
10 Small, in Dogpatch (Keats)
12 "I object!"
14 1965 civil rights march site
16 Get an advance
18 Bulgarian capital
20 Gangster's foe
21 ET radios nun about groups of workers
22 Smooth-talking
23 Lear's Pobble lost them
25 They don't go off
26 Norse thunder god
28 Domesticated
29 Surface gunk
30 Deepest part
31 "Nurse Jackie" lead --- Falco
33 Consumer, in a diner
37 "--- With Mussolini" (Zeffirelli movie)
39 Puckers
40 Where many participants get cold feet?
42 Lower
43 Wrote code within code
45 Aladdin's factotum
46 Member of a Myanmar ethnic group
47 Lean and muscular
48 Ready for harvest
49 Official go-between
50 "Little" '60s singer
51 "One --- or Another" (hit Blondie song)
52 Bermuda time, initially

OBITUARY

KOZAK, GISELA RUTH
SEPTEMBER 21, 1931 – OCTOBER 3, 2021



Friends of Gisela Kozak announce her peaceful passing on Sunday, October 3rd, 2021, having just recently celebrated her 90th birthday with her.

Gisela was born in Berlin, Germany and came to Newfoundland, bravely, as a young teenager, on her own, at the end of the war. She lived with her dear husband, Steve (d. 2007) for many years in Niagara-on-the-Lake which she considered home.

Prior to moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake, Gisela enjoyed and excelled at a career in Toronto as an executive assistant to the president at Canada Wire and Steel, and was an active member of Executive Women International for many years. She had a variety of interests including travel, gardening, photography, reading, and getting together with friends to not only celebrate festive occasions, but just to enjoy a good meal and a glass of Riesling or a crisp beer. She loved attending plays at the Shaw Festival Theatre and being a wine club member at local wineries. After selling her home in Old Town, she moved to a condominium nearby, where she continued to enjoy listening to classical music, chatting with friends and family far and wide, and watching the world go by from her 3rd floor windows. Her appreciation for all that life had to offer and her active lifestyle were inspirational! Until quite recently, she could be seen almost daily in the Commons, year-round, on her 5km walking route.

Gisela lived an admirable life built on independence and courage with a strength of spirit that both appreciated and celebrated the best that the world has to offer.

Treasured photos of Dennis, Daniela, Marion, Simone and Doris, members of Gisela's family in Germany, were always near her favourite chair. Graveside flowers mark Gisela's final resting place and condolences have been sent to the family.

We would like to thank the 5th floor nursing staff at the St. Catharines General Hospital for their attentive care of Gisela during her final days.

Interment will take place at Lakeshore Cemetery where Gisela will rest with her loving husband, Steve.

SUDOKU

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Custom, 7 Shiloh, 13 On time, 14 Suicide, 15 Herein, 16 Berkeley, 17 Over, 18 Solves, 19 Sees, 20 Formed, 21 Tot, 24 TNT, 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 Um, 44 Set, 45 Guinea, 46 Knee, 47 Werner, 48 Ralids, 49 Lewinsky, 52 Air out, 53 Ovaries, 54 Spence, 55 Say yes, 56 Tensed.
Down: 1 Co-host, 2 Unheven, 3 Street-smart, 4 Tiers, 5 Omit, 6 Men, 7 Survey, 8 Hiked, 9 Ices, 10 L'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.

LocalSPORTS

Fagano also offered superb goaltending

Continued from page 18

end. He continues to hope for the arrival of Russian defenceman Daniil Petrov, and has made inroads with another defender from France.

On Saturday in Tottenham, back-up goalie William Fagano, like Spinnars Nordin a native of Sweden, got the start against the Thunders. Fagano continued the run of superb goaltending for the Predators, stopping 53 of 55 shots in a 6-2 victory, and earning first star honours in the game.

Niagara jumped out to 2-0 lead in the first, with a power play goal by Insulander and one in even strength by Jesper Eriksen.

Tottenham's Alex Fornari made it 2-1 just over a minute into the second period, but the Predators roared back, scoring four more before the 40 minute mark. Zitella scored twice while Emil Eriksson and Dante Massi also had goals.

The Thunder scored their second goal in the



Predators goalie Oskar Spinnars Nordin makes the save as defencemen Nathan Fehr (23) and Brett Lee (22) protect the crease. (Mike Balsom)

third period on the power play while forward Reese Bisci was in the penalty box serving two minutes for elbowing.

The Predators will try to avenge their game two loss to St. George in a home game this Friday, Oct. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Adult

tickets are \$8, seniors and students get in for \$5, while children under 10 years old are admitted for free. For inquiries about

season tickets, call general manager Johan Eriksson at 905-341-7199.

They'll close out the weekend with a Sunday

afternoon game against Streetsville at Mississauga's Vic Johnston Community Centre arena Oct. 17. Game time is 12:30 p.m.

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