St. Davids pool, dust, other issues discussed at virtual meeting

Penny Coles
The Local

When Mike Pearsall, president of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association, met virtually with Lord Mayor Betty Disero last week, there were a couple of “hot topics” to discuss, with the fate of a community swimming pool at the top of his list.

“The pool is exceptionally important to us. It’s at the top of the list for the people of St. Davids,” said Pearsall. “A lot of people count on it,” he told Disero.

He said he and other villagers made the decision not to put a pool in their backyard, choosing to use the community pool instead.

But there wasn’t one this year, and there is a question of what will happen in the future.

The Lions Park pool didn’t open for the season, due to cost, and the plan was to re-open for the season, due to the effects of COVID-19.

But there was no one this year, and there is a question of what will happen in the future.

The next stage of development at the community swimming pool at the top of his list.

There has been “minimal growth” in the area since he moved to the community, he adds, and although the plans are in place for that to change, it won’t be happening soon.

As a member of the district plan community focus group for more than two years, Hardaker says it’s exciting to see the hard work of those years get to this point, but he cautions it will likely be another five years or more before he and his neighbours see shovels in the ground, and several decades until the 400 hectares of developable land are built out.

The next stage of development, although it might be a while in coming, he says, will eventually bring more of the amenities those living in the area would like to see — restaurants, doctors’ offices and a long-awaited grocery store.

“Tha's one of the main comments we hear. Getting some of those amenities is high on the list of desires for Glendale residents,” he says.

But the mixed density housing, also part of the district plan, will have to come first, increasing the population of the area sufficiently to attract the kind of businesses that will serve residents, and

Continued on page 2
continued from page 1

Weary about that, he said. “The pool is the one solid answer to the community, and I’m not sure the Town sees it that way.”

Peerless pointed to its location on the private Dycie Lane, behind Hickory Avenue homes, which has been one that has remained unresolved for more than a decade. Residents have been looking for a resolution to the extreme dust kicked up by traffic from the private lane, especially on the dry, hot days of summer, since 2006, and have been talking to council and staff this summer, desperate for a solution that has eluded them for years.

This is the third council, and hopefully, after last week’s discussion, the last they will have for a while.

After meeting with council in closed session earlier this month, Disero told Peerless she had looked at “different solutions,” including finding an alternate traffic pattern that would involve removing Dycie Lane, a gravel road that provides access to three homes. “This one has been a thorn in everyone’s side for over five years, for me anyway, and I’m sure even before that for residents,” said Disero.

This summer, with frustra- tions levels rising, “a calcium fairy” dropped some calcium on the ground near the pool, Peerless said. “It has come out and spread on the lane to reduce the dust problem, she said.

After the recent closed ses- sion of council, Disero said, staff were directed to “finalise and complete negotiations with all interested parties,” and achieve an amendment on the use of Dycie Lane. If a solution cannot be achieved by Dec. 1, the Town will impose “an alternate traffic pattern” to resolve the matter.

Peerless added that it would be good news to hear the Town is taking a stand, and that the solution has to be fair to both sides, those on Hickory Avenue suffering from the dust problems, and the homeowners who use Dycie Lane to get to and from their properties.

Mike Pearsall resident Bill Krahn, who spoke to council about the issue this summer and has been bemoaning councillors, along with his neighbours, with emails asking for a resolution, said he believes “it will come up with a 100 per cent simple solution,” at little cost.

If the three residents of Dycie Lane agree, and Hickory Avenue will be hearing to hear a resolution.

Even before that for residents, “I know now the stench you have to live with. ”

“The best way to deal with it is to notify town staff when the light and odour occur, through the service requests and complaints section on the Town’s website home page.”

“The Town is also looking at a nuisance bylaw addressing odour and light, she said, “and hopefully we’ll be able to deal with it better.”

On the issue of the path connecting Lions Park with the Cannery Park subdivision, which was supposed to be completed two years ago, Randall said “the setting” of its location is finished, and the next step is thinning some brush and identifying what trees need to be removed, “if any.” Then it’s a matter of seeing wharts in the budget to fund it, he said.

On the “rumours” of the St. Davids firehall being re- located, Randall and Disero explained nothing has been decided, and it won’t happen without public consultation.

There have been discussions of consolidating the Queenston and St. Davids firehalls, and if that happens, the Town will be looking for an appropriate site, including possibly Lions Park.

“There have already been discussions with the St. Da- vids Lions Club, Randall said, but Disero made it clear that wouldn’t be her choice. ”

Disero also promised to look into the status of fencing a consultant to report on heri- tage attributes in the village and the possibility of a heri- tage conservation district, she agreed to talk to the Region about a community safety- ty zone on Four Mile Creek Road, similar to the one by the school, which has been so suc- cessful the Region has institut- ed 16 more this year, including Croasroads Public School on Niagara Stone Road, and that on an on-demand transit is op- erating, the Town will look at extending it to St. Davids. She also said she would look into the possibility of a recreational trail to connect St. Davids to the Niagara River Recreational Trail, and suggested secondary plan discussions for the village could begin in January.

Both Disero and Pearsall agreed their meeting was pro- ductive, and should happen on a regular basis.

“Hopefully someday soon we’ll be able to do it in per- son and see everybody face to face,” said Disero, closing with a request for everyone to follow provincial guide- lines regarding the pandemic, and be safe. “Please look after yourselves and stay healthy,” she said.

Less than a week after the meeting, he told The Local, Dis- ero had emailed him confirm- ing some of the details on issues they had discussed, and he was grateful for the opportunity to get them on the table and hope- fully move them forward. The virtual meeting was Disero’s idea, he said, “and I was very impressed that she ap- proached me about it. I was glad for the opportunity to get the di- alogue going. At least we know our concerns are being heard.”
Micky home, adjusting to life on three legs

Penny Coles
The Local

On Thanksgiving weekend, Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Janice White had reason to feel grateful.

“I do give thanks that I was able to rescue this sweet kitten, and hopefully he’ll have a better life than he would have had,” she said. White rescued the kitten, whom she named Micky, after he was hit by a vehicle on Lakeshore Road.

He had his surgery last Monday, Oct. 5, to remove a badly damaged front leg, and was supposed to be confined to a cage last week.

“By day four,” White says, “he was raring to do all things kitten, and keeping him quiet was very challenging, especially in the middle of the night.” She says he is adjusting very well to life on three legs.

“We are working on his balance, and my neighbor built a ramp so he can get on the bed without jumping.”

As of Sunday “the dreaded cone was to come off,” giving him a bit more freedom. White says she’s also thankful for all the community support, adding, “just a reminder that there are many cats and kittens like Micky who desperately need a second chance too, so please support the local rescue organizations.”

Glendale development will bring more amenities for residents

Continued from page 1

the jobs that will accompany them, Hardaker says.

The Region is projecting as many as 15,000 people, and 7,500 jobs by the time development is complete.

The regional official plan amendment, and an updated secondary plan, will ensure future development in Glendale is consistent with the vision as laid out in the district plan, says Hardaker.

Then it’s time for property owners and developers to submit their proposals, with the likelihood of “tweaking” some of the zoning to accommodate their plans, before any construction begins.

He’s enjoyed being part of the process to date, and believes the success of the district plan has been the collaboration of all parties involved, and the inclusion of the residents throughout.

Future development in NOTL and across the region should follow that model,” says Hardaker.

“I hope that when the Town updates the Glendale secondary plan, they will do it in the same way. And you bet I’ll be there. I’d like to be part of it.”

On Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. the Region will hold a virtual public meeting to discuss the official plan amendment to incorporate the vision and direction of the Glendale District Plan.

More information on the Glendale District Plan can be found at niagararegion.ca/projects/glendale-niagara-district-plan/

To provide input during the meeting, and receive information on how to do so, participants must re-register with the regional clerk at clerk@niagararegion.ca, before 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6.

Written submissions can be emailed to the same address, or mailed to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Ontario, L2V 4T7.
Patio owners hoping for an extension

Penny Coles
The Local

Restaurant owners in the heritage district are asking for permission to keep their permanent patios for one more season.

Sales have been significantly down from previous years, and they'd like to keep them open longer, and know that they will be able to use them again next year, says a letter to council, signed by seven restaurant owners in the heritage district.

Pandemic restrictions may carry into next year, and even in “the best case scenario, we will still be recovering from the losses this year,” says the letter. “We cannot emphasize how important the patios have been to the survival of our businesses. It is for these reasons we would like to start planning ahead for next year.”

Coun. Allan Bisback, chair of the municipal heritage committee, says the request was on this week’s agenda to consider, and council is expected to deal with it later this month.

If issues such as snow-plowing around the patios can be accommodated, perhaps with barriers, he'd be inclined to support their request, he says.

Restaurant owners are hoping for a commitment so they can plan ahead, possibly hoping for a commitment so they can plan ahead, possibly purchasing more outdoor furniture, planting and budgeting for the outdoor space, and finding storage space for what they’ve already purchased.

They are very open-minded and willing to work with the town, but cannot express how important the patios for restaurants and their necessity for the next summer season as well.

There are other restaurants, not on Queen Street, who may face different hurdles if they want extensions, but they won't require approval from the heritage committee, just from the Town.

The response to patios “has been overwhelmingly positive, from visitors and locals alike,” and patios are still preferring to sit outdoors, in what is still considered the safest environment, but most of the Queen Street restaurants with patios still only reached 50 per cent of their sales, they say.

The Town permit for patios ends Oct. 31, although the provincial regulation allows for them to continue until Jan. 1, 2022.

The city of St. Catharines is allowing their patios, approved during the pandemic, to continue to operate under the same conditions as before.

In the best case scenario, we would like to start planning ahead for next year,” says the letter. “We cannot emphasize how important the patios have been to the survival of our businesses. It is for these reasons we would like to start planning ahead for next year.”

Coun. Wendy Cheropita has given a notice of motion for the next council meeting to extend patio permits, but says staff will have to work through snow removal and safety issues first.

“COVID doesn’t appear to be going away anytime soon so it might be in the restaurants’ best interest to look for a further extension through 2022,” she says.

The Ontario Restaurant Association is also lobbying the provincial Alcohol and Gaming Commission to extend licences for serving alcohol outdoors beyond this year, she says.

Maria Mavridis, whose family owns the Flame Firehall and Corks Wine Bar & Eatery on Queen Street, says the patio they built on the sidewalk outside Flame, spending $15,000 to $20,000 on it, would not pose any issues for snow removal.

She hopes the town council will support an extension for next year.

It was a large investment, and it’s important for planning and budgeting purposes to know if they will be able to continue to use it.

“It saved our season. People are still comfortable going inside. They’re more open to sitting outside with a heater,” she says.

If the restaurant is allowed to keep the patio open, she says, they can look at investing in ways for making it more comfortable, such as adding plexiglass as a shield to the weather.

While she understands the heritage committee might not want to commit to the patios as permanent fixtures, “we’re hoping for next season for sure, and we’ll see what happens after that.”

Kim and Scott Gauld, owners of the Sunset Grill, have also invested heavily in an outdoor patio. They’ve survived, so far, but winter is coming, “and the unknown is scary,” says Kim.

Support from locals has been great, she says, “but that makes us nervous too. It’s a catch-22. They rely heavily on following all the guidelines and regulations to keep themselves and their customers safe, and the patio has helped in that regard.

“We’re hopeful that council will approve them for another season. Patios have been crucial to our recovery,” says Gauld, “and we’ll continue to be as we look at the possibility of returning to phase 2, or another shutdown.”

It will take several years to recoup the losses of this year, she says. “We would love to know now if we will be able to have a patio for next season. It would alleviate some anxiety, and allow us to plan and prepare for next season. Anything like this is helpful, and hopeful in these unchartered times.”

Restaurants Canada is saying up to 60 per cent of those that close their doors will not reopen, she says.

“This is scary, but knowing that we could have another patio season gives some hope that we can make it through the pandemic.”

Travellers enjoy free overnight parking on Byron Street

Penny Coles
The Local

Google free overnight parking in Niagara-on-the-Lake for RVs, and you might be surprised to find the address for St. Mark’s Anglican Church pop up.

Coun. Gary Burroughs has been questioning why so many RVs are parking overnight on Byron Street, taking up free spaces used by the church and visitors to Simcoe Park.

Even on Tuesday morning, after the long weekend, there was one RV still parked on the street by the church.

It’s not surprising, when 41 Byron Street, the address of St. Mark’s Church, is mentioned on a popular RV site as a good, free parking spot.

It’s behind a park in the historic district of Niagara-on-the-Lake, one comment says, there are washrooms and picnic tables close by. Another said it’s very quiet after sunset.

They also mentioned parking along the street because they weren’t crazy about parking beside a cemetery.

On Sunday, when Burroughs went to church, there were four RVs parked on Byron Street, all from Quebec.

“Quebec has some strict limits (because of COVID),” says Burroughs.

“Yet here they are in Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

There is also a comment on the same site from RV owners who enjoyed a nice stay on Firelane 1 in NOTL.

Burroughs has asked the town planning department about ticketing, but so far the only answer he’s received is that there is no ban on parking overnight in unpaved, unmarked areas.

Twice Burroughs says he has politely asked RV owners to move down the road a bit, to free up the space in front of the entrance to St. Mark’s Church, which he attends.

One was for a wedding this weekend, the other for the first in-church service Thanksgiving Sunday.

Both times, the response has also been polite, and the driver has pulled forward on the street, away from the church, he says.

Most, if not all, of the RVs he has seen, have Quebec licence plates.

With COVID rates even higher in Quebec than Ontario, especially in Montreal, “inter-regional travel” from what Quebec calls its “red zones” or hot spots of coronavirus, is not recommended, but is not prohibited.

Burroughs has asked for signs on the street banning overnight parking on Byron Street, but he’s been told there is no bylaw to back that up.

“If I was a hotel owner in town, I wouldn’t be happy about free parking for RVs,” he says.
Welcome Home – A Positive Spin to COVID

I have moved 27 times in pursuit of a feeling of comfort and home only to find it here, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Born in France and raised by Portuguese parents, I had already lived in 6 different houses before I left home. My first time living in the Niagara area was on move 13 when I came to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Montreal, to be on the Casino Niagara Opening Team and stayed five years. Initially settling in St. Catharines in 1996, I discovered Niagara-on-the-Lake six months into my stay and made my move to this most beautiful quaint town by the water, initially renting a home on Regent street then buying on The Promenade right next to our Lord Mayor. Living in this area filled my heart with joy. Not only did I have a great job and new friends, I hosted two students from Venezuela for a full school year and found this amazing place called the Pumphouse where I spent time drawing with other like-minded artists. For personal reasons, after 5 years here, I left Niagara and headed to Europe only to return a year after living in England to my home in Niagara-on-the-Lake for one more year, this time working for Niagara on the Lake Vintage Inns. I continued moving, back to Europe, then Montreal for an additional 3 moves until I returned to the Niagara area of Port Dalhousie to start my Coaching Business, leaving behind my Executive Corporate job. Not only was I back in Niagara, an area that has always stirred my heart, I was starting a new coaching and women’s retreat business and returned to school to complete a Master of Leadership Degree as well. Less than two years later I was off again, needing to be closer to airports for new projects in Africa and Nunavut, South America, US and Europe that would continue for 9 more years. I moved an additional six more times before coming back to Niagara-on-the-Lake. When COVID hit, 90% of my work was halted, and I came to the realization that life was short, and I needed to make a decision with respect to how I really wanted to live. I knew how to work but not so much how to live. I had been traveling non-stop facilitating Leadership and Coaching Programs and Coaching others across the globe, but not really living my own life.

With this pause in work, I decided it was time to finally write a book about my 26 moves only to realize as I was writing that my last place of residence, wasn’t home. I needed to come home. Even though I was born in France and raised in Montreal, Niagara is home to me. I have never felt like I belonged anywhere but here. Move 27, in August was to Niagara-on-the-Lake to continue my one-on-one Human Exploration, Coaching Practice, helping people who are serious about life make the changes they need in their life. I can speak from experience that moving through change is how we grow, yet you don’t need to physically move as I did to find your bliss. I am settling in with my garden and chickens, joined the Pumphouse and am looking forward to this new chapter in my life.

Our mind doesn’t know the way, our heart has already been there, and our soul has never left. Welcome home!

Wayne Dyer

What If You Knew There was Something Completely Different Possible?
What if the Only Thing Stopping You is You?
What would you want/need to do?

Coaching Human Beings Who Are Serious About Life and Change: Entrepreneurs, Executives, Leaders, Teams, Groups, Individuals

Tina Dias, MA, PCC, coaching since 2006.
Where were town bylaw officers?

On Sunday, Oct. 11, the ‘anti horses brigade’ were out with more than 30 people. May I remind you of the law set by our premier, Doug Ford, that large gatherings are banned, yet these people were allowed to walk about, block the roads, etc. and not wear masks. My question is, where was the bylaw officer? I had to personally call 911 and get the police down, as their council and town hall did nothing. I asked some of the protesters why no mask? Their answer was, “don’t be stupid, we are outside.”

When questioned about large group gatherings, they said nothing but shoved a microphone in my face and shouted, “No more horse-drawn carriages.” I would very much like a reply today. Our shops are being affected in sales, children crying in fear. Police can’t act without bylaw there, but they weren’t around or were hiding, as I suddenly could not find any when people were out protesting.

On the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

My Octopus Teacher is an engrossing film that closely chronicles a year of the interaction between Craig Foster and a curious young octopus, who slowly came to trust him. This gentle examination of patience and acceptance will impact on the thinking of all viewers. I believe everyone must experience this sensitive film.

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

The full week of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca.

In Part II of my podcast, thanks to AstroButterfly, we get Mars Retrograde – The Hero’s Journey.

Friday, Oct. 16: The Sun and the Moon are together at 23 degrees of Libra. It’s the new Moon. And while it is one of the most difficult new Moons of the year, it is also one of the most action packed. We need a bit of a push to get our motor running. And it was Oct. 16, 1968 that African-American Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists, a symbol of Black power, in the Mexico City Olympic Stadium, at the ceremony for winning gold and bronze in the 200-metre running contest. Australian Peter Norman, the silver medalist, stood with the two Americans.

Sunday, Oct. 18, today, Venus at 18 degrees Virgo is opposite Neptune in Pisces. It’s romantic, but also confusing as you search for better feelings, better paths that better reflect the person you have become. It was Oct. 19, 1919 that Pierre Elliott Trudeau was born into a wealthy family. He was the centre of “Trudeaumania” in the 60s, and was Prime Minister from 1968 to 1979 and again from 1980 to 1984. He invoked the War Measures Act to calm the Separatists in Quebec, and is perhaps most famous for two quotes: “Fuddle-dud- dle,” and, when asked how far he would go to keep law and order, “Just watch me.”

And that’s Auchterlonie on Astrology for this week. Next week it’s the first quarter Moon in Aquarius and more. Until then, shine on!
Body scan now needed to enter Niagara Gorge

Owen Bjorgan
Spout to the Local

Out of pure curiosity and an itch for hiking, my girlfriend and I decided to visit the whirlpool of the Niagara Gorge. This is the long, but scenically-rewarding wooden staircase, which plods its way down to the bottom. Signs cover the entrance to the gorge, preventing anyone from wandering down here. The scenario is equally as complex as the Niagara River itself.

Body scan? Yes, you read that correctly. Before we took our first step down the winding stairs, we saw a peculiar wooden post. This is 2020. On top of the post, you see a Wi-Fi hotspot for the public, available for all to use in case of an emergency.

We were taken aback. Consider this a public announcement from the woods, if you will. This is a natural space, and we are the messengers. Y our lungs, particularly through the voices of a protester bleating through a crowd of people, all raising their voices in unison, that thoughts of my parents taught to us by our parents, are intended to crush everyone else's right to enjoy a peaceful, tranquil life in a town where they live and pay taxes. Seems odd – but that's just my opinion.

Oh, did I mention that on a recent trip to Krakow, Poland (before COVID), my wife and I watched the pleasure of individual tourists calling carriage rides selected from a line of about 25 beautifully-detailed carriages, pulled by teams of well-cared for and groomed horses, without a single protester or megaphone in sight. People went about their lives, minding their own business, and everyone had smiles on their faces. I dare say, even the horses. It was blissful. What has happened to us here?

In my humble opinion, this makes nature that little bit less accessible. Our relationship with our natural heritage is at stake. What's your relationship with it all?

This stunning early fall visual of the Niagara Gorge is a biodiversity and public conversation at once, says Owen Bjorgan. (Owen Bjorgan)

When is a right just wrong

As I sit down to write this, I am struck by memories of my dad and my life based on the values he taught me throughout the years before his passing; respect, civility, courtesy, self-discipline and compassion for others. I do shiver a bit as I come realize to walk on the trails for the first time, where self-importance, self-abuse of their opinion. It would seem such an attitude promotes a behaviour that interferes with others' right to enjoy a peaceful, tranquil life in a town where they live and pay taxes. Seems odd – but that's just my opinion.

Oh, did I mention that on a recent trip to Krakow, Poland (before COVID), my wife and I watched the pleasure of individual tourists calling carriage rides selected from a line of about 25 beautifully-detailed carriages, pulled by teams of well-cared for and groomed horses, without a single protester or megaphone in sight. People went about their lives, minding their own business, and everyone had smiles on their faces. I dare say, even the horses. It was blissful. What has happened to us here?

In my humble opinion, this makes nature that little bit less accessible. Our relationship with our natural heritage is at stake. What's your relationship with it all?
Virgil home a Princess Margaret lottery prize

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

An instant millionaire will be taking possession of a brand new house in Virgil in November.

Located on a corner lot in the new Vines of Niagara development off Concession 4, 18 Annmarie Drive will be awarded to one lucky winner in the annual Princess Margaret Home Lottery. Unless you’ve already purchased a ticket, though, you are out of luck. The lottery sold out prior to its early bird deadline.

This year’s NOTL prize follows one that was award-
ed last year in Prince Edward County. Ramona Oss, vice-president of Lotteries with the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation, says offering a prize in Niagara-on-the-Lake is part of an ongoing effort to surprise and delight the foundation’s supporters.

“We like to bring our supporters a diverse geographical offering,” Oss says. “We couldn’t think of a bet-
ter place, or a better way to do that, than a show home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The wineries, the bike trails, golf courses, and the Shaw Festival. It’s perfect.”

The prize home has been built by Woodcastle Homes, the developer be-
hind the entire subdivision being constructed on Para-
dise Grove.

“You don’t just get the home, it comes completely furnished and decorated,” says Oss. “They really did a wonderful job of bring-
ing in elements of wine country. He (Woodcastle project manager Bruce Cromie) has these beauti-
ful wine barrel tops as wall decor. And there’s a master retreat with a home office, which is perfect for these (COVID-19) times.”

The 2,063 square foot home with two bedrooms and two bathrooms also fea-
tures 16-foot cathedral ceil-
ings in the kitchen, dining and family rooms. The fin-
ishings include engineered white oak hardwood floors throughout, a three-sided contemporary glass fire-
place with a TV niche, gold accented plumbing fixtures, a frameless glass shower, wood and glass railings, and a beautiful composite deck in the backyard. The gas barbecue comes with the house, as does an extra $35,000 in cash to take the total prize value up to the million dollar mark.

The grand prize in this year’s Princess Margaret Home Lottery is valued at $6 million, including a 7,500 square foot house in Oakville, a Porsche Taycan 4S to go in the garage, and $1 million in cash. There is also a modern, 3,000 square foot house valued at $2.7 million up for grabs, and a condo worth $1 million, both in Toronto. More priz-
es, including cars and vaca-
tions, can be seen on prin-
cessmargaretlotto.com.

The lottery is a major fundraiser for the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, located on University Avenue in Toronto. “Over 25 years,” says Oss, “the program has raised over $400 million. Our goal for this year is bigger than last year. For 2019, the lottery delivered over $40 million. It’s a really important pro-
gram for our researchers. We wouldn’t be able to call ourselves one of the top five cancer research centres in the world without our lot-
tery program.”

Oss adds that the funds from the Home Lottery are consid-
ered undesignated, meaning that they are not earmarked for one specif-
ic application. “The lottery funds innovation,” she says, “and it funds programs like immunotherapy and our clinical trials, which are key to discovering novel new therapies that change the outcomes not only for Ontarians but also for Ca-
adians and cancer patients around the world. This year’s proceeds will go to our top priorities.”

The hospital sees about 18,000 new patients each year, and some of them are, of course, from the Niagara area. In fact, on the Princess Margaret website, you can read about a young mother from Pelham, Laura Mont-
gomery, who credits her diagnosis of stage 4 meta-
static breast cancer and her subsequent treatment at the cancer centre for keeping her alive today.

“The type of cancer centre we are,” says Oss, “we treat some of the most complicated cancers. The breadth and the scope of our work is borderless. Undoubtedly, there would be a number of people, unfortunately, from Niaga-
a foot in Virgil at 18 Annmarie Drive in November. is part of a sold-out lottery prize that will make someone an instant millionaire. (Photos supplied)
Lions wrap up burger sales with $20,000 to spend

The St. Davids Lions have wrapped up their Friday evening burger barbecue fundraiser, making $20,000 to support community projects.

Lion Ed Pittman, with his wife Sue, took on the responsibility of the event to help make the service club a reality, “he says. “A huge number of people showed up, more than $900 in donations for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program.

“Everybody was absolutely fine about it, just taking what we had left. We’ve had such wonderful support from the community. They’ve been fabulous for all 11 weeks. It was a good turnout every week, we had good weather, the volunteers were great, and we got a system down that worked really well for us.”

Some of the money raised has already gone to help pay for a service dog, and also for a food program for kids, says Pittman.

The Lions wanted to pitch in, and “were absolutely fantastic. We had five or six Leos every week, taking orders, delivering food to vehicles, and doing a lot of running. They would do whatever jobs came up,” he says. “It was good to have some young kids helping out.”

The next fundraiser for the club is a return to the fish fries in November, says Pittman. Club members are already working on how to manage them safely, likely keeping the orders simple because they will have fewer volunteers in the kitchen.

“The fish and chips will be delivered to vehicles in a drive-through, similar to the way the burgers were, he says.

“We’re in discussion now. We usually do them from November to April or May. As soon as we get it figured out, we’ll rock and roll.”
Simpson’s offers drive-through flu shots, as available

Penny Coles
The Local

Entering flu season in the midst of a pandemic is definitely motivating people to get their flu shot early, says pharmacist Sean Simpson. “In past years there has always been some level of excitement, but it’s usually later in October,” he says. This year, he started earlier, and is seeing more demand. “The big concern is availability. I’m hoping that doesn’t become an issue.” Simpson is offering a drive-through service to avoid crowding in the pharmacy, and it’s turned out to be a popular option, but the number of appointments is dependent on the number of vaccines he receives.

He is using space in the rear parking lot, and has “crafted a system that seems to work so far. It’s been pretty smooth.” Weather has been mostly cooperative, and he’s hoping for a stretch of continued nice weather, he says. “Howling winds and rain would make it difficult. We’ve been lucky so far, other than a bit of rain. We’re looking at using a tent if we need to, doing things on the fly and preparing for pretty much anything.” The positive response has been very welcome, he said, making it easier for people to physical distance by staying in their vehicle for the waiting time necessary after they’ve received their shot. Simpson recommends going online at https://simpsonspharmacy.ca to make an appointment for the drive-through behind the Niagara Medical Clinic, or inside at the King Street pharmacy.

We are still offering Curbside Pickup and Free Delivery for those who would prefer that service. Call orders to 905-329-2077 or text 905-329-2077.

Pharmacist Sean Simpson makes a drive-through visit to the vehicles of Lord Mayor Betty Disero and MPP Wayne Gates. (Photos supplied)
Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA) No. 17 Glendale District Plan

Niagara Region will hold a Public Meeting pursuant to Section 17 of the Planning Act R.S.O. 1990, as amended, to discuss an amendment to the Regional Official Plan to add policy related to the vision and key directions of the Glendale District Plan.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Niagara Region’s Council recently endorsed the Glendale District Plan on Sept. 17, 2020. This endorsement confirms the vision and commitment to Glendale becoming a mixed use, vibrant and complete community. The next step to implementing the District Plan is a Regional Official Plan Amendment to incorporate the vision and direction into the Regional Official Plan.

The proposed amendment includes policy to implement the vision for Glendale, the nine key directions to achieve the vision and outlines the additional work required for success of the Plan. This amendment will also ensure that future decisions within the Glendale area are consistent with the vision and direction of the District Plan.

More information on the Glendale District Plan can be found at: niagararegion.ca/projects/glendale-niagara-district-plan/

LOCATION

The Glendale study area located primarily with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a small portion of the south west area falling within the City of St. Catharines. The study area is approximately 700 hectares generally bound by Queenston Road to the north, the Niagara Escarpment to the south, Concession 7 Road to the east, and the Welland Canal to the west. The QEW bisects the study area and includes the Glendale Ave interchange.

PUBLIC MEETING

This Public Meeting is being held during Niagara Region’s Planning and Economic Development Committee under the provisions of Section 17 of the Planning Act, as follows:

DATE: Monday, Nov. 9, 2020
TIME: 1 p.m.
LOCATION: This meeting will be held virtually

A copy of the proposed amendment, information and materials related to the amendment are available at niagararegion.ca/ROPA17.

Due to efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to protect all individuals, the Council Chamber at Regional Headquarters will not be open to the public to attend Committee meetings until further notice. To view a live-stream meeting proceedings, without the ability to provide oral submissions, please visit niagararegion.ca/government/council

HAVE YOUR SAY

Public input on ROPA 17 is welcomed and encouraged. During this time, written comments are the preferred method of receiving public input. Written comments may be sent by mail or email. You can also provide oral input by joining the electronic meeting.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION: To provide written input, please either mail your comments to the Office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Ontario, L2V 4T7 or clerk@niagararegion.ca by 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020.

ORAL SUBMISSION: To provide input orally at the remote public meeting, please pre-register with the Regional Clerk clerk@niagararegion.ca before 9 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 6, 2020. All registrants will be provided with instructions on how to use your computer, tablet or phone to participate in the remote electronic Public Meeting. Registrants will be notified of Council’s Decision.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, contact Kirsten McCauley, Senior Planner at 905-980-6000 ext. 3532 or kirsten.mccauley@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region’s Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Council of Niagara Region on the proposed official plan amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk c/o Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, R.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7, or clerk@niagararegion.ca. Such requests must include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.

Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

LEGAL NOTICE

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of Niagara Region to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Clerk before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to Niagara Region before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

Soldiers march from Fort George to Queenston Heights, and back again

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Back in 2012, Sgt. Ryan Clark, Quartermaster of the 49th British Grenadiers Reenactment Group, participated in the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights. Included in the commemoration was a march from Fort George to Queenston Heights, the same march British forces would have undertaken to reinforce Queenston after the American forces invaded the area. Anticipating such an attack, Major General Sir Isaac Brock stationed British troops at strategic locations along the river. On Oct. 13, 1812, the news of the American invasion reached Fort George. Brock left on horseback to take command of the British forces at Queenston. The Americans captured the Redan Battery and Brock was killed leading a counterattack to regain this strategic location.

British Major General Roger Hale Sheaffe arrived with reinforcements from Fort George. These troops marched the 10-kilometre trek from the fort to Queenston to join the battle. As Clark explains, “Upon their arrival, they climbed to the top of Queenston Heights and different British units (49th and 41st) along with Canadian units (2nd Regiment of York Volunteers) and Native Allies fought against the invading U.S. forces.” Eventually, the American army collapsed and surrendered.

Clark, who has been involved in reenactments for more than 20 years, decided to do the march again in 2017. He recalls, “The first year was just me seeing if I could do it, and if it was a viable thing that others would do.” He had only planned to recreate the march from Fort George to Queenston as they had done in 2012, but being on his own, once he made it to the top, he then had to turn around and march back to Fort George.

Since then, Clark has been joined by other participants who have also made the annual trek from Fort George to Queenston Heights and back, wearing their full uniforms, complete with wool trousers, tunics and carrying their muskets. In past years, he was happy to welcome any and all participants to the event, but this year Clark capped the number at 15 to observe pandemic precautions and physical distancing. “This might be the only event some reenactors do this year, so I wanted to make sure some could participate.”

For this year’s march, he was joined by members of different reenactment groups from across Ontario, including Samuel Challen, Harrison Burrill, Thomas Taplay, Rob McGuire, Abel Land, Jody Ehtridge, Zane Scott, Jordan Kipp, James McFarlane, Joel Culliford, Craig Burney, and Susan Piper aided by two support vehicles driven by Virginia Hurley and Leigh Ann Culliford. There was also one lone American soldier, Thomas Walters, who, according to Clark, “paddled from the U.S. to the Canadian coastline but never touched land.”

The group left Fort George shortly after 9 a.m. on Saturday, took a short rest at McFarland House, then on to the Queenston World War memorial and a detour to the docks to set eyes on their American foe before ascending to Queenston Heights.

They arrived at their destination shortly before 1 p.m., where they enjoyed a rest and some lunch (tack) before making the 10-kilometre trek back to the fort.

During the break, reenactor and ex-military Jody Ehtridge, described the physical and philosophical meaning of the march for him. “It is one thing to read about it in a history book, but to actually put on the gear and march here and fight a full battle and march back — they were made of some pretty stern stuff.”

Clark added that the soldiers of 1812 did not have the luxury of a nice paved pathway, stairs, and support vehicles. In the shadow of Brock’s monument, the troops turn in formation to begin the march back to Fort George. For Clark, it is this return trip that holds the greater significance. “Remembering when he first descended from Queenston Heights as a lone soldier in 2017, he becomes more reflective. “The march back came to symbolize those that did not make the march back; that made the ultimate sacrifice,” he laments. “I came to honour those that couldn’t return.”

He adds, “We do it for those that couldn’t.” One can imagine battle weary soldiers in heavy wool tunics burdened with the weight of their gear, the weight of the souls of their lost comrades upon them. “It is important to remember those that fought and died defending Canada,” says Clark. “We would not be Canadians now without those who defended Canada back in 1812. I hope to teach people along the way about what happened here over 200 years ago, and to be proud of being Canadian.”

Clark encourages anyone who is interested in this or other reenacting events to go to this website (www.recruiting.crownforces.ca).

Jody Ehtridge (left) is among a group of reenactors who make the trek from Fort George to Queenston Heights and back again, to recognize the soldiers who fought and won the Battle of Queenston Heights Oct. 13, 1812.

Sgt. Ryan Clark (left), Quartermaster of the 49th British Grenadiers Reenactment Group, leads soldiers to Queenston Heights, where they take a break before making the return march. (Photos by Kim Wade)

Reenactors begin the long return march along the Niagara River Parkway to Fort George, wearing full uniforms and carrying their gear.
Churches offer services during pandemic

Penny Coles

The Local

Niagara churches, shut down from in-person services in March, were permitted to re-open in mid-June.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, many continued to hold only online services, whereas others had moved to out of necessity, others organized outdoor services, and some have invited their congregation to worship inside their churches once they felt they could do it safely.

Cornerstone Community Church, like most others, chose to continue online-only services while working out protocols to worship safely in person.

During the summer, the church moved to outdoor worship, using its Hunter Road property to allocate spaces for families to gather, remaining in their own circle while they enjoyed pre-recorded services and the music that is so much a part of them.

But last Sunday morning, while a beautiful full day, was a little too chilly, says lead pastor Kevin Bayne, and plans be announced with up to 30 per cent capacity.

Churches are permitted to fill about 50 per cent or greater with up to 30 per cent capacity, with up to 150 people, and up to 600 at Christmas and other special services, says Bayne, but he doesn’t expect to get to those numbers.

“We can’t count on the weather any more,” he says. Families planning to attend are being asked to pre-register online, as they did for the outdoor services, and all protocols from the Province and Region, will be followed.

Churches are permitted to fill about 50 per cent or greater with up to 30 per cent capacity, with up to 150 people, and up to 600 at Christmas and other special services, says Bayne, but he doesn’t expect to get to those numbers.

“There are still people who are a little hesitant to gather in the church. We’ll keep our ear to the ground and see if that is changing.”

If more people express interest in attending, he adds, “we can look at doing two services, with cleaning in between.”

While some churches are choosing to eliminate singing, Cornerstone hasn’t made that move—music is a big part of its service.

People leading the music are physically distancing, and indoors, will be on stage, he says.

“Everyone else is in a ‘household group’, distanced from other groups, and wearing masks.”

“We may ask people to sing less forcefully,” he says.

Concrete Community Church, like most others, chose to continue online-only services while working out protocols to worship safely in person.

At Cornerstone Community Church, outside services allowed musicians to self-distance, and families to stay in their circles.

The pre-COVID service was Thanksgiving Sunday, and similar protocols will be followed when they move inside this Sunday.

(Photos supplied)
Music Niagara wraps up festival

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

With two final concerts broadcast this Thanksgiving weekend, Music Niagara Festival closed out its 2020 At Home Series with a mix of virtuoso musicianship and comedy.

Festival general manager Karen Lade is quick to point out, however, that more is to come over the next couple of months. The yearly Remembrance Day and Christmas celebrations are still being planned, and will, of course, move to an online format as well.

Though both she and artistic director Atanas Bankas missed being able to host live events in person, they are happy with the new opportunities going virtual has offered. For one, for the first time, all of this season’s concerts remain available to watch on Music Niagara’s website and YouTube channel.

The At Home Series was made possible by a generous matching challenge of $10,000 last March from Carol and David Appel, who have been long-time supporters of Music Niagara. Looking to next year, the Appels have offered another matching challenge of $10,000 for the music festival. Donations, which will help fund its 22nd season, can be received under this challenge until Dec.

Lade points as well to a successful partnership with Niagara College, whose broadcasting, radio, television and film department professionally recorded each of the 15 concerts this year.

Peter VandenBerg, coordinator of the broadcasting program, thanks former Niagara College board chair John Scott for connecting him with the festival. “The opportunity to work with Music Niagara and record world class musicians has been incredible,” enthuses Vanden-Berg. “This is exponential learning at its finest, and has provided opportunities beyond my expectations to creative and apply the skills they’ve learned in our broadcast program. This At Home Series allowed us to focus on audio recording techniques and live-camera production.”

Lade is also appreciative that for each program the venues, including Chateau des Charmes, Pondview Estate Winery, the McArthur Estate and Queen’s Parkview, were offered free of charge. It’s a show of support from the community that was invaluable, she says.

As for the two concerts last weekend, British expats will feel right at home while watching Music Niagara’s Last Night of the Proms, recorded on a beautiful sunny afternoon at Chateau des Charmes Winery.

The BBC Proms, formerly the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, are a British tradition dating back to 1895. The Last Night part of the title refers to the finale of the eight-week summer season of daily orchestral concerts, most of which are held at the Royal Albert Hall and aired by the UK’s national broadcaster. As for the Music Niagara event, the orchestra is conducted by Sabatino Vacca, and features Canadian soprano Allison Cecilia Arends as soloist. Adding a bit of British authenticity, Niagara Falls comedian David Green, an expat himself, hosts the event.

Anders kicks things off with a wonderful rendition of God Save the Queen, and later takes a run at Footlights Wanding One from the musical Pirates of Penzance. And, if you’re a Liverpool Soccer Club fan, you’ll probably want to sing along with her version of You’ll Never Walk Alone, which has become the club’s theme song.

Green, Niagara’s king of the mic, has a good time things together throughout, with a bit of comedy and some background about the song selections. The Notting- hamp native hosts the event wearing his Union Jack sweater. “I don’t get up there and just do porn,” he tells The Local. “My job is to just keep the flow going in between, keep it light-hearted. ‘T’ll make observations in between and make jokes about things that have just happened!”

Conductor Vacca is the founder, artistic director, and choral master of the newly formed Southern Ontario Lyric Opera, as well as the music director of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and the Milton Philharmonic Orches- tra. The 15-piece orchestra put together by Vacca and Atanas Bankas includes some of Vacca’s colleagues, members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and local Niagara musicians affiliated with Music Niagara.

The program includes many of the usual, tried and true Proms staples, such as Rule Britanni- a, Elgar’s Pomp and Circumstances, Bankas plays a beautiful solo on the R. Vaughan Williams classic, The Lark Ascending. It’s a mix of the intimate and the regal for which the Proms has come to be known. You might want to prepare the tea and cricket mugs before sitting down to enjoy the show.

The final entry in the 2020 At Home Series is a tribute to perhaps the most important jazz album ever recorded. Released in 1959, the Miles Davis masterpiece, Kind of Blue, still stands today as one of the best albums ever made. Though it fell from number 12 to number 31 on this month’s update of Rolling Stone Magazine’s best albums of all time (it is the first jazz album on the list), it remains a land- mark recording that defines the jazz genre today.

One of Canada’s finest trumpet players, Steve McCloud leads a talented band featuring Perry White on tenor saxophone, John Johnson on alto sax, Adrian Farruga on piano, Scott Alexander on bass, and Brian Barlow on drums. The sextet rings through the well-known jazz classics So What, Freddie Freeloader and Flamenco Sketches, as well as other numbers from the jazz legends repertoire.

As with Last Night of the Proms, comedy is also a part of this final show. “To keep things light-hearted, popular NOTL comedian Joe Pillimieri makes his second appearance in the At Home Series as host of the event, recorded at the beautiful McArthur Estate John Street. Summing up the season, Lade says, ‘we have had to be in- vestive and rise to the occasion. From the beginning of the pan- demic, we worked hard to con- nect and support everyone. That includes not only our dedicated audiences, but also our patrons and sponsors of and, of course, our musicians, and the brilliant students who take part in our annual Performance Academy.”

She adds, “the At Home Se- ries has reached a much larger audience than our live season, and we have engaged and em- ployed over 80 artists during a time when many are out of work. It’s been a huge success!”

“See to Last Night of the Proms, Kind of Blue, or any of the other Music Niagara Festival programs from this year, visit musicniagara.org or the Music Niagara YouTube page.”
HELP WANTED

Forrer Farms Inc. Seasonal FT Workers
Required for grape & tender fruit farm. Must be able to work long hours and weekends. Duties include picking, harvesting, and loading trucks. $14.25 per hour. No education req’d. Duties to include pruning, thinning, hoeing and suckering.

Mail resume C/O Ray, R.R. 6, 1753 Conc. 2, NOTL, ON L0S 1J0

For more information email wattj928@gmail.com

WANTED GARAGE / BARN / WAREHOUSE
SENIOR COLLECTOR SEEKS STORAGE UNTIL SPRING 2021
For more information contact Ray, R.R. 6, 1753 Conc. 2, NOTL, ON L0S 1J0

WANTED TO RENT

Proceeds Donated To:
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For more information contact Ray, R.R. 6, 1753 Conc. 2, NOTL, ON L0S 1J0

October 8, 2020

SUDOKU SOLUTION

YARD CLEAN UP

LEAF MAN

Sudoku solution from October 8, 2020

WATSON’S PUMPKINS

Proceeds Donated To:
McMaster Children’s Hospital and Ronald McDonald House

October 15, 2020
WINTER STAYCATION

Skip the hassle of winter weather and STAY with us! Winter is coming and we are ready for you!

Leave the winter worries behind. At Royal Henley the weather does not have to hold you back. Our spacious indoor community offers opportunities to join in CLUBfit exercise classes, aquafit in our heated salt water pool, daily activities and movie matinees in our Clubhouse Theatre to name a few. You can even enjoy some pampering in the Beauty Salon.

Here at the Royal Henley Retirement Community we offer Seasonal Stays that allow you to experience Vibrant Seniors Living instead of feeling isolated during the winter months. Once you are here and create new memories, you will see how the change of address can bring you much happiness!

For a Seasonal Stay we provide you with a furnished suite, gourmet meals, weekly housekeeping and individualized care plans to accommodate your daily living needs. Pack your bag and come see what Vibrant Seniors Living is all about! Your well-being, comfort and safety is our number one priority.

Call Jessica or Krista at 905-935-1800 today to book your stay.