NNS kids love their new home

More than 20,000 people support Eden principal

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 Wool, Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake in the ’60s, who passed away in 2007. Wool, 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 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 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.

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Local restaurants react to continued capacity restrictions

Penny Coles
The Local

“Too 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 would lift 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 rollercoaster” 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 or not 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.”

Marla Marvirds 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 which is partially closed in, capacity is more like 40 per cent, for keep tables far enough apart.

“I don’t mind that we’re not crowded 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.”

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 lemonade stand and raise some money, and chose Pathstone Mental Health for Kids as the beneficiary of the efforts. (Photo supplied)

Kids helping kids

Hunter, Max, Preston and Jacob (front), with Dad Martin Lindquist, Mom Krystle Berrier, and family friend Thamna Kuroo-pan were at The Grits 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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Dr. Ernie Philpott
Dr. Greg Hooper

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Music Niagara’s Oktoberfest celebrates Brahms

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

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

Unfortunately for Banka, 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 Es- tefan and Natalie Cole), and Matti Pulkkii on accordion (from the renowned ensemble Quartetto Gelato), while enjoying a German-inspired flight of six beers along with an accompanying platter of Oast House snacks. Stout, of course, is tied more closely to Great Britain.

The duo known as Adatmi will regale the live audience with sing-alongs and polkas in true Bavarian Biergarten style in the second installment 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 Brau- haus Hefeweizen is sure to be on the menu as Joe Pillitteri of the Brewer’s Quarters and Toronto’s Odin Quartet, with husband and wife Duo Crozman (cello) and Peter Stoll (clarinet), Cam- eron Crouchman (cello) and Quartetto Gelato.

Again, Oktoberfest snacks including German salami, kebabas, pretzel buns, tri- ple crunch mustard, pickled beets, sauerkraut, emmen- tal-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 programs, provid- ing context and some history of Brahms and his connection to the other composers. New in this year’s production is a virtual performance of music by 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 so he finds the mate- rial and presents it. He’s done a lot of excursions to Europe for operas that were ground- breaking at the time. He un- derstands the music and the composers.”

Banks takes special plea- sure in welcoming the Odin Quartet back to Music Niag- ara. After all, Wohnen Alex Tostkov and Tanya Charles Iveniuk are former students of his at the Conservatory.

Tostkov, who speaks Span- ish, Russian, German, Norwe- gian and Serbian as well as En- glish, formed the Odin Quartet in 2015. The winner of The Glenn Gould School Chamber Music Competition in 2011 has appeared as principal violi- niist with The Toronto Concert Orchestra and Toronto Mozart Players, and has also recorded soundtracks for CBC.

Tostkov enjoyed collab- orating on the Brahms Okto- berfest repertoire with Banka. “It’s always a great expe- rience,” Tostkov 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 of 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 per- former. I think we match very well with our intuition and musicality.”

Charles Iveniuk has per- formed with the Odin Quar- tet and also as a solo per- former in the past with Music Niagara. She looks forward to visiting the region every year 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 Ca- ribbean. She is the recipient of the Women’s Art Associate of Canada - Luella McCleary Award, the Gabriella Dory Prize in Music, and the Ham- ilton Black History Association’s John C Holland Award.

She shed light on the varied talents of her fellow 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 ma- rachi 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 us- ing some of those elements.”

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

During the performance, to be aired on Oct. 28 on the Music Niagara website and the festivals’ YouTube channel, the four musicians worked together for a flaw- less performance, including a wonderful rendition of Brahms’ Hungarian Dance 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 $40 per couple plus HST, you will receive a bottle of Farmhouse Ale, a beer and cucumber salad with yogurt dressing and aged goat cheese, and a main course of choucroute garnie smoked white ham with bratwurst and confit pork belly, barraiser braised cabbage and garlic dill pota- toes with beer mustard cream.

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

Information and tickets for all three events are avail- able at musicniagara.org/ brahms-oktoberfest.
Facing noise complaints from party houses and noise issues, the Niagara Regional Police would be called. In its report, the committee says it checked with NRPS, and records indicate that very few fines, if any, are laid by the police, leaving residents “very frustrated and unable to enjoy their homes.” John Buchanan is a Garson Village resident, and one of those frustrated by a very disruptive neighbouring short-term rental used as a party house. 

The noise, parking violations, garbage, and security issues were 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 other people” that were registered in NOTL, including some with other neighbours who joined Buffalonian initiative to have the town address their concerns. 

Buchanan says he heard that there were “many bad apples,” and the committee says it “seems logical as the renters’ activities are unlikely to be the same for the most part. There are many well-managed unhosted STRs, and a minority that are not.” These are the ones that “create negative activity for the industry,” the committee’s report says. 

Most issues arise from unhosted, but unlicensed, rentals, says Burroughs, and the town has begun to crack down on those, with the haring 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 effective sleeping, housing, and enforcement issues.

But again, says Burroughs, there isn’t data available to gauge the impact of noise. 

Most issues, such as excess noise, occur after hours and on weekends, where 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 fines, if any, are laid by the police, leaving residents “very frustrated and unable to enjoy their homes.”

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The committee also recognizes the STR industry is “critical to supporting the local businesses in NOTL, by providing convenient accommodation 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 person 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 ad- vised to cease operations immediately.”

With the help of Grani- cus, the company contracted by the town to investigate unlicensed rental accommo- dations, and, importantly, funded through the fees of licensed rentals, not by tax- payers — 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 the 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 responsi- ble 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 re-commends” council explore cost-effective means of pro- viding after-hours enforce- ment for the STR program to be self-funding, and fees based on a cost-recovery ba- sis, staff should build a budget that reflects the revenues and expenses, says the report. Li- cence fees should be based on the budget, with activities such as inspections included in the budget. Should “coun- cil decide to expand municip- al law enforcement services to include after-hours and weekend services, an appro- priate portion of the costs should be assigned to the STR budget,” the report says.

Also, in September, coun- cil approved the implementa- tion of an Administrative Monetary Penalty System (AMPS) for non-compliance of certain town bylaws, to provide a more efficient pro- cess for payment, appeal and collection of penalties, which has been an issue in collect- ing fines for infractions. Noise, nuisance, and short- term rental bylaws are includ- ed.

While there are problem STRs, says Buchanan, he be- lieves 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 accommodation 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 “hollow- ing-out” of neighbourhoods by STRs, if data supports that and it can be quanti- fied, is also easily addressed, by restricting the number of licences per town block, Bu- chanan says. 

And with Marrice Clark- ie, the CAO in town, at the helm, Buchanan adds, he is confident she will deliver the necessary leadership expected as the STR recommen- dations move through the process.
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 year, as we look forward to our diamond anniversary season, “ said Carroll.

Heading into season number 60 in 2022, the Shaw Festival announces its 2022 season, with a focus on premieres, new works and Shaw Festival collaborations.

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 tempestuous delights of music, poetry and dance, and the other ignites the internal Shuttle 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 premieres 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 Festival 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 poses the moral questions concerning life, love 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 microphone, Shaw takes aim at doctors, preachers, the military and the aristocracy. The play follows the titular character, a warrior princess raised as a boy, as she brings the gods to 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 known 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.

Roundings precede the play at the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre are August Wilson’s Gem of the Ocean, directed by Phillip Akin, and Everybody, by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins, who also wrote Octoroon, which the Festival presented in 2017.

In the latter, László Bérecz 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 Berlitz’s A White Christmas, both at the Festival Theatre, directed by Molly Atkinson and Kate Hennig respectively.

Cases, 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.
Eat and shop locally, for good of the community

Restaurant owners can be forgiven their disappoint- ment 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 broad- casts 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 encour- aged to shop locally — and share our experiences on so- cial media with the hastag #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 Ni- agara-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 business- es in their community,” says Eduardo Laforquge, president and CEO of the NOTL Chamber. “Small, family-owned businesses were hit hard during the pandemic, and during this period 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 business- es, shop in local stores, whether looking for food, clothing, toys or trinkets.
- Takeout is still an option.
- You don’t have to takeout. Shopping locally to support local restaurants is an option.
- You don’t have to, takeout is still an option.

It not only does the busi- ness a favour, it also sup- ports the economy of the entire community.

- On social media, share local shopping ex- periences using #NiagaraMyWay. If you come across a #NiagaraMyWay post or ad, sharing it.
- Tell your businesses and encourage them to register their company with #NiagaraMyWay. There is no cost to them, but this will place their businesses on a landing page that people will see when they click through one of the ads.
- We all live through the same pandem- ic 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 with #NiagaraMyWay, and support local businesses.

We want to keep pushing that momentum forward.”

“Together, we can shop locally. If we’re eating out, we can choose fresh, local produce.”

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

Penny Coles 
The Local

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Congratulations, Ernie, on 39 years

Last week, Jane Andres wrote about Ernest Bell, who had been leaving his family in Clarendon, Ja- maica to come to NOTL as a farmworker for 39 years. He is retiring, and is looking forward to be- ing home for all the family milestones, and celebration- ing his grandchildren’s birthdays with real hugs.

Fortunately, the photo of Emie was missing from the story, so this week, we apologize to Ernie for the error, and say thank you for 39 years of working for Niagara farmers.

It’s not often that we get to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, and the present moment over not being error, and say thank you for 39 years of working for Niagara farmers.

It’s not often that we get to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, and the present moment. It’s a joy to see a lifetime of hard work come to fruition for someone like Ernie. He has given so much to his family, his community, and his country. We wish him all the best in his retirement.

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

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Continued on page 7
Burns has worked to make Eden more inclusive

Continued from page 1

will not try to introduce im-
pressionable students to Sa-
tanic practices or symbol-
ism. The word ‘inclusion’
must take a bit of the focus 
here. I recently spoke with 
both of a parent and a former 
current Eden student who 
preferred not to be named. 
This parent spoke to com-
plete support of Sharon’s on-
goings 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 class-
rooms.

As a recently retired DSBN 
teacher who had the pleasure 
with Burns when she 
was the vice principal at Laura 
Second. I have watched in awe 
as this volunteer firefighter and 
caregiving, community 
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 
principal I have ever seen in 
my 29 year career.

Is not that the true 
meaning of inclusion?

The use of the phrase ‘Sa-
tanic practice’ continues.

Loving a heavy metal band 
and appropriating its symbols 
does not make one a Satanist.

I was a huge fan of Iron Maid-
en beginning with their first 
album back in 1980. While 
in high school, I copied their 
headbanging (very rough!) of their mascot, 
Eddie, all over my notebooks. 
I can attest to the accusation 
I am not now nor have I ever 
been a worshipper of Satan.

My love for the driving beat 
and screamed, guttural 
bands such as Black Sabbath, 
Judas Priest and Iron Maid-
en did not lead me down 
that path. It was and still is 
aggressive, loud, virtual-
ly-played fast-paced rock 
that has appealed to me for 
more than 40 years.

When Iron Maiden re-
leased 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, 
it was just plain bad taste. 

The song is actually about 
someone accidentally discov-
ering a black magic ceremony 
in the middle of the night and 
racing away from it in fear. 
It most definitely does not en-
courage or expose the wor-
ship of dark deities.

A quick search of the 
in-
ternet Monday resulted in 
nothing but news articles 
about Burns had captured 
worldwide attention. Mu-
sic-oriented websites such as 
Psychedelic Sound, Not Just 
Express and Ultimate Classic 
Rock all picked up on the sto-
ry. So did the New York Post.

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

Anyone who knows Sha-
ron Burns knows her contri-
butions to the NOTL com-
munity. 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 petitioners 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 read-
ers 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 aus-
picies 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 effective-
ly 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 fund-
ed 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 stand-
ing up for what they believe 
in. But it’s important to re-
member that as a public-
ly-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 sup-
port for a rock band and not 
for the prince of darkness.

Should Burns have per-
haps refrained from posting 
those photos on that Insta-
gram account? Probably. She 
has wisely since removed 
them from her profile. Per-
haps it would have been ac-
ceptable for her to have post-
ed them from an account not 
linked in any way to the Eden 
community.

And perhaps the offend-
ed Eden parents would have 
gotten better results by just 
talking to Sharon about their 
concerns. By starting a peti-
tion on change.org they be-
gan a public battle that was 
impossible for them to win.

Future will see society more ecoscentric

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 
grew 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 wet-
lands drained today. He no-
tices some beleaguered and 
annoyed friends of his com-
menting on how this can’t be 
true, so Facebook has used its 
algorithm to fact-check their 
very comments.

Bored of the noise, the boy 
decides to check out some 
spots highlights. Wait — he 
wouldn’t wonder why on earth 
there is a separate page about 
forest loss on this website about 
spots! Curiously, he switches 
every time what’s playing at 
the local cinema. Across the 
top of the theatre’s website is 
a_heading talking about Ontar-
io’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, 
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 world gatherings.

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

He realizes that this situa-
tion is enormous and impos-
tible to ignore. A boy, fascinated 
by all of this hysteria and tech-
no-media influence, decides 
to do some research. He learns 
that while his parents lived 
a comfortable, luxuri-
ous, 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 wet-
lands are irreplaceable carbon 
sinks — these special ecosys-
tems which absorb and bind 
more carbon than they emit 
into a warming world. He 
learns that just because a spe-
cific area of the world doesn’t 
feel warmer, per se, that 
doesn’t mean that other areas 
may not be experiencing 
drying up, or oceans aren’t 
becoming more acidified by 
working overtime to absorb 
the excess carbon we’ve 
burned off. He sees how scien-
tists from the 2020s tried to 
sound the alarm about how 
losing biodiversity would have 
direct ties to overall ecos-
system health, and that eco-
systems keep water, healthy 
soil, and pollinators close to 
our communities.

It is then the boy real-
izes he has an opportunity 
for his generation. When the 
environment finally becomes 
not just one, but the one 
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 them-
sehve have become obsolete, 
as the world wakes up and 
realizes that a healthy natural 
environment equals a healthy 
human society — an ecoscen-
tric society at that.
Learn about Redan Battery and Battle of Queenston Heights

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

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 Queenston 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.

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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 Kathryn Powell, curator at St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canal Centre, to present the next instalment of their Fall Virtual Lecture Series on 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.

"When you hear a number like that, you don’t put faces to names, and it doesn’t feel personal, until you hear those personal stories," she will highlight some of these stories that were uncovered during the research on the Fallen Workers Memorial project.

From the stories, we 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.

"They were building the Welland Canal to support the workers," Powell explains. "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."

Material for the lecture was gathered as part of the Fallen Workers Memorial project.

"Back in 2013, 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 project and the community. They moved to make a memorial for them in the Welland Canal to support the workers." Powell says they found that there were 138 names on the list of accidental deaths. During the research, they also found some of the names. They found 20 more names that were uncovered during the research.

"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 promises were made to honour these men. The federal government, through the Department of Canadian Heritage, contributed a significant amount to the project. Powell explained that the local municipalities in Niagara contributed something to the project, including the City of St. Catharines. Other memorials stand 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 has 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 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 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.notlmuseum.ca.

For more information, please contact Amy Klassen, aklassen@nhsm or at the NOTL Museum at 905-468-3912.
How to select the right garage door

Submitted by
Overhead Door

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

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.

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

As many of the off- season workers at 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 refurbish- ing 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 man- agement 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 dona- tions from the community helped to make their organi- zation self-sustaining. 

A grant from the Ni- agara Community Foun- dation 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 al- though 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 abili- ty to deliver bikes and services to farmworkers—donations from the community were down in the 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, with the help of a handful of volunteers, says Gaudet. In October 2019, pre-pandemic, the group of volunteers had already refurbished 549 bikes and repaired about 360 bikes brought to them by farm- workers. 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 Thurs- days, 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 volun- teers 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 vol- unteers in their 80s, so we’re not fooling around. And we’ve all been vacci- nated. If anyone is donat- ing 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. Vol- unteers ensure all repaired bikes meet their operating standards. 

“We go through a 50-point inspection pro- cess 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 do- nated by the community is still a fast and foremost what they do, says Gaudet, and donations of adult bikes continue, if in the future 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. Some- times 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 farm- workers begin to arrive back in town. Then, after a brief time off over the holidays, at the beginning of January the Winter Bike Repair Pro- gram begins. 

Although some work- ers will crate and ship their bikes home to the Caribbe- an 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 be- hind for next year. 

In November, when the workers have gone, Gaudet will begin hitting the larg- er farms, where he has de- veloped good relationships with the farmers, and will pick up the bikes left be- hind. 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 for- ward to expanding the program, as it eliminates one more thing the work- ers have to worry when they return to their em- ployer.”

COVID is also present- ing challenges with supply chains, and getting parts and components for bicy- cles can be difficult, with long delays and increased prices for new parts, so now, says Gaudet, they’re focusing on mountain and hybrid bikes, for which parts are more readily available. ANY NOTL farm op- eration interested in hav- ing 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.

Penny Coles
The Local
Whether a Biker or a Baptist

It doesn’t matter if you’re a Biker or a Baptist. If you prefer a church, a garden, or a pub. If you want stories and laughter or silent tranquility. A procession or a party. No matter what your budget, the only thing a funeral absolutely has to be is whatever you want it to be.

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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 few 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, other women, 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 Kziakiewicz.

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 go 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 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 something to do almost every day if she 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 NOTL Historic Society and the Niagara Pumphouse 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 Kziakiewicz.

A group called Watercolour 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 Kziakiewicz. “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.
Local musician previews video about friendship

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Terry Kozačenkov’s latest song, released Tuesday, is a tribute to a friend. But beyond that, it’s also a plea 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.

Kozačenkov premiered this week on Kozačenkov’s YouTube channel (Terry K JTL). The stunning video was shot and produced by local videographer Stacey Kosydas, who has also done work for local bands Fat Moh and Moonfox, as well as Niagara-on-the-Lake musician Michaela Behenn. 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, Kozačenkov’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 Kozačenkov’s Virgil home, he speaks of many of his friends through the years for whom the song fits. But in particular takes the bulk of the conversation.

Kozačenkov 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 drummers 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 ICBO on Lake Shore 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 talked of reaching a crossroads in his life twice, once while living in England and the other while living and working in Vancouver. In both cases, Kozačenkov turned to Howard for moral support, as well as to help him get on his feet when he stumbled 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.

Six months after retiring in April 2018, a heart problem landed Kozačenkov 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.”

“Kozačenkov was shocked to learn about Howard’s illness. “He had these little af- fections that we attributed to just getting older,” he re- members. “But it started to get more serious. His hus- band called with concerns about how much he was sleeping. It didn’t take long. When he died, I posted on Facebook that most peo- ple 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 to Kozačenkov. “You kind of know when you get to a certain age,” he reflects, “that you’re not go- ing 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.

“Kozačenkov noticed that the recent addition of a new mem- ber, 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’s clear that close, meaningful friendships are important to Kozačenkov, something that is clearly felt when listening to Terry Kozachenko, in the new video he has released with the song To A Friend. “Even though there’s not going to be a 35-year re- lationship,” he says, “we’re getting some pretty good re- lationships 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 rela- tionship and can talk about anything, but sometimes you just need a male perspective.”

Kozačenkov 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 and would cover country with Steve 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 universi- ties, but says he never finished anything. The one post-secondary experience that turned out to be relevant was the graphic arts program in printing and publishing at Algoma University in Ot- tawa. Before Kozačenkov could finish the program, he was hired by Campbell Printing, and his career in the industry began.

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

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 be- come the centrepiece in the group’s next release. Koza- čenkov 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 neces- sarily my imminent death.”

Both projects will give Kozačenkov further opportunities to, as the lyrics to To A Friend say, “sing about life, and sto- ries never told, sing about youth and growing old.” And he knows he has to sing these songs now.

“The sky’s the limit,” says Kozačenkov. “It doesn’t mat- ter 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.”

The song was produced by NOTL resident Rayburn Blake in Terry Kozačenkov’s basement studio. (Mike Balsom)
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 defender Brett Lee’s unassisted first period goal. Jesper Eriksson and Manitoban 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 4-2 road loss, “I’m really proud of him, he did a solid job,” coach Andrew Whalen said, referencing last Sunday’s game.

“I was very proud of the guys tonight. "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 shut-out. 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 Bailie watched both games from the other side of the boards while recovering from a knee injury at the Meridian Credit Union Arena. "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."
HELP WANTED

HUEBEL GRAPES ESTATES

is looking for general seasonal full time laborer workers. Duties include pruning, tying, suckering, canopy management and harvesting. Must be willing to work long hours, including weekends from March to November. Must be fit and enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions. No experience or education required. Wage $14.39/hr. Own transportation. Working in Niagara on the Lake / Queenston L0S 1J0. Contact by fax 905-468-2365 or huelblgrapesestates@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. Must have own transportation, minimum wage $14.39/hr. Please mail resume with references to K.L. Farms, 10005 Lakeshore Rd. #3, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0. Only qualified persons will be contacted. (no walk ins)

PEOPLE WANTED

To work long hours, including weekends from March to November. Must be fit and enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions. No experience or education required. Must be available 7 days/week in all weather conditions. Fruit plus heavy lifting and considerable ladder work.

CROSSWORD

Across:
1. Habitual practice
2. National park in Tennessee
3. Punctual
4. Self destruction
5. In this place
6. University of California campus site
7. In broad daylight
8. Does puzzles like this one
9. Consults
10. Shaped
11. Drawn
12. "The Last Ship" channel
13. Reimburse
14. King Cole's fiddlers, for example
15. Kind of cough
16. Fine-grained rock
17. Steam
18. Administration
19. Buffalo Bill and Iron Eyes
20. President who wrote "Liberty, once lost, is lost forever"
21. Seasoned
22. Father
23. For the nonce
24. Vale
25. Social group

Down:
1. Share the emcee's
2. Bumpy
3. Wise to urban ways
4. Bleachers' features
5. Leave out
6. Chess pieces, informally
7. Questionnaire
8. Rasted drastically
9. Finishes of a cake
10. Small, in Dogpatch
11. "--- to a Nightingale"
12. "--- of the Hosts"
13. Custom
14. Suicide
15. Herein
16. Berkeley
17. Overt
18. Solves
19. Codys
20. Formed
21. Tot
22. TNT
23. Defray
24. Trio
25. Studio
26. Shale
27. Be mad
28. Awe
29. Awe
30. Awe
31. Awe
32. Awe
33. Awe
34. Awe
35. Adams
36. Mature
37. Sire
38. Pro tem
39. Urn
40. Set
41. Guinea
42. Knee
43. Werner
44. Sees
45. Guinea
46. Knee
47. Werner
48. Raids
49. Lewinsky
50. Air out
51. Ovaries
52. Spence
53. Say yes
54. Tensed

55. Experimental kind of pig, maybe
56. Your largest joint
47. "Hogarth's Heroes" actor ---
58. Klemperer
49. Sudden attacks
50. Notorious White House intern
51. Ventilates
52. Pool parts
53. What I-Kubeun called Tracy
54. Agree
55. Became taut
56. Down:
1. Share the emcee's
2. Bumpy
3. Wise to urban ways
4. Bleachers’ features
5. Leave out
6. Chess pieces, informally
7. Questionnaire
8. Rasted drastically
9. Finishes of a cake
10. Small, in Dogpatch
11. "--- to a Nightingale"
12. "--- of the Hosts"

SUDOKU

Across:
1. Custom
2. Shiloh
3. On time
4. Suicide
5. Herein
6. Berkeley
7. Overt
8. Solves
9. Codys
10. Adams
11. Mature
12. Sire
13. Pro tem
14. Urn
15. Set
16. Guinea
17. Knee
18. Werner
19. Sees
20. Formed
21. Tot
22. TNT
23. Defray
24. Trio
25. Studio
26. Shale
27. Be mad
28. Awe
29. Awe
30. Awe
31. Awe
32. Awe
33. Awe
34. Awe
35. Adams
36. Mature
37. Sire
38. Pro tem
39. Urn
40. Set
41. Guinea
42. Knee
43. Werner
44. Sees
45. Guinea
46. Knee
47. Werner
48. Raids
49. Lewinsky
50. Air out
51. Ovaries
52. Spence
53. Say yes
54. Tensed

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.
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 Eriksson. 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 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.