# **The Niagara-on-the-Lake**



The trusted voice of our community.

notllocal.com **OCTOBER 15, 2020**  Volume 2 · Issue 42



Marching from Fort George to Queenston Heights ... and back again Reenactment soldiers trek to Queenston Heights, in recognition of those who marched Oct. 13, 1812, fought for their country and won, and at the end of the day, had to turn around and march back to Fort George. The march also acknowledges those who didn't return. For story see page 12. (Kim Wade)

### 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 peo- Oct. 28. ple count on it," he told Disero.

lagers 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-

move it this fall and have a new, \$5 million pool ready for use next summer.

But the federal grant the Town was hoping to fund it was rejected, and staff have said they will try to open the existing pool next season, as long as there are no major mechanical issues with it.

Disero told Pearsall a fundraising committee will meet for the first time later this month - it's on the Town calendar for

She spoke of the public He said he and other vil- meetings held to gather input and the design they agreed upon, that may have to be pared back.

Interim CAO Sheldon Randall, who also took part in the meeting, said the Town will look for other grants, but may also have to look at reducing

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# More public input next step for Glendale district

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Future development in Glendale that could almost double the population of Niagara-on-the-Lake is ready to move forward to the next step, one that implements the policies that allow the vision for

ficial plan to include the land 10 years ago, and quickly be- or are at least greatly reduced. citing to see the hard work of and a long-awaited grocery use policies, and then begin came involved in the commuwork to update the town's nity, including serving on the same issues that we had five o but he cautions it will likely 10-year-old secondary plan Glendale Task Force, a town 10 years ago" he said. "That's for Glendale that will finalize committee. It was formed to really good to see." the details.

put that has included Glen- Niagara College students. In the plans are in place for that

address issues such as park-

There has been "minimal The concept work has ing and garbage, problems growth" in the area since he several decades until the 400 been completed, with more that arose when some streets moved to the neighbour- hectares of developable land than two years of public in- attracted a large number of hood, he says, and although are built out. dale resident Steve Hardaker, recent years, since the college to change, it won't be happen-

"We don't have a lot of the those years get to this point, store. be another five years or more before he and his neighbours see shovels in the ground, and

The next stage of devel-

"That'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 opment, although it might first, increasing the popula-

the area to become a reality.

the Town and the Region, Region. with the next step in the pro-

Plan has been endorsed by focus group working with the homeowners and students on

The Glendale District a member of the community began reaching out to both ing soon. He moved to the first most of those problems have group for more than two the area would like to see -

be a while in coming, he says, tion of the area sufficiently to As a member of the dis- will eventually bring more of attract the kind of businesses how to be good neighbours, trict plan community focus the amenities those living in that will serve residents, and cess to amend the regional of- phase of Niagara on the Green been resolved, says Hardaker, years, Hardaker says it's ex- restaurants, doctors' offices

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### Heritage district, community safety zone on village wish list

#### Continued from page 1

costs, including the possibility of making it smaller.

Residents "are ready to help out any way we can," said Pearsall, telling Disero and Randall, "we don't want to go to a smaller option." They are hoping instead for an infrastructure grant to get shovels in the ground. Even without meetings of the fundraising committee, the community has already raised \$40,000, he reminded them.

As long as there are no further restrictions from the Province, or any major failures with the current pool, it will be operational for 2021, Randall said.

When Disero asked why it can't be fixed, rather than replaced, Randall said "we've been doing that for 25 years. There are a lot of issues you don't see."

Pipes underneath the pool are brittle and crumbling, and if the building is renovated, it has to be brought up to current standards, including meeting accessibility requirements, he said.

"We want to make sure the pool stays as a feature in the community," said Pearsall.

Following the meeting, he told The Local the pool is his main concern, and he was disappointed with the response he heard. "They haven't come up with a good solution" he said.

The pool is the "one solid piece of infrastructure to benefit the residents of St. Davids," and his biggest fear is that it will be demolished, with the expectation of a new pool, and if time goes by without funding, "that might never happen.



Dr. Kevin Clark and Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark Dentists their registered

I worry about that," he said.

not so sure the Town sees it that way." the chance to talk about it, and is hoping to see a fundraising committee meeting that could move the project forward, but it was the one issue that "didn't give me any answers that satisfy me," he said.

Representing 200 members of the St. Davids Ratepayers Association and the Friends of St. Davids, as well as residents who are not members but have the same issues, Pearsall had a list of questions for the lord mayor, hoping to make some Dyck Lane agree, the chain progress with answers.

Another ongoing issue affects the quality of life for about 18 residents living on Hickory Avenue, and Pearsall was hoping to hear a resolution.

The issue of dust control on the private Dyck Lane, behind Hickory Avenue homes, 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 laneway, 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.

and hopefully, after last week's discussion, the last they will have to plead for a solution.

After meeting with council in closed session earlier this month, Disero told Pearsall staff have looked at "different solutions," including finding an alternate traffic pattern that would minimize the use of Dyck Lane, a gravel road that provides access to three homes.

"This one has been a thorn in everybody's side since 2015, for me anyway, and I'm sure even before that for residents," said Disero.

This summer, with frustration levels rising, "a calcium fairy" dropped some calcium problem, she said.

After the recent closed ses-

Pearsall said it was good "The pool is very import- news to hear the Town is takant to the community, and I'm ing a stand, and that the solution has to be fair to both sides, those on Hickory Avenue suf-He's still grateful to have had fering from the dust problems, and the homeowners who use Dyck Lane to get to and from their properties.

> Hickory Avenue resident Bill Krahn, who spoke to council about the issue this summer and has been bombarding councillors, along with his neighbours, with emails asking for a resolution, says he believes the Town has come up with a "100 per cent simple solution," at little cost.

> If the three residents of between their gravel road and Hickory Avenue will be removed, and will become the main access for them and for delivery trucks who now speed down the laneway, leaving clouds of dust behind them, he told The Local. Dyck Lane then becomes only for emergency access. "I hope that is what will happen."

> The pool and dust issues were two of many Disero and Pearsall discussed in their hour and a half meeting, which came about, the lord mayor explained, after a conversation at one of her monthly coffee meetings, when a St. Davids resident asked, "what about us?"

"We need to start focusing This is the third council, on St. Davids," she said. "It's an important part of the community."

> Glendale has a "stunning" new park, Virgil has the skate park, and the Old Town has an expansion of tennis courts, she added. "Now it's time to take a look in St. Davids and see what we can do there."

Pearsall had a wish list of what the village would like to see, compiled from a survey of residents, that included dealing with the light and odour pollution from Tweed Farms, further investigation of a heritage conservation district, on-demand transit extending to St. Davids, a long-awaited trail to connect the Cannery for a neighbour to spread on Park subdivision to Lions the lane to reduce the dust Park, and the future of the firehall location.

The other "controversial



Lord Mayor Betty Disero says if residents want more done at Cannery Park they have to let staff know. The green space looks much better than it did in the summer, but is still roped off. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Wyatt McGowan, 4, tries out the fire engine at the park behind the St. Davids Firehall, while a young family plays on the half-court in the distance. St. Davids Ratepayers Association president Mike Pearsall says the park is well-used and very much appreciated by residents.

problem, he added.

Disero said she experienced the smell herself when and St. Davids firehalls, and if walking in St. Davids. "I know now the stench you have to looking for an appropriate site, live with."

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

The Town is also looking want to see that happen." at a nuisance bylaw addressing odour and light, she said, "and hopefully we'll be able to deal Pearsall. with it better."

connecting Lions Park with which was supposed to be completed two years ago, Ran-

consolidating the Queenston that happens, the Town will be including possibly Lions Park.

"There have already been vids Lions Club," Randall said, but Disero made it clear that wouldn't be her choice. "I love Lions Park," she said. "I wouldn't

The tennis courts in the park will be improved, she told

Disero also promised to On the issue of the path look into the status of hiring a consultant to report on herthe Cannery Park subdivision, itage attributes in the village and the possibility of a heritage conservation district; she dall said the "siting" of its loca- agreed to talk to the Region tion is finished, and the next about a community safestep is thinning some brush ty zone on Four Mile Creek school, which has been so suca matter of seeing what's in the cessful the Region has instituted 16 more this year, including

There have been discussions of 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 Pearsall and Disero agreed their meeting was productive, and should happen on a regular basis.

> "Hopefully someday soon we'll be able to do it in person and see everybody face to face," said Disero, closing with a request for everyone to follow provincial guidelines 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, Disero had emailed him confirming some of the details on issues they had discussed, and he was grateful for the opportunity to get them on the table and hopefully move them forward. The virtual meeting was On the "rumours" of the Crossroads Public School on Disero's idea, he said, "and I was very impressed that she approached me about it. I was glad for the opportunity to get the dialogue going. At least we know our concerns are being heard."

Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME **EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE** 905-468-3009 staff were directed to "finalize and complete negotiations with all interested parties," and achieve an amenable agreement on the use of Dyck Lane. If a solution cannot be achieved "an alternate traffic pattern" to resolve the matter.

sion of council, Disero said, issue" he wanted to discuss and identifying what trees need Road, similar to the one by the was the pollution from Canopy Growth's Tweed Farms' "ridiculously large" cannabis production family.

sky over St. Davids is lit up as by Dec. 1, the Town will impose if there are search lights pointing into it. The strong skunk odour also continues to be a

to be removed, "if any." Then it's budget to fund it, he said.

Some nights, he said, the St. Davids firehall being re- Niagara Stone Road; and that located, Randall and Disero once on-demand transit is opexplained nothing has been erating, the Town will look at decided, and it won't happen extending it to St. Davids. She without public consultation. also said she would look into



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#### **October 15, 2020**

# Micky home, adjusting to life on three legs

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

On Thanksgiving week-Niagara-on-the-Lake end. 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 neighbour 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."



Micky's post-surgery cone came off this weekend, and he is learning to balance on three legs. (Photos by Janice White)



### **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 the process to date, and be- I'll be there. I'd like to be part secondary plan, will ensure future development in Glen- trict plan has been the collabsion as laid out in the district and the inclusion of the resi-

plan, says Hardaker.

Then it's time for property owners and developers to NOTL and across the region submit their proposals, with the likelihood of "tweaking" some of the zoning to accomany construction begins.

lieves the success of the dis- of it."

dents throughout.

Future development in "should follow that model," says Hardaker.

"I hope that when the modate their plans, before Town updates the Glendale secondary plan, they will do it He's enjoyed being part of in the same way. And you bet



### **ADD YOUR VOICE TO NIAGARA'S OFFICIAL PLAN**

#### **NIAGARA IS GROWING!**

The region is forecasted to grow to a minimum of 674,000 people and 272,000 jobs by the year 2051. To guide this growth, Niagara Region is creating a new Official Plan.

The Niagara Official Plan will set out objectives and policies to shape Niagara's physical development, while protecting what's valuable. It will cover topics like Niagara's natural environment, land needs, growth allocations, housing, transportation, urban design, employment lands, agriculture and more.

#### YOU'RE INVITED

Attend a series of virtual public information centres to learn more about key directives and core policy information that will inform the Niagara Official Plan. Get informed, ask questions to the project team, and provide your input on how Niagara should grow.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to participate, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

#### VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRES

Register for each session at niagararegion.ca/official-plan. Webinars have already been held covering several topics, including Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems, Growth Management, Land Needs, Secondary Plans and more. Video recordings of each session will be available online in the near future.

#### Tuesday, Oct. 20 | 6:00 p.m.

Topic: Rural & Agriculture, Mineral Aggregate Resources, Archaeology & Culture

dale is consistent with the vi- oration of all parties involved,



Resident Steve Hardaker says the recently completed basketball court is well-used by local kids, as is the rest of the Glendale Park. (Penny Coles)

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.

#### Wednesday, Oct. 21 | 6:00 p.m.

Topic: Infrastructure, Water and Wastewater, Stormwater, Transportation

You can also provide input or ask questions at any time by emailing makingourmark@niagararegion.ca or calling David Heyworth, Official Plan Policy Consultant at 905-980-6000 ext. 3476

> niagararegion.ca/official-plan makingourmark@niagararegion.ca

> > Niagara - // Region

# Patio owners hoping for an extension

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

Restaurant owners in the heritage district are asking for permission to keep their pandemic 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, hed be inclined to support their request, he says.

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

"We are all 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 is allowing their patios, apsummer season as well."

There are other restau-

**Penny Coles** The Local

Google free overnight parking in Niaga-

and picnic tables close by. Another said it's very quiet after sunset.

They also mentioned



Patrons enjoy a cool fall day outside on the Sunset Grill patio. (Penny Coles)

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 patrons 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 rants' best interest to look for reached 50 per cent of their a further extension through sales, they say.

The Town permit for patios ends Oct. 31, although Association is also lobbying the provincial regulation the provincial Alcohol and allows for them to continue Gaming Commission to exuntil Jan. 1, 2021.

proved during the pandemic,

rants, not on Queen Street, til the end of the year, while hall and Cork's Wine Bar to the weather. Hamilton has extended their patio permits until October, 2021.

> 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 restau-2021," she says.

The Ontario Restaurant tend licences for serving alco-The city of St. Catharines hol outdoors beyond this year, she says.

Maria Mavridis, whose to continue to operate un- family owns the Flame Fire-

& Eatery on Queen Street, the sidewalk outside Flame, spending \$15,000 to \$20,000 on it, would not pose any issues for snow removal. She's hoping 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 not comfortable going inside. They're more makes us nervous too. It's a open to sitting outside with a heater."

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

While she understands the says the patio they built on 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 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 counadding plexiglass as a shield cil will approve them for an-

other season. Patios have been crucial to our recovery," says Gauld, "and will 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** says, there are washrooms

ra-on-the-Lake for RVs, moving along the street Mark's Anglican Church cemetery. pop up.

has been questioning why so many RVs are parking overnight on Byron Street, taking up free spaces used by the limits (because of COVID)," church and visitors to Simcoe Park.

Even on Tuesday morn- Niagara-on-the-Lake." ing, 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 Niagaraon-the-Lake, one comment

and you might be surprised because they weren't crato find the address for St. zy about parking beside a

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

Quebec has some strict says Burroughs.

"Yet here they are in

on the same site from RV owners who enjoyed a nice stay on Firelane 1 in NOTL. Burroughs has asked the Town's 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.



RVs have been a regular fixture on both sides of Byron Street this summer and fall. Coun. Gary Burroughs is hoping for signs There is also a comment banning overnight parking. (Photo supplied)

> Twice Burroughs says he Thanksgiving Sunday. 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 summer, and the other for he has seen, have Quebec lithe first in-church service cence plates.

has also been polite, and the driver has pulled forward on the street, away from the what Quebec calls its "red church, he says.

Both times, the response higher in Quebec than Ontario, especially in Montreal, "inter-regional travel" from zones," or hot spots of coro-Most, if not all, of the RVs navirus, is not recommended, but is not prohibited. Burroughs has asked for he says.

With COVID rates even 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,"

#### October 15, 2020



# Welcome Home – A Positive Spin to COVID

in pursuit of a feeling of comfort and home only to find it here, in Niagara-France and raised by Portuguese parents, I had alhouses before I left home.

My first time living in the Niagara area was on move 13 when I came Niagara-on-the-Lake to 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 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

I have moved 27 times the Pumphouse where I Europe that would contin- halted, and I came to the to live. I had been travel- but here. spent time drawing with other liked minded artists.

For personal reasons, on-the-Lake. Born in after 5 years here, I left Niagara and headed to Europe only to return a year ready lived in 6 different after living in England to my home in Niagaraon-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 Busisix ness, 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 with joy. Not only did I as well. Less than two have a great job and new years later I was off again, friends, I hosted two stu- needing to be closer to dents from Venezuela for a airports for new projects full school year and found in Africa and Nunavik, this amazing place called South America, US and

ue for 9 more years.

I moved an additional six more times before coming back to Niagara-onhit, 90% of my work was work but not so much how

realization that life was ling non-stop Facilitating short, and I needed to Leadership and Coaching make a decision with respect to how I really wantthe-Lake. When COVID ed to live. I knew how to



Tina Dias, MA, PCC, coaching since 2006

Programs and Coaching others across the globe, but not really living my own life.

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 like I belonged anywhere chapter in my life.

Move 27, in August was Niagara-on-the-Lake to to continue my one-onone Human Exploration, Coaching Practice, helping people who are seri-With this pause in ous 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 Montreal, Niagara is home Pumphouse and am lookto me. I have never felt ing forward to this new

" 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?

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# EDITORIAL

## Doing what we're told might avoid further lockdowns

Niagara Region had just one Ottawa or Peel. new case of COVID-19 Tuesday, but 16 on Monday.

Ontario's numbers were very different - 746 Tuesday and 807 Monday.

In Niagara there are schools that have reported cases with either staff or students, although not a lot, and there have been outbreaks in long-term care homes recently, although none so far (by Tuesday) in NOTL homes. That could change in a heart beat.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were five in other areas of Niagara reporting cases of COVID.

Niagara-on-the-Lake numbers are creeping up slowly, with the Region now reporting there have been 47 cases in town, with 2.1 active cases per 10,000 population.

So, while all of that is not great news, it could be worse. We're not Toronto,

Restaurants are limited in those regions to pickup and takeout, and other venues such as theatres and gyms have been shut down.

Ontario Friday, and more than 1,500 in Ontario Monday and Tuesday, hospitals are seeing increased admissions.

Across the province there were 72 new school-related cases Tuesday, for a total of 948.

In Niagara, we have been asked, along with the rest of the province, to keep to our own households, and to continue to do so until told otherwise.

For many, it was a quiet, even lonely, Thanksgiving weekend. Lots of Skype or Zoom calls. Fewer turkey dinners although hopefully some people enjoyed Thanksgiving meals offered by local restaurants, many of them still doing pickup and takeout orders. Although we can still enjoy

a lifestyle that is a little easier people are involved. than it was during the initial March shutdown, there is no guarantee that will continue. It could get worse.

We need our local business-And with 939 new cases in es. We want them to survive, but as restaurant owners say, if they have to close down again, they may not reopen. That holds true for many businesses which have been devastated by the pandemic. We don't want to see that happen.

selves and our families safe.

The best way to ensure our region doesn't end up in the same situation as the three undergoing partial lockdowns, is to do what we're asked.

We need to wear masks, keep our physical distance, wash our hands, and use some to avoid unnecessary activities that will put us in danger, especially when large groups of

should.

We've been enjoying a lit- sure it isn't snatched away from warded with more shutdowns. tle bit of new-found freedom, us, so we can continue to move maybe some of us more than we forward toward a permanent recovery. Good behaviour brings The Local

Let's do what we can to en- us rewards, bad behaviour is re-Let's choose wisely.

Penny Coles

### Auchterlonie on Astrology

#### **Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local**

The full week of Auch-And we want to keep our- terlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website https://www. auchterlonieonastrology.ca. ceremony for winning gold In Part II of my podcast, thanks to AstroButterfly, we get Mars Retrograde - The tralian Peter Norman, the Hero's Journey.

Friday, Oct. 16: The Sun the two Americans. common sense. We'd be best and the Moon are together at 23 degrees of Libra. It's Venus at 18 degrees Virgo the new Moon. And while is opposite Neptune in Piit is one of the most difficult sces. It's romantic, but also new Moons of the year, it is confusing as you search for also one of the most action better feelings, better paths packed. We need a bit of a that better reflect the per-

ning. And it was Oct. 16, 1968 that African-Americans Tommie Smith and Juan Carlos raised their fists, a symbol of Black power, in the Mexico City Olympic Stadium, at the and bronze in the 200-metre running contest. Aussilver medalist, stood with

Sunday, Oct.18: Today,

push to get our motor run- son you have become. It was Oct. 18, 1919 that Pierre Elliot 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-duddle," 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!

# Where were town bylaw officers?

with more than 30 people.

May I remind you of the law set by our premier, Doug



Few protesters were wearing masks or physical distancing over the weekend. Local merchant asks why Town bylaw officers won't respond. (Photo supplied)

I had to personally call 911 and get the police down, as your 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 horsedrawn 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.

> **Simon Bentall** NOTL

### Pie fundraiser sells out



Offshore worker Baraka Allen helped the NOTL Lions sell Thanksgiving pies last week, including two for Kathy Wall. All 160 pies sold, at \$20 each, with the proceeds going to help local youth participate in sports, and the Lions thanking the community for supporting them in their fundraising endeavour. (Photo supplied)



### View from the couch

young octopus, who slow-**Special to The Local** 

Donald Combe is a retired ly came to trust him. This English teacher who loves to gentle examination of pa- go to movies. Until he resumes ries and movies for The Local.

# The Niagara-on-the-Lake

#### The trusted voice of our community

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

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My Octopus Teacher tience and acceptance will going to theatres, he has grais an engrossing film that impact on the thinking of ciously agreed to share his closely chronicles a year all viewers. I believe every- opinions, through "short and of the interaction between one must experience this sweet" exclusives, of Netflix se-Craig Foster and a curious sensitive film.

### **NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL**

DISTRESS CENTRE KIDS HELP PHONE For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711

**MENTAL HEALTH** AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS (Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205 **GAMBLER'S** ANONYMOUS

905-351-1616

Service for youth 416-586-5437 1-800-668-6868 (Crisis Line) kidshelpphone.ca

ALCOHOLICS **ANONYMOUS** Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark's Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting 905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233) 1-866-863-0511 (Toll Free)

#### **CRIME STOPPERS** 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)

niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip

The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

### **Body scan now needed to enter Niagara Gorge**



#### **Owen Bjorgan Special 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, depths of the gorge.

As remnants of summer vegetation still cover the forest floor, signs cover the entrance to the trail.

There is everything from body scans, to serious rescues, to COVID safety guidelines, to biodiversity issues swirling around down here. The scenario is equally as complex as the Niagara River itself.

Body scans? Yes, you read that correctly. Before we took our first step down the unending stairs, we saw a peculiar wooden post. This is 2020. On top of the post, you see a Wi-Fi or network sort of image. Initially, I was thinking this was a Wi-Fi hotspot for the public, available for all to use in case of an emergency.

I was mistaken.

Consider this a public announcement from the woods, if you will.

I'm just the messenger. Your body is being scanned by an infrared detector when you walk into the gorge's whirlpool entrance.

The writing on the wooden post reads: "Inside this post is an infrared trail counter, which allows Niagara Parks to count the our trails.

"This information helps improves trail planning and development initiatives and informs future trail management decisions."

It then reads,

"Please note that this device is not a camera, and your image is not captured."

Where was the announcement, vote, or agreement on a public trailhead? And, where tive impacts on biodiversity. was the grammar with "helps improves"?

was alarming to me on a per- of rest for coyotes. So, when petual repercussions, often being saying, "we used to just pull up, loves the forests.

The walls of the Niagara Gorge are 420 million years old. The forests down there are said to be one of the top biodiversity hotspots of Canada. These trails have inspired locals and tourists from afar ever since humans called Niagara Falls a tourist destination, and to Aboriginals current and prior.

I arrived to hike the gorge which plods its way down to the on another recent date, only to the first time, and we are maxfind a blaring scenario.

> I see rescue vehicles with flashing lights piled up around the whirlpool entrance. The parking lot there is full to the brim. I then also notice that I've run out of free parking as a local, as new signage, which encourages the use of a specific app to pay for parking, is steadfast in the ground.

The previously low-key parking lot across from the golf but what I can say is that I believe course is now a paid station, too. The metal staircase parking area is dangerously full as well. There are folks slowly lapping the parking lot, waiting to see if someone pulls out of their parking spot.

Upon arrival, the main trail map is covered with arrows to show which specific direction am struck by memories of my to walk on the trails. I've never seen this before, either. And I have hiked a lot of trials, locally and internationally.

There is something eerie going on regarding the triangle between the public, governing bodies, and nature. I can't help but focus on it, because the safety of our ecosystems, at this rate, ultimately depends on how our burgeoning human population treats it.

More rescues than any year number of people who access in recent history. Paid parking becomes implemented for the entirety of the gorge. Arrows on the trails, and an infrared body scan before entering the whirlpool trailhead. Oh, and you might need an app for this hike.

Are people flocking to naphone. And having to push ture and our Niagara trails at a through a crowd of people, all hyper-local scale? If that's the holding large signs, demandcase, then I feel like the sheer ing we pay attention to their number of people simply leads opinion, in order to pass by to more rescues, less social dis- them - peacefully. It was at that such a feature being installed at tancing, and sometimes, nega- moment, that thoughts of my nilly activity that could be done the absolute right to impose your ness, and everyone had smiles early life and parental teachings became crystal clear. When we continually remove the modest remaining During my childhood and green spaces in NOTL, we disteenage years a group of five or hide on or within my body, this rupt habitat corridors and areas more, hanging around on a cor-

sonal note, and as a local who they are displaced and show up referred to as "the new normal." in NOTL's suburbs, they have become the villains. They are misbehaving in our territory as a result of consequences they can't control.

> My theory is this: coyotes lost habitat, and humans lost social hobbies and constructs. So, we now take what is available, in a new and experimental sort of age. We try hiking and checking out the gorge on a weekend for imizing our travel opportunities within the area.

> To continue my theory, we're now seen as the coyotes who show up in the backyard and can't behave themselves. Therefore, we apparently require paid parking, permits, a body scan and an app to best respect the 420 million-year-old gorge

I don't have all the answers, several profound events can't happen to one area without per-

dad and my life based on the val-

ues he taught me throughout the

years before his passing: respect,

civility, courtesy, self-discipline

to realize, as the years pass, that

I am more and more like him

than I care to admit. I think

that is something that each of us

dread. That as we age, the les-

sons taught to us by our parents,

make more sense than we care

as my wife and I were enjoying

a daily walk through our beau-

tiful town, when I was deafened

by the voice of a protester bleat-

ing in my ear through a mega-

These thoughts struck me

to admit.

I do shiver a bit as I come

and compassion for others.

I suppose I just miss the simplicity of wanting to go for a fabulous world-class hike in Niagara. At 27 years old, I find myself

walk down, climb some boulders, find a snake or two, maybe fish, and then head back home for dinner. And we did it without an infrared body scan or an app."

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

considered vagrancy, subject to a fine. Shouting at the top of your lungs, particularly through a megaphone, would have been considered disturbing the peace and, after disbanding this activity by police, also subject to a fine. Defacing property, whether public or private, was considered a crime, also subject to arrest, or fine.

Peace officers, or police, were respected. When they told you to move along, you did. When they told you to stop, you did. There was no room for debate - it was clear. Have your opinion, but don't use it to threaten, impose, disturb or otherwise disrupt, peaceful co-existence. Otherwise you suffered the consequences of your behaviour, which included a wide range of options, none of which was negotiating which side's opinion mattered more. And, if I recall correctly, a permit was needed

As I sit down to write this, I ner, interfering with others was mit was the single chance given. one's (read that "my") opinion, Imagine that!

Freedom of speech was defined by the notion that everyone had the right to an opinion, as long as they did not try to forcefully impose it on others. And everyone had the right to their own opinion, outside of hateful, belligerent opinions. But they did not have the right to constantly berate others with their opinion. My gosh! Is that the definition of a respectful society?

But now we live in a world where self-importance, self-absorption, entitlement and narcissistic bullies have become the cornerstones of society. All display the behaviour of people with nothing better to do but disturb others. This seems to have replaced the better definition of freedom of speech where one's right does not trump another's (no pun intended).

regardless of accuracy or truthfulness, is more important than any other opinion — absolutely! This is done on the sole premise that it is "my" opinion and therefore "my" right! A huge leap of logic. When did the rights of a few, usurp the rights of all others? It would seem such an attitude promotes a behaviour that is 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 individuals taking carriage rides selected from a line of about 25 beautifully dressed carriages, pulled by teams of well-cared for and groomed horses, without a single protester or megaphone in These days the definition of sight. People went about their redom of speech seems to be lives, minding their own busithe horses. It was blissful. What has happened to us here? **R. Jorgensen** NOTL

THE NOTL LOCAL

Although I have nothing to

denied. Or, if granted and then followed once issued, one per-

to protest. It was not a willy-

anywhere, anytime on anyone's own opinion on others, as loudly on their faces — I dare say, even whim. Some permits were even and forcefully as possible, in order to totally interfere with their the rules agreed upon were not lives (and livelihood), with complete and total disregard. Where



#### notllocal.com

# 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 awarded 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 better place, or a better way to do that, than a show home Niagara-on-the-Lake. in The wineries, the bike trails, golf courses, and the Shaw Festival. It's perfect."

been built by Woodcastle Homes, the developer behind the entire subdivision being constructed on Paradise Grove.

"You don't just get the home, it comes completely furnished and decorated," says Oss. "They really did a wonderful job of bringing in elements of wine country. He (Woodcastle project manager Bruce Cromie) has these beautiful wine barrel tops as wall decor. And there's a master retreat with a home office, (COVID-19) times."

The 2,063 square foot home with two bedrooms and two bathrooms also features 16-foot cathedral ceil-



foot house valued at \$2.7 million up for grabs, and a condo worth \$1 million, both in Toronto. More prizes, including cars and vacations, can be seen on princessmargaretlotto.com.

The lottery is a major The prize home has 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 program for our researchers. We wouldn't be able to call ourselves one of the top five cancer research centres in the world without our lottery program."

Oss adds that the funds which is perfect for these from the Home Lottery are considered undesignated, meaning that they are not earmarked for one specific application. "The lottery fuels innovation," she says, ings in the kitchen, dining "and it funds programs like and family rooms. The fin- immunotherapy and our clinical trials, which are key to discovering novel new therapies that change the outcomes not only for Ontarians but also for Canadians and cancer patients around the world. This year's proceeds will go to our top priorities." The hospital sees about gas barbecue comes with 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 centre we are," says Oss, be referred to Princess Marfrom Pelham, Laura Montgomery, who credits her diagnosis of stage 4 metastatic breast cancer and her subsequent treatment at the cancer centre for keeping be a number of people, her alive today.







ishings include engineered white oak hardwood floors throughout, a three-sided contemporary glass fireplace 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 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

"The type of cancer ra-on-the-Lake, who would

"we treat some of the most complicated cancers. The breadth and the scope of our work is borderless. Undoubtedly, there would unfortunately, from Niaga-

garet every year." Oss is not surprised the 550,000 tickets are al-

ready sold out. "Certainly this pandemic has shown all of us the importance of health care and research. I

right now especially keen tery, including the one in to support health care. Even though we are in the middle of a pandemic, they realize that cancer does not go away."

Due to the pandemic, she adds, none of the show would say that people are homes at stake for the lot-

NOTL, are open this fall for viewing. Grand prize and 50-50 winners will be announced live on CP24's Breakfast Show on Oct. 22. A full list of winners will be published on the lottery website a week later.

### Lions wrap up burger sales with \$20,000 to spend

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

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 little money. The Lions had

nival and popular fish fries We ran out of burgers, so we They've been fabulous for tastic. We had five or six Leos keeping the orders simple because of the pandemic, had to close up early." and Lion Joe Typer came up with the idea of a drive- hicles left in line when they through burger pick-up, closed, and once they ran which proved to be more out of beef for burgers, they successful than they could offered peameal or hot dogs, have imagined, says Pittman.

Their final barbecue of organization of the event to the season was "phenome- tion fine about it, just takhelp make the service club a nal," he says. "A huge num- ing what we had left. We've

They had about 35 veand gave away extra fries to make up for the wait time.

"Everybody was absoluber of people showed up, had such wonderful sup-

to cancel their annual car- since it was the last night. port from the community. in, and "were absolutely fan- manage them safely, likely all 11 weeks. It was a good turnout every week, we had delivering food to vehicles, good weather, the volunteers were great, and we got They would do whatever jobs a system down that worked came up," he says. "It was a drive-through, similar to really well for us."

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

every week, taking orders, and doing a lot of running. good to have some young the way the burgers were, he kids helping out."

The next fundraiser for the club is a return to the now. We usually do them and also for a food program fish fries in November, says from November to April or Pittman. Club members are May. As soon as we get it fig-The Leos wanted to pitch already working on how to

because they will have fewer volunteers in the kitchen.

The fish and chips will be delivered to vehicles in says.

"We're in discussion ured out, we'll rock and roll."



(Penny Coles)



St. Davids Leo Zoe Abraham helps deliver food during one of the Lions burger barbecues. LEO Jason Christie delivers an order to a barbecue guest. During the 11 weeks, Leos received more than \$900 in donations for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide program.



#### \$2,395,000 MLS 40029165 • Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft

#### \$1,998,000 MLS 40023649 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

#### \$1,498,000 MLS 30813608 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

#### \$929,000 MLS 30826622 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



**11 HARMONY DRIVE** \$1,795,000 MLS 40022872 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



**14 LUCIA COURT** \$939,000 MLS 30814496 • Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie



**1060 CONCESSION 2 ROAD** \$898,000 MLS 30768722 • Randall Armstrong



204 LINE 7 ROAD \$1.875.000 MLS 30821299 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

Christopher Bowron***	905-468-2269
Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong**	905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc*	905-941-3726
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#### notllocal.com

## 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 availbecome an issue."

avoid crowding in the pharmacy, and it's turned out to be a popular option, but the going online at https://simpvaccines he receives.

rear parking lot, and has the King Street pharmacy.

"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, ability. I'm hoping that doesn't making it easier for people to physical distance by staying Simpson is offering a in their vehicle for the waiting drive-through service to time necessary after they've received their shot.

Simpson recommends number of appointments is sonspharmacy.ca to make an dependent on the number of appointment for the drivethrough behind the Niagara He is using space in the Medical Clinic, or inside at







If you require an inside appointment, please book at our Apothecary location. Please wear short sleeves and be prepared to remain with us for 15 minutes after your vaccination.

We are now OPEN TO THE PUBLIC but ask you kindly to adhere to the rules posted to keep everyone safe and allow for daily design to continue.

> We are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. -Monday to Friday, and closed on weekends until further notice.

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.

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### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### 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

#### 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, P.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 at 905-980-6000 ext. 3779 or **FOI@niagararegion.ca**.

#### LEGAL NOTICE

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to

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provisions of Section 17 of the Planning Act, as follows:

DATE:Monday, Nov. 9, 2020TIME: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**  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.

Notice issued October 15, 2020.



niagararegion.ca

/niagararegion@niagararegion

# **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

forces." Eventually, the to observe pandemic pre-American army collapsed cautions and physical disand surrendered.

the battle there, with tallies do this year, so I wanted to of dead soldiers and Amer- make sure some could parican prisoners, but Clark ticipate." believed that was not the end of the story for the sol- he was joined by members diers. After participating in of different reenactment the anniversary march he groups from across Ontario, felt more connected to the including Samuel Challen, soldiers who had fought Harrison Burrill, Thomas in the battle 200 years Taplay, Rob McGuire, Abel ago. Those troops that Land, Jody Ethridge, Zane marched from Fort George Scott, Jordan Kipp, James to Queenston, fought a McFarlane, Joel Culliford, battle, won a victory, then Craig Burney, and Susan marched back to the fort.

Clark, who has been involved in reenactments for ia Hurley and Leigh Ann more than 20 years, decided to do the march again one lone American soldier, solo in 2017. He recalls, Thomas Walters, who, ac-"The first year was just me cording to Clark, "paddled seeing if I could do it, and from the U.S. to the Canaif it was a viable thing that dian coastline but never others would do." He had touched land." only planned to recreate the march from Fort George George shortly after 9 a.m. to Queenston as they had on Saturday, took a short done in 2012, but being on rest at McFarland House, his own, once he made it to then on to the Queenston the top, he then had to turn World War memorial and around and march back to a detour to the docks to Fort George.

been joined by other participants who have also made the annual trek from destination shortly before Fort George to Queenston 1 p.m., where they enjoyed Heights and back, wearing a rest and some lunch their full uniforms, com- (tack) before making the plete with wool trousers, 10-kilometre trek back to tunics and carrying their the fort. muskets. In past years, he was happy to welcome any actor and ex-military Jody and all participants to the Ethridge, described the

against the invading U.S. capped the number at 15 tancing. "This might be the The historical texts end only event some reenactors

> For this year's march, Piper aided by two support vehicles driven by Virgin-Culliford. There was also

The group left Fort set eyes on their American Since then, Clark has "foe" before ascending to Queenston Heights.

They arrived at their

During the break, reenevent, but this year Clark physical and philosophical



Sqt. 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)

back — they were made of some pretty stern stuff."

soldiers of 1812 did not that made the ultimate have the luxury of a nice sacrifice," he laments. "I support vehicles.

In the shadow of

meaning of the march for that holds the greater sighim. "It is one thing to read nificance. Remembering about it in a history book, when he first descended but to actually put on the from Queenston Heights member those that fought gear and march here and as a lone soldier in 2017, he fight a full battle and march becomes more reflective. "The march back came to symbolize those that did Clark added that the not make the march back; ed Canada back in 1812. I paved pathway, stairs, and came to honour those that pened here over 200 years couldn't return."

He adds, "We do it for ing Canadian." Brock's monument, the those that couldn't." One troops turn in forma- can imagine battle wea- one who is interested in this tion to begin the march ry soldiers in heavy wool back to Fort George. For tunics burdened with the to go to this website (www.

weight of the souls of their lost comrades upon them.

"It is important to reand died defending Canada," says Clark. "We would not be Canadians now without those who defendhope to teach people along the way about what hapago, and to be proud of be-

Clark encourages anyor other reenacting events Clark, it is this return trip weight of their gear, the recruiting.crownforces.ca).



Jody Ethridge (left) is among a group of reenactors who make the trek from Fort George to Reenactors begin the long return march along the Niagara River Parkway to Fort George, wear-Queenston Heights and back again, to recognize the soldiers who fought and won the Battle of ing full uniforms and carrying their gear. Queenston Heights Oct. 13, 1812.

#### notllocal.com

THE NOTL LOCAL

# **Churches offer services during pandemic**

#### **Penny Coles** The Local

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

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, many continued to hold only online services, which they 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 weekly Sunday morning services and the music that is so much a part of them.

But last Sunday morning, while a beautiful fall day, was a little too chilly, says lead pastor Kevin Bayne, and plans are being made to move safely inside for the first time this Sunday.

"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 their sanctuaries with up to 30 per cent of capacity, and Bayne says he believes they can do that at Cornerstone without turning people away.

Services continue to be livestreamed, and many parishioners are choosing to continue watching online, he says.

"We'll be at less than 30 per cent capacity with a cap of 150 people, and will meet or exceed every public health guideline."

Pre-COVID Sunday mornings would typically bring in 450 people, and up to 650 at Christmas and other special services, says Bayne, but he doesn't expect to get to those numbers.

"There are still people who says Janzen. are a little hesitant to gather in-

tinues to broadcast to residents of Pleasant Manor, so they can watch their weekly church service on their television.

"A lot of Niagara-on-the-Lake churches are doing that," he says. "We have found most seniors are able to get it."

Most seniors have not been attending outdoor sessions, and instead participate in online services. "We've had a really good response from seniors," says Bayne.

"We've been livestreaming services for a couple of years now," he adds, and many seniors have family who have helped set them up with iPads so they can watch online.

When the pandemic closed churches, says Bayne, "online was seamless for us."

While parishioners are missing coffee time and socializing after church, he adds, he's noticed many families chatting after the service, keeping their distance and wearing masks. Socializing, however, "is certainly diminished."

Some small groups have continued gathering outside of church, he says.

Socializing is "part of the fabric of our faith community, and one of the things we're grieving as a loss. We're definitely looking forward to getting back to that."

However, he adds, out of necessity, "the pandemic has sparked a lot of creativity, and that is helping people through it."

The United Mennonite Church on Niagara Stone Road, or Red Brick Church as it's more often called, began holding indoor, in-person services since Sept. 13.

"We wanted to be cautious and develop a plan to get people in and out safely," says lead pastor Daniel Janzen.

Capacity of the church is "just shy of 300," he says, and right now they've capped their numbers at 50 "while we get our bearings. We haven't quite hit that number of 50. Many continue to watch it online."

Pre-COVID services would have attracted 80 to 90 people, pew, in every other pew."

"We've had a mixed reaction



At Cornerstone Community Church, outside services allowed musicians to self-distance, and families to stay in their circles. Their last outside service was Thanksgiving Sunday, and similar protocols will be followed when they move inside this Sunday. (Photos supplied)

gather. It's wonderful to be able to gather again, while being very conscious of keeping people safe."

The church alternates Sundays for German and English services, and some people go to both, he says. They are encouraged to pre-register, but if they don't, they won't be turned away, as long as they don't exceed the cap.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, a long-time member of St. Mark's Anglican Church, was able to sit in the sanctuary, surrounded by parishioners, for the first time this Sunday.

It felt very different than pre-COVID, "but really good to be back."

Burroughs is accustomed to attending church alone his wife Sarah prefers the midweek service - but he has a group of people he traditionally sits with. That wasn't happening Sunday. He had friends around him, but at a distance.

"Normally I'd always be in the same seat, sitting with the same gang. This time, there were people around me, but there were only two people to a

done a good job of ensuring ence the church service.

sang some hymns. Everyone else hums, says Burroughs. Despite the changes, Bur-

roughs said, "being back in church is a great feeling. Everyone is happy to be back, and feeling safe."

Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, one of the volunteers who helped organize a safe reopening, agrees.

The committee "did a lot of great work to make people feel safe," he says.

About the same number of those who returned Sunday chose to watch it live online, he says, with 40 people attending in person, and 38 participating remotely Sunday morning.

"We've heard lots of comments from people looking forward to coming to church," he says. "Many have the appetite for getting back to seeing people, and others are not comfortable with that yet."

What really surprised him, however, was seeing 160 people have watched the service since, indicating not only is the St. Mark's congregation adjusting well to the changes brought on by COVID, the online availabil-



of in-person worship meeting regularly, working on a plan to reintroduce indoor services. "At present, a date has not been ity is increasing the number of mentioned, as we want to en-A crew of organizers have people who choose to experi- sure our church is equipped and volunteers trained." Julie Hunter, of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, says Thanksgiving Sunday was their the quality of the recording is first in-person service since the start of the pandemic, with all "I'll have to improve on the protocols in place to make the congregation as safe and comforted as possible.

The maximum they're allowing at the moment is 40 people, testing it with a small number for now to ensure everyone feels comfortable, Hunter says.

"We have a retirement conegation, and a lot of people don't feel comfortable. They can watch it on Facebook or You-Tube."

side. We'll keep our ear to the ground to 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."

choosing to eliminate singing, Cornerstone hasn't made that 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.

less forcefully," he says.

Cornerstone, like some other churches in the area, con-

are more comfortable with participating in events as a group, and have returned. Others are more cautious and continue to watch online."

While some churches are also streaming services to Pleasant Manor, he says.

move — music is a big part of Cogeco access to a time slot, so people can watch it on their regular Cogeco channel. And kids are helping their parents figure it out."

> While most of their fellowship is outside, "it's getting a little more difficult as the days get cooler," he says.

"We're looking at different "We may ask people to sing ways, such as through Zoom, to offer social time. In the meantime, we're thankful for looser restrictions that allow us to

from our seniors. Some of them services can be held safely, including seating people at a distance. "Everybody is really appreciative of the job they've done," he says.

Sunday was a "soft open-The Red Brick Church is ing," with a cap on 50 people, "and it was terrific."

Typically there would be "We are blessed to have maybe 80 at a regular service, but some members are still not comfortable attending and are watching on YouTube, he says, which will continue.

> One change organizers will look at for next week, Burroughs says, is allowing for family groups to sit together, staying in their own bubble.

> There are no hymn books in sight, and singing is not allowed, although the organist plays and the minister, Rev. Peter Wall, "who has a really great voice,"

Zalepa was also doing the

camera work for the online recording of the service, but feels lacking.

that," he says. "There is so much we all have to learn during COVID."

St. Davids-Queenston United Church continues to offer online services only. They are recorded on Wednesday, uploaded to the churche's You-Tube channel, then shared with the "usual questions" about the congregation for viewing "together while apart" on Sunday morning, says congregational and church board chair Steve Hardaker.

views a week."

tee working on the resumption says Hunter.

They had 30 people in the church, allowing people in their bubbles to share boxes, but with some boxes and pews closed a space, and fill out forms with symptoms, contact with others and travelling, and the morning went "nice and smoothly," she says. "The feedback was good." There is a door to enter and

"We are averaging about 90 a door to exit, and circle stickers on the new carpet to indicate The church has a commit- distancing and flow of traffic,

To be there in person, she adds, "feels like a little bit of normality."

It was nice to see the faces of church members again, and for Rev. Virginia Head to have people in the church to preach to, says Hunter.

There is no singing, but off. People were asked to reserve there is a "praise team" of three at the front of the church, and the organist to accompany them.

> "Music and singing is such a huge part of the service. That part might take a while to get used to," she says.

> In the meantime, as long as nothing changes on the provincial or local level, "we'll keep doing what we're doing."

### LOCAL HAPPENINGS





**THANK YOU!** We are so grateful for all the support we have received from the community for our BBQ nights. They were a resounding success!

### PUMPKIN CARVING AT THE NIAGARA PUMPHOUSE ARTS CENTRE

#### October 17 @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Get creative carving and decorating pumpkins at the Pumphouse. Call to reserve a free outdoor table. Register online to this free event: 905-468-5455 https://niagarapumphouse.ca/events/decoratepumpkins-at-the-pumphouse-oct-17-2020?fbclid= IwAR3Mj-VO4SvCfHTPV08J94mlzVRIRErK5YtsQf7IS Xzqoig5c\_a\_1oJvYRE

# NOTL ROTARY VIRTUAL TASTING AT HARE WINERY

#### October 20 @ 7 p.m.

The Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Virtual Wine Tasting Tour will be held every Tuesday in October. On Oct. 13 it will showcase The Hare Winery, and Oct. 20, Between the Lines, with a different charity as the recipient each week. Wine packages are \$65 per ticket and include tasting notes, descriptions and characteristics of the selected wines, as well as recipes for food and wine paring. The wine will be shipped directly from the wineries to the participants prior to the event. These events will be featured through a Zoom link which will be sent to the participant's email on the day of the event. For more information visit www.niagaraonthelakerotary.ca.

### **NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM – DIGITAL DOORS OPEN**

#### October 24 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Doors Open has gone digital! Due to restrictions at many sites and gathering limitations, we will now be bringing you video tours of several sites of historical and architectural significance. Discover our community's hidden gems. Information will be available soon at https://www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/

## TRICK OR TREATING AT THE PUMPHOUSE

#### October 31 @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This Halloween, stop by the Niagara Pumphouse for our curbside, trick-or-treating solution. Families can look forward to a safer Halloween in an accessible venue. Keep checking our website for more information. https://niagarapumphouse.ca



Canadian soprano Allison Cecilia Arends (left) solos in Music Niagara's Last Night of the Proms, recorded at Chateau des Charmes, with a 15-piece orchestra conducted by Sabatino Vacca, and featuring Atis Bankas. (Photo 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 Atis 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. 4.

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.

incredible," enthuses Vanden-Berg. "This is experiential learning at its finest, and has provided our students another unique opportunity to be 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 multi-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 Landing, were offered free of 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.

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.

Arends kicks things off with

world class musicians has been sion of You'll Never Walk Alone, which has become the club's theme song.

> Green, Niagara's king of the one-liner, ties things together throughout, with a bit of comedy and some background about the song selections. The Nottingham native hosts the event wearing his Union Jack sweater. "I don't get up there and just do puns," he tells The Local. "My job is to just keep the flow going in between, keep it light-hearted. I'll make observations in between and make jokes about things that have just happened."

Conductor Vacca is the charge. It's a show of support founder, artistic director, and from the community that was chorus master of the newly formed Southern Ontario Lyric Opera, as well as the music director of the Cambridge Symphony Orchestra and the Milton Philharmonic Orchestra. The 15-piece orchestra put together by Vacca and Atis 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 Britannia, and Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance. 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 crumpets before sitting down to enjoy the show.

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 landmark recording that still defines the jazz genre today.

One of Canada's finest trumpet players, Steve McDade leads a talented band featuring Perry White on tenor saxophone, John Johnson on alto sax, Adrean Farrugia on piano, Scott Alexander on bass, and Brian Barlow on drums. The sextet rips through the wellknown jazz classics So What, Freddie Freeloader and Flamenco Sketches, as well as other numbers from the jazz legend's 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 Pillitteri makes his second appearance in the At Home Series as host of the event, recorded at the beautiful McArthur Estate on John Street.

Summing up the season, Lade says, "we have had to be inventive and rise to the occasion. From the beginning of the pandemic, we worked hard to connect and support everyone. That includes not only our dedicated audiences, but also our patrons and sponsors and of course, our musicians, and the brilliant students who take part in our annual Performance Academy."

She adds, "the At Home Series has reached a much larger audience than our live season, and we have engaged and em-The final entry in the 2020 ployed over 80 artists during Home Series is a tribute to a time when many are out of

### HALLOWEEN AT FORT GEORGE

October 31 @ 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Bring your little goblins and ghouls for an afternoon of history and fun at Fort George National Historic Site. Learn about the history of halloween in the Regency era, while experiencing musket demonstrations and more! Children who come in their halloween costumes will get some special treats! Regular admission rates apply. For more info, visit FriendsofFortGeorge.ca or call 905-468-6621.

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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

Save the Queen, and later takes a album ever recorded. Released the musical *Pirates of Penzance*. And, if you're a Liverpool Soccer Club fan, you'll probably

a wonderful rendition of *God* perhaps the most important jazz run at Poor Wandring One from in 1959, the Miles Davis masterpiece, Kind of Blue, still stands today as one of the best albums ever made. Though it fell from want to sing along with her ver- number 12 to number 31 on

work. It's been a huge success."

To see 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.



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OBITUARY

SUTHERLAND, DOUGLAS LEURAN-Peacefully, at NHS-St. Catharines Site on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 79 years of age. Beloved husband of Sandra (nee McBane) for 57 years. Proud Dad of Lisa Mustard, the late Drew (2015) and Todd. Poppa to Matthew and Shannon. Dear brother of Evelyn Brown and the late Ruby Steed. Doug will be missed by his best friend, Doug, extended family members and neighbors. He was a clown, Toby, in the NOTL Santa Claus Parade for 10 years. He was always helping others by taking care of yard work whether it be cutting the grass, raking leaves or gathering twigs and such and taking them to the burn pile in his wheelbarrow. His concern for others ran deep; he helped many families in Cuba with used bicycles, clothing and tools. He enjoyed the hunt of searching for bottles to add to his collection along with being a "scrapper" in the metal trade. In keeping with Doug's wishes, a private family service will be held. Cremation has taken place and we would like to thank Considerate Cremation & Burial Services. Arrangements entrusted to Considerate Cremation & Burial Services, 52 Scott Street West, St.

**October** 15, 2020 15

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- 24 Hate
- 25 --- Smith, Empress of the Blues
- 28 Compel
- 30 Boiling mad
- 31 Harmless simpleton
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- 33 Baum's Land ---

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- 55 Reminder
- 56 Fast-food option
- 57 "The Heat ---" (Glenn Frey)
- 58 Crux
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