The Niagara-on-the-Lake



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Commemorating **Brock**

On Sunday, the anniversary of the death of Sir Isaac Brock during the Battle of Queenston Heights, Parks Canada's Scott Finlay appeared as the Canadian hero in front of Brock's Monument in Queenston. After Brock was killed in battle in 1812, his body was carried to a home in Queenston, and with a renewed attack on the heights the British were victorious. Brock was buried first at Fort George, along with Lt. Col. John Macdonell who had also fallen during the battle. On Oct. 13, 1824, Brock and Macdonell were disinterred, transported from Fort George to Queenston, and reburied with military honours at the site of the monument. But in1840, an explosion severely damaged the monument, Brock and Macdonell were moved again and temporally buried on a Queenston estate, before being buried for the fourth and final time on Oct.13, 1853, at the site of the new monument. (Fred Mercnik)

Organ donation needed to save life of NOTL woman

Penny Coles The Local

Diane Peirce is a private person. She's also a strong woman, very much the matriarch, the caregiver of her family, and not for help.

Her daughter, Natalie Cooper, has no such qualms. She doesn't want to lose her mother. She has plans for Diane to

the light of her life, Olive — Na- and Nicole. talie's 15-month-old daughter and Diane's only grandchild grow up.

Diane has end-stage liver disease. There is no cure, but life, bring her back to the good health she has always enjoyed, give her energy to play with the granddaughter she loves fiercely, and continue to be a wife to

stick around long enough to see Mike and mother to Natalie life. And in mine," she says as

Olive, says Mike, "is an happy little girl, and a wonderful gift for all of us."

at all comfortable about asking a transplant would save her continue to be part of her life," says Diane.

> And her family is far from being ready to let her go.

As Natalie adds, "it's important to me to have her in Olive's she gives her mom a hug.

Diane's best chance of a amazing distraction for Diane, a transplant, she's been told, is to find a live donor.

She learned about a year and "It's so important to me to a half ago her liver was not functioning properly. She had lost a lot of weight, had a persistent cough, was jaundiced, and although she has always been active, found she was tiring easily.

Continued on page 4



Adrian and Natalie Cooper, Mike and Diane Peirce, with Olive, talk about Diane's health and future. (Penny Coles)



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Federal candidates court votes in St. Davids

Penny Coles The Local

Cannabis and climate change were two of the big issues discussed when about 100 people gathered in the St. Davids Lions Hall last week for the only local opportunity to hear from federal candidates for the with candidates given the Niagara Falls riding, which includes Fort Erie and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The meeting was organized by the St. Davids Ratepayers Association, with six of seven candidates on-hand

sociation members and the Heritage Party and Indepen- he's concerned about afford- Conservatives and Liberals and plants that encourage public.

It was a well-behaved group, said moderator Mike Pearsall, vice-president of attend. the SDRA, unlike the televised leaders' debate from en a chance to answer every life has become difficult for the night before.

The meeting opened rebuttal. opportunity to introduce himself as a long-time comthemselves, including Tony munications manager of the Baldinelli of the Conservative Party, Brian Barker of the with a background of work-NDP, Liberal Andrea Kaiser, ing in politics for the Con-Green Party representative servative party, including a Sandra O'Connor, Tricia stint with Rob Nicholson in

dent Mike Strange.

Alex Taylor of the People's Party of Canada did not

Each candidate was givquestion, with no time for

Baldinelli introduced Niagara Parks Commission,



Conservative Tony Baldinelli, Brian Barker representing the NDP and Sandra O'Connor of the Green Party, candidates for the Niagara Falls riding, answer questions at the St. Davids Lions Hall. (Penny Coles)



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running to make the country winning the Oct. 21 election and our children."

NDP Brian Barker, said bet," he said. families today. The teach- nority, the ruling party will er and father of two said he have to come to the Indepengrew up with parents who dents to get any bill passed, both worked hard and could provide a modest living for their family, but that has what it needs. become harder. Canadians "didn't get the change they candidates from the modthought was coming" with erator, regarding "unique the Liberal party, he said, promising to fight for his riding if given the chance.

she had worked "in science" all her life, and has acquired the skills to understand and represent the Green Party. She has been engaged in the community as a volunteer, infrastructure projects which fighting for a variety of issues, "and would love to do the same for you" as an MP for the Green Party, which to do that, "it's better to be has the best platform for climate change, she said.

Tricia O'Connor, "no relation" to the Green Party candidate, grew up in Welland, went to York University and one of his interests is history the University of Toronto as and preserving heritage. He is a single mom, and has had lots of experience with global issues, "probably more than most" candidates, she said. She is a teacher, works with children with autism, and believes the Green Party is good at in the ideals of the Christian working Heritage Party, which stands not combatively," and would for life, family and children, establish a fund to help preand is the only pro-life federal serve prime farmland for party in Canada.

Liberal Andrea Kaiser said she has lived in Niag- cillor and a member of the ara-on-the-Lake since she municipal heritage commitwas a child, growing up in tee gave Kaiser insight into the tourism and agricultural industry. He father was credited with changing the local though unsuccessfully, to wine industry, where she has institute a heritage rebate also worked, as well as being a teacher at Niagara College and a small-business owner, in tourism, increasing an alwith 11 years experience on ready significant investment municipal council.

Mike Strange, a for-

CAROLINE

CAROLIE

to answer questions from as- O'Connor of the Christian Ottawa. With a wife and son, Independent. He believes the would like to see more bees ability for families, and is both have a 50/50 chance of "a better place for all of us with a minority government, Strange, and he would like an in which case, "I'm the safe expanded heritage district to

> He believes with a miand he promised to make tion about amalgamation, sure the Niagara riding gets

The first question for the heritage areas and tourism draws," was an easy one for Baldinelli, who has worked Sandra O'Connor said for the parks commission, tasked with preserving heritage on its property while attracting tourists, for the last 18 years.

> He said there are several could benefit from collaboration with the provincial and municipal governments, and an insider," where it's easier to get funding for important projects that are important to the community.

> As a teacher, Barker said, against irresponsible development, he said, and would work to prevent parking lots paving over ecological preserves.

Sandra O'Connor said "collaboratively, heritage and food security.

Being a municipal counthe preservation of heritage, she said, and she tried, alprogram in town. As an MP, she would continue to invest of the Liberal party.

mer Olympic boxer and beekeeper she has learned a cluding universal drug care, two-term Niagara Falls city lot from bees about collabocouncillor, is running as an ration and cooperation, and

pollination.

The area is growing, said protect the streetscapes and buildings in one of the oldest communities in Canada. "I would hate to lose that," he said.

In response to a quesall said they would not have much input into the provincial matter. Strange said he doesn't want one city, but if there is going to be a change, the best model would amalgamate Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and NOTL. "We don't want to take on the St. Catharines debt or the Grimsby debt."

Tricia O'Connor said she'd like to see things stay the same, while Kaiser sees value in individual municipal councils, but if that doesn't happen, she would do what she can to have a voice. "If there is something I can do to ensure that, I would work towards it, 100 per cent."

Amalgamation, Barker said, "would change the face of NOTL," and he would fight for locals to have a voice.

Baldinelli said he would work toward cooperation between locals and the Province "to preserve the character of the municipality."

In a question about their party platforms, Baldinelli talked about affordability, and putting more money in the pockets of Canadians through universal tax credits, including fitness programs for kids, and increasing the ceiling for RRSP contributions.

Barker said the NDPs would introduce national pharma and dental programs, so people can use "health cards instead of credit cards," and would look at more day care with adequate spaces, and more affordable housing for seniors.

Sandra O'Connor said the Greens would put more Tricia O'Connor said as a money into health care, in-

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All candidates asked for plan to pay for promises

Continued from page 2

more affordable child care spaces, increased seniors' pensions, and pension protection when companies go bankrupt.

The Liberals are committed to helping families and seniors, said Kaiser, through increases to child care benefits, more day care spots and increasing the amount seniors can keep if they continue to work past the age of 65.

Tricia O'Connor said her party believes in life, family and freedom, and would put families first. Every school should have after-hours day care, she said.

has to be tightened up, more seniors facilities built, affordable housing for all and free transit for seniors across Canada.

When asked about the legalization of cannabis, most candidates agreed the roll-out was rushed, that it's going to have a big impact on farming communities such as NOTL, and that a second look on controlling it is needed. "I'm not sure it's something we need as a nation," said Tricia O'Connor. I would like to see our greenhouses growing food."

Sandra O'Connor said there should be clear lines of responsibility in terms of legislation, and the best land in Canada should be reserved for food.

Kaiser, whose Liberal party legalized cannabis, said she would do whatever she could to assist municipalities in the agricultural transition to cannabis, "and find a way to make it work in town."

"It's here for the foreseeable future," said Barker, and although he supports enterprise, it shouldn't be at the expense of residents. He suggested all levels of government should work together on issues such as odour control, for the sake of residents.

Baldinelli said he is concerned about the lack of regulations in transportation - particularly with pilots Strange said Canada is rated jobs, lowered the unemploy-

steps to make changes where everyone wants to come here, communities. The country has dents." The Greens would needed."

When asked about climate change, Baldinelli said the Conservative government would reduce the carbon tax while going after big grams need to begin in school. business to reduce emissions. "We have to take the fight of removing stress by proglobally, to work with other countries to reduce their and Kaiser said the opioid emissions," he added.

Barker said tackling climate change has to include a not a criminal one, and that food strategy and support for farmers getting their products into stores. He'd also like to see the government help residents who have had issues with flooding.

The Greens, said San-Strange said immigration dra O'Connor, would have and Barker said the federal a national strategy to move away from fossil fuels. Without reducing climate change ince for health care, and to and preserving farmland, she declare the opioid crisis a said, "we won't have a wine national emergency. industry."

> change is affecting the wine drew him to politics and the industry, with fewer wineries producing ice wine, and said the government needs a feasible and ambitious climate vid when he was three days change plan. "We need to do old, he said. Daniel spent his the right thing."

> she's a big proponent of solar care, including assistive deenergy, and of using "the intelligence God has given us" to combat climate change.

Climate change, said Strange, "should be a non-partisan issue." He spoke passionately of all MPs working together, about loss of shoreline and the need to their promises. declare a state of emergency, and about kids being afraid for the future. "We need to get on it. Let's get started. Our future generations depend on it," he said, to applause from the audience.

the floor were about arts and caucus." heritage, mental health, addiction, euthanasia, and the impact measures to prevent money spent overseas back climate change would have home, while Kaiser said the on the public.

"flying high. We need to take number one in the world and ment rate and invested in going after university stu- spending problem, we have a so immigration has to be more responsible. It's having an impact on housing for seniors, and causing stress, he said, adding mental health pro-

Tricia O'Connor talked viding affordable housing, crisis is being treated as a health issue by the Liberals, investments are needed to deal with addictions, which the Liberal government has pledged to do.

Sandra O'Connor also talked about taking responsibility for the opioid crisis, government needs to increase payments to the prov-

Baldinelli shared his per-Kaiser agreed climate sonal experience about what Conservatives. He and his wife had twin baby boys arrive early, and they lost Dafirst 136 days in the hospital, Tricia O'Connor said and still requires medical vices. "I wouldn't have run guarantees," he said.

> By far the most popular question of the evening, the one that drew applause, was how each of the governments planned to pay for all

Strange said because he's not part of any political party, he will make the others accountable. "I can keep the other politicians in check, and make sure their promises are kept. I'm the only one Questions that came from who can't get kicked out of

Tricia O'Connor said her party is committed to bringing Liberals would keep the debt/ In response to a broad gross domestic product ratio question about health care, at 30 per cent. In eight years, mental illness and addiction, the Liberal party has created

years, she said.

Sandra O'Connor counin five years and stop subsidies to fossil fuel companies,

an AAA rating internationally, also go after international and an economy that has been companies who don't pay strengthened over the last four taxes in Canada, such as Google and Netflix, she said.

Barker also talked about tered that, saying the lower- helping people who want to and middle-class Canadians make ends meet by going afwould not agree. The Greens ter the largest corporations would balance the budget to pay their fair share. As a teacher, he can't hide his "modest" income, he said, while closing tax loopholes and the NDP would eliminate and increasing taxes for the loopholes that allow others to top one per cent, as well as do so. The NDP would also going after those who are end subsidies for gas and oil hiding money, "instead of companies. "We don't have a in order."

revenue problem."

"Every day we ask hard-working Canadians to live within their means," said Baldinelli. But the Liberals haven't balanced their budgets or introduced pharmacare, which they promised. The Conservatives would balance its budget with a five-year plan. The Liberal government spends almost as much on debt interest as it does on health care transfers, he said. "We have to get our fiscal house



if it weren't for health care Liberal Andrea Kaiser, Tricia O'Connor of the Christian Heritage Party and Independent Mike Strange wait for their opportunity to draw support for their party platforms. (Penny Coles)



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It's a lot to ask, 'but I've got a lot of life to live'

Continued from page 1

Testing showed she had a fatty liver, and further investigation uncovered twisted and clogged bile ducts that were preventing toxins from draining, and causing cirrhosis of the liver - a condition that in her case was not caused by alcohol, Mike one of the volunteers at the repoints out.

In February, 2018, she was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare disease for which the only treatment is a transplant. She then completed all the requirements for liver energy she has when Olive is transplant surgery, which could be a result of dealing with years of colitis and irritated bowl syndrome, and was put on the list to wait for a donor.

"I can't say enough about the whole team of people who looked after me," says Diane. "They gave me so much support, showed so much kindness. My doctor said she would treat me like she would treat her own mom, and told me she fully expects me to live into my 80s. I told her, 'I'll take that.""

a waiting list for a liver, some of whom will die before their turn comes.

Diane is sure she is not going to be one of them.

"I'm being very positive about this. I won't think about anything negative. I believe something will work out for me?

told her, "this is the new normal. a live donation. Push yourself to live through it. Play nine holes of golf walking."

She does that, several times a week as a member of two leagues, and also golfs occasionally with Mike.

She volunteers — she was cent Snowbirds Air Show and although she naps most days to recharge, she plays with her granddaughter every chance she gets.

"It's amazing how much around," says Mike.

And when a match is found, as she is sure there will be, "I'm going to have another new normal," says Diane.

As a potential organ recipient, she is not told where she is on the waiting list, which is ever-changing, as some people grow more ill and move closer to the top, and others' conditions deteriorate to the point where they are not well enough for a transplant.

They are dependent on a But she is one of many on MELD score (model for endstage liver disease), a measure which prioritizes who will receive a liver should one become available, explains Mike, and Diane's score can change, depending on her current state of health.

> good outcome waiting for her, well as someone younger. He and at the moment, the most would do anything to help

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A liver is a miraculous organ, says Mike. It can regenerate itself. A transplant of a section of a heathy liver from a live donor would almost immediately return Diane to the same robust health she has aways enjoyed.

the best chance for survival, and the best quality of life," says Natalie.

"There is a risk of waiting for a deceased donor — you can become too sick to qualify," says Mike. "A live donor transplant is far and away the best as far as outcome."

Since 1990, 800 living liver donor transplants have been performed at the University Health Network at the Toronto General Hospital site, with all donors having returned to their regular lifestyle with no restrictions.

But donors are hard to find, especially when there is no one in the family who can help everyone who has volunteered and was able to be tested in the family has been eliminated.

The age limit to be a live liver donor is 59. Both Mike and Diane's two sisters have been disqualified because of their age

The way the system works, Mike says, it's paramount to protect the donor, and an old-She is positive there is a er person doesn't recover as

In the meantime, the doctor likely way to get there is through his wife - he begged them to bend the rules, and is devastated he has been ruled out.

> Natalie has been eliminated because she has multiple sclerosis — anyone with a chronic illness is disqualified from being a donor.

The family thought Natalie's A live donation "provides husband Adrian was going to be a match, but when he revealed he has sleep apnea, he was off the list — he's not a candidate for surgery because he sleeps with a mask.

> They have been advised to start looking for a live donor in other ways, outside the family, says Natalie.

> "In Toronto, people put it on billboards," she says. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, she decided to begin by asking the local newspaper for help.

> Diane and her family realize it's a huge thing to ask anybody. They fully understand it would take a very special person, but they know there are people out there who are special.

> Mike says when he realized he couldn't be the one to save his wife, he decided if someone else could help Diane, he would offer one of his kidneys to someone in need — his age does not disqualify him from being a kidney donor, and they've learned enough about organ donation to appreciate how many lives can be saved by live donors.

The process for a potential donor to apply to determine if they qualify, done through the University Health Network in Toronto, is very protective of the donor, says Natalie.

It's completely anonymous for anyone going through the process, she explains. As she was trying to line up some family members for testing — only one person can be tested at a time, and only when eliminated do they go on to the next — she couldn't even get information if someone was in the process of being tested. That's to protect anyone who says they will apply, and then changes their mind, she explains.

"There is psychological testing as well as physical," she says. "All the way through the process, right up until the very last min- with his family.



Vanessa Smith with Peter Brouwer, before the surgery that saved his life. (Photo supplied)

ute, when the surgery is about to begin, a donor will be asked if they've changed their mind. If they do, we would just be told something had happened to disqualify them — we'd never know they had decided they couldn't do it."

their quest for a donor is Vanessa Smith, a St. Catharines woman.

Smith, a mother of six children, learned while watching her son's hockey game that one of the hockey dads, a father of two from Grimsby, was very ill, and needed a liver transplant. She went up to his wife after the game, and said she would help, although he was not a close friend.

Both he and his wife were concerned about Smith putting herself at risk when she had six children who needed their mother, but her answer was that they had two children, and they needed their dad.

In January, 2016, she underwent surgery that saved his life.

The surgery and recovery went well, she said. She felt little pain, was out of the hospital in five days and up and about much quicker than shed been told to expect.

She needed little naps for about two weeks, she said, and although she doesn't have a lot of contact with the recipient of the transplant, the last she heard he was fine, working, travelling, and spending time

She never felt any hesitation about what she was doing.

"I fully knew, 100 per cent, that everything would be fine."

The UHN team made her feel very comfortable about what she was doing, she says.

"I had an intensive workout Encouraging the family in at the hospital in Toronto. It was very thorough. I believed if they tell you it's okay, it's okay."

She's been told that what she did was amazing, but she doesn't feel that way at all.

Now 39, she has had no repercussions at all from the surgery, and no regrets about what she did. She believes it was a valuable lesson for her children, now aged six to 19.

"I feel like it wasn't that big a deal. The doctors saved his life, not me. I've taught my kids if you can help someone, you need to help. And I believe if I can do that, others can as well, and if everyone helped people when they could, the world would be a much better place. I also believe someone will come forward for Diane, and she will have a long, healthy life."

There may be people out there who have thought about being an organ donor, she says, but discovering there is someone they know who needs help may push them to do it now.

And that not only helps Diane - it takes her off the waiting list and bumps someone else up for the next transplant. To encourage anyone who

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Silversmith ready to celebrate the future

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Silversmith Brewing Company is being "born again" next weekend, with a three-day celebration designed to "bring the lustre back," and to repay the community for its patience and support.

Vice-president and director of operations Kate Brzozowski says the past couple of years at the popular local craft brewery have been somewhat challenging. The weekend celebration is a chance to rebrand, re-invigorate, and look spector, but by Silversmith

to the future.

That future will be laid out as Brzozowski says the new plans for construction, which began in October, 2017 and was suspended indefinitely a year ago, will be announced.

Last October, problems with the foundation on Silversmith's 11,000 square foot expansion caused grief for investors and put a halt to plans for new retail and office space out back. Brzozowski is quick to point out that the project wasn't shut down by an in-

bunch of people," she says.

In the meantime, Diane

and her family wait. She can't

travel more than two hours

from Toronto without permis-

sion from her health team, in

case a liver from a deceased or-

Support Group, a Facebook

page dedicated to helping find

a donor. A link to the relevant

forms are posted online on

Facebook and on a website

the family has created, donor-

4diane.com. Or contact the

University Health Network

Centre for Living Or-

gans at 1-416-340-5400, or

email livingorgandonation@

uhn.ca.

There are links on Diane's

gan donor becomes available.

management itself.

"It had just gotten out of to some degree next weekend, control. The material that they (the construction company) used never set properly, and was not meant for this kind of project."

> The delay caused financial difficulties for Silversmith, as that open hole out back became a bit of a money "sinkhole" of sorts.

> Pontsioen stepped away in July (co-founder Matt Swan left in 2016), and Brzozowski says new CEO, Kyle Getty, is determined to get things back on track.

> To that end, a new architect/engineer has been brought in to redesign the expansion. Mantecon Partners, out of Dundas, has experience in working with brewing facilities, having completed the \$7-million Nickel Brook and Collective Arts Brewery project in the Hamilton Harbour.

> The new Silversmith design will see the expansion housing all production facilities, as well as some much-needed office space. That means the current production area will be converted into an added entertainment space, perfect for concerts, special events and private parties. Plans are for that space to maintain a bit of its industrial feel, but without the brewing vats currently visible from Niagara Stone Road.

Through it all, Brzozowski promises the integrity of the old church building, the centrepiece and main attraction of the Silversmith experience, will remain intact.

As they get ready to restart construction some time this winter, Brzozowski says Silversmith has a lot of goodwill to rebuild with the Virgil community. "I think it's time. We can't

Original founder Chris leave that eyesore, it's not respectful of the community. Next door, at Niagara Motors, they've been putting up with us and this mess. We've had to change our locations for off-loading and loading onto that side of the building, and it's inconvenienced our neighbours. We value that they've put up with us so long."

Of course, with the redesign, there may be new hoops for Silversmith to jump through.

"The drawings aren't completely finalized," says Brzozowski. "The town has been completely supportive all along, but we will have to go through the approval process all over again with them. We don't know if any of our original approvals will still stand, and we hope that we get the town's support and understanding."

Having learned from the past, Silversmith is not planning to rush the project. A starting date hasn't been cho-



Kate Brzozowski (Penny Coles)

sen, but they hope the work is done by the end of 2020.

Silversmith began production in 2011, with its first beers brewed off-site. The current production facility, next to the church, opened in 2013. At that time, Silversmith was one of 43 craft breweries in the province.

Over time, the landscape has changed, with now more than 300 such breweries in Ontario. And Silversmith's business has evolved, as they now regularly welcome more than 10 tour companies who bring groups of visitors to their space.

Brzozowski says at least 50 per cent of the 250,000 litres they sell per year is on-site. The rest of their revenue comes from their contracts with restaurants and pubs, as well as space on LCBO and grocery store shelves.

The evolution continues this year, as they have just received approval to begin selling their black lager in cans on those LCBO shelves.

The celebration next weekend will kick off Friday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m., with entertainment by DJ Dave Stiles. Saturday afternoon they welcome live music from the Feverish Lemons, out of Bradford, Ontario. And Sunday, the party continues from noon until 4 p.m.

Each of the three days, Silversmith will be launching a new brew, and holding giveaways for its loyal customers. They will also be serving a new fall menu and offering new, rebranded merchandise.

"It's an opportunity for us to say we're not going anywhere, folks, and thanks for sticking by us," says Brzozowski.

How to help Diane

Continued from page 4

might be thinking of being a donor for Diane or anybody, Smith says, she would be happy to help in any way she can. She would meet with them, tell them what to expect, and how rewarding it feels to know you've helped someone.

And although donors have the right to remain anonymous - that was her plan at first she agreed to go public after being asked by the UHN, and being told making more people aware of the living donor program could help save others.

"Someone may be found to be a match for someone else. It can end up helping a whole



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EDITORIAL

Make your vote count

With less than a week left with the other parties. until Monday's federal eleclikelihood of a minority government.

Political leaders may not be saying much about coalitions, but they must be thinking about them.

The NDP has already indicated it would work with the Liberals, but is still encouraging voters to mark their ballots for the NDP, which remains third in the polls.

The Liberals and Conservatives are still neck-and-neck virtually tied for first. Whichever one comes out ahead, there will be a need to work

Which party is most likely tion, polls are showing the to be able to work collaboratively? How important is it for the riding to have an MP who is a member of the ruling party

> in a minority government? Advance polling was up 25 per cent over the last federal election, Elections Canada says, which could indicate heightened interest. Or it could simply mean voters are becoming aware of the convenience of voting on the weekend, avoiding inevitable line-ups of next Monday and the rush to vote before or after work.

In the Niagara Falls riding, we are fortunate to have strong

candidates. Unless there is a particular issue or you have a long affiliation with one particular party, the choice could be tough. And if you mix in the possibility of strategic voting, hedging your bets for the best outcome, it becomes even more difficult.

There are so many overlapping platforms, this might be the time to vote for an individual, rather than a party. However, the message now, as with any election, is to vote, and make it count.

So much to think about, and so little time.

Penny Coles The Local



Weekend in NOTL

This photo of the vintage cars was taken on Concession 2, on a beautiful fall weekend in NOTL. (Photos by Fred Mercnik)

The Niagara River Parkway Recreational Path was busy with families out enjoying the beautiful day Sunday.



LOCAL FINDS



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARGARET MCFARLAND who departed this life Oct.10th 1809 IN THE 39TH YEAR of her age

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN MCFARLAND native of Paisley SCOTLAND He was taken Prisoner at the capture of Fort George and escaped from Green Bush near the close of the year 1815 returning to this place* and finding his property burnt up and destroyed by the enemy it enervated him so much that he Died in a few months after IN THE 64TH YEAR of his age **

*Niagara-on-the-Lake **A difficult monument to read. *I think this is a pretty accurate* transcription.

Sad story of a brave soldier **Donald Combe Special to The Local**

This is a sad story of a brave survivor of the War of 1812 whose history is boldly proclaimed on this monument.

In Niagara's early days, all the town's dead were interred in St. Mark's Cemetery. It had been the town cemetery since 1782 and not until 1833 did St. Andrew's have its own place of burial. The McFarlands were Presbyterian and members of St. Andrew's.

The house of Margaret and John McFarland stands as a reminder of the bloody War of 1812. It is located on the Niagara River Parkway near East and West Line, and is one of the few buildings in the area to have survived the burning of the town in 1813.

The NOTL Local acknowledges the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous peoples.

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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St. Mark's Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting 905-682-2140

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

COMMEN

LETTERS

LETTERS

Signs causing problems for candidate Council should say no to chamber

doors across the riding candidates. three times a day, one Member of Parliament.

The visible difference

I am reaching out bylaws. I am deeply sad- Liberal sign and place today to set the record dened that this choice it in their trunk. It was straight in regards to has led some residents located in between two an unfortunate percept to feel that I do not care other election signs, each tion that I have shown a about their community of different candidates, the-Lake's lack of interest in some — this is definitely not which both remained uncommunities within the the case. I will continue touched. These actions riding of Niagara Falls to reach out to local by- demonstrate to me that due to the amount of law officers to request this was not a random act visible Liberal signs as illegal signs erected by of vandalism, but rather beyond their capacity, the chamber's request other funding priorities? compared with other other candidate cam- a targeted operation that candidates. This could paigns be removed as was planned in advance. not be further from the soon as possible to pro- We are working to hand truth. I am a dedicated vide for a fair and equi- over this footage to local individual knocking on table environment for all authorities.

who plans to work hard out to a fellow candidate itics was to set a positive for Niagara Falls, Niaga- to please ask that their example for the commu-Erie if elected as your signs on my husband's erations. It is unfortufarm property.

in the number of Liber- express my deep disap- community who wish to al signs is in fact due to pointment in having hun- resort to destructive illethe choice that I made dreds of my supporters gal tactics. I did hope we to follow local bylaws wake up on the Thanks- could have a democratic restricting the erection giving weekend to have process allowing everyof election signs on pub- their election signs re- one to be respected in lic property or on pri- moved from their lawns. voicing their opinions. vate property without In one instance a video permission. My team of was recorded showing an volunteers have been in- individual drive up and structed to follow these quickly remove a large

One of the reasons I I have also reached decided to return to polnate that I have become I would also like to a target of those in the

> Andrea Kaiser Liberal Candidate -

Auchterlonie on Astrology

request for additional funding

THE NOTL LOCAL

When ture — roads, sidewalks, tourists that several lo- the request against the wastewater system, parking spaces stopped going to the event. for NOTL in the town's are already being used more tourists to town.

winter, and to increase the

treatment cal residents I know have objectives

and residents will almost came to council at the Did it consider the imcertainly be hit with a last minute. The Royal pact on 2020 municipal municipal tax increase in has been an annual event taxes? And did it stop to 2020, it makes no sense since 1922 and from consider the risks/benfor council to give the 1997, when the Enercare efits and costs of sup-NOTL Chamber of Com- Centre was completed, a porting an effort to bring merce \$15,000 to attract large exhibition area has more tourists into the been available to ven- community? The chamber says it dors and organizations ra-on-the-Lake and Fort team not re-install their nity and for future gen- needs the funds for a wishing to set up booths. ing requests such as the booth at the Royal Winter So why did the chamber chamber's should only be Agricultural Fair in Toron- wait until two months considered by NOTL in to next month, plus pay before this year's fair to years when the town can for parking and accom- request funding? Where provide them without modation costs during the is the business plan that reducing the level of ser-10-day run of the annual demonstrates a positive vices it provides to resiagricultural exhibition. return on investment for dents, or raising taxes, Its goal is to attract more the town funds that the and only in exceptional tourists to NOTL in the chamber wants to spend? circumstances. It's time

number of participants in committee-of-the-whole ing priorities and stick to winter events such as the to recommend approval Candlelight Stroll and Ice- of the chamber's funding Niagara Falls Riding wine Festival. This, when request also raises ques-

Niagara-on- the stroll, in particular, is tions, most notably: did infrastruc- already so crowded with the committee evaluate established It's concerning that strategic plan and against

I believe that fund-The decision of the for council to set fundthem.

Terry Davis

Bill Auchterlonie

Astrology for the third week of October.

Special to The Local

This is the week of the Third Ouarter Moon in Cancer which occurs on Monday, Oct. 21. It's also the week of the Sun moving from Libra into Scorpio on Wednesday, Oct. 23, in the middle of the day.

If you follow my podcasts on Facebook or my website, this is the last week where I'll be looking up and back to the 2008 — seeing how close the Brothers bank. Next week I'll

throughout the ages. But first, that the positive change happens the week ahead.

Thursday, Oct. 17 is a fairly Welcome to Auchterlonie on laid-back day where generosity is evident, thanks to a positive 1977 when he hit three consecuconnection between the Moon tive home runs off three consecin Gemini and Mars in Libra. A stressful situation with a special someone or over money can be resolved for the better. The first British Open Golf Champion- moves into her home sign of ship was held on Oct. 17, 1860 at Prestwick in Scotland. My brother was born on this day in from Pluto at dinnertime. Ideas 1954 and he has played some golf.

making eight connections from versatile actor John Lithgow was the Sun, the Moon and astrology an important relationship. Note British drama, "The Crown."

because of changes in behaviour. before the Third Quarter Moon honesty about feelings can open Reggie Jackson got the nickname Mr. October on this day in utive pitches by three different pitchers in a World Series game against the L.A. Dodgers.

Saturday, Oct. 19, the Moon Cancer in the early morning and Mercury gets a helping boost are blessed with the best motivation. Especially ideas about

sees eight connections between until late at night, but with the strongest connection between Venus and Saturn at 10 a.m. It's a friendly, helpful meeting suggesting the possibility of a positive helping hand in a business, career or security matter. Lots of day for Libra this year. And it's birthdays today, including Tom a day where love may get in the Petty in 1950 and Snoop Dog in 1972. Tom died just before his birthday in 2017.

Friday, Oct. 18 is a busy end shared finances and who's the is Square to the Sun at 8:39 this today. And figure skater, Brian July 4, 1776 and September, to the work week with the Moon boss. It was Oct. 19, 1945 that morning on another day with Boitano, is 56. echoes of 1776 and 2008. Toarrangement of the skies were early morning to late at night born into a theatrical family and day the Sun, at 27 degrees of moves from Libra into Scorpio

Sunday, Oct. 20, the last day all forward progress, but where big doors. The Moon moves into the Moon from early morning Leo in the noon hour. Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite and founder of the Nobel Prize, was born Oct. 21, 1879. And Kim Kardashian exploded into the world on this day in 1980.

way of happiness — or at least present a snag in a relationship. Multi-talented Jeff Goldblum Monday, Oct. 21, the Moon celebrates birthday number 67

Wednesday, Oct 23, the Sun

a surprise this evening brings everything back to reality.

Next week is the New Moon in Scorpio on Sunday, Oct. 27. It's the start of a new lunar month, the promise of new beginnings, especially for Scorpio, Cancer and Pisces.

The Podcast version of Auch-Tuesday, Oct. 22, is the last terlonie on Astrology contains more information than the version which appears here in The Local. This week I am explaining the uncanny astronomical parallels between 1776 and 2008, the American Revolution and the collapse of Lehman Brothers and the rise of Donald Trump. So, please check out my podcast on Facebook at Auchterlonie on Astrology or visit my website Looking up with Bill at https://www. lookingupwithbill.com/.

for the American Revolution and with Venus in Scorpio hook- later went on to many years as Libra, opposes Uranus in ear- at 1:19 this afternoon on a busy and the collapse of Lehman ing up with the North Node of the father on the hit TV series ly Taurus and both are Square astro middle of the week. The the Moon, suggesting a possible "Third Rock," and then as Win- to the Moon at 27 degrees of Moon moves from Leo into be sharing some fun facts about resolution of a karmic issue in ston Churchill in the acclaimed Cancer. It's a tense time where Virgo at 3:21 p.m. While heart too sensitive feelings can stop and mind may not agree today, stardust. So shine on!

And remember, we are all

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October 17, 2019

THE NOTL LOCAL

Insects such as hornets are scary, but useful

Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Halloween is coming up, so today's article is seasonal and spooky.

It's also harvest season in the Niagara region. That means we have a new wave of visitors coming into the region to soak up the beverages and nice weather. But did you know that vespidae are also coming into town friends and foes of ours that more often, too?

Vespidae is a family of insects that includes some backyard familiarities such as yellow jackets, bald-faced hornets, and paper wasps, among 5,000 other species worldwide. Wasps are generally smaller and skinnier than their close relatives, the bulkier, more robust-looking hornets. All of the species present in NOTL nest in places such as a hole in the ground, in the shed, or perhaps the football-like hornet nest that hangs ominously in and tender fruit lying around the tree.

I chose to write about these creatures because they appropriately make themselves known around this time of year approaching Halloween, and of course, they scare a lot of people.

A large part of my environmental work is dedicated to showcasing the smaller majority, the lesser-seen things that make our world

operate smoothly. Insects are the most diverse grouping of living things on the planet. The ones we love and hate have the ability to dictate our economies and our very well-being. They do so by occupying vital roles in ecosystems around the globe. They eat, get eaten, pollinate, and sometimes get drunk and sting people by accident.

There are some winged also enjoy harvest season. You're walking down the street by a garbage can, and a single wasp gets distracted and bounces off you. And now you're walking, and the insect can't help but continue its delirious flight path, doing big, slow figure eights and then colliding with you again.

Between the sound of the wings and the fermenting fruit they've consumed, they are potentially "buzzed" in more ways than one.

It's not just our grapes on the soil that cause this phenomenon. It makes sense that both our agricultural crops and wild plants alike are dropping their fruits and deep, undisturbed natural arand bees will find the fruits, berries, and rotting plants to create such behaviours.

At this time of year, they or lesser-appreciated living become notably more pres-

ing insects are dopey at this

the nest, and hopefully it's offtrail and can be left in peace where it isn't dangerous.

Despite vespidae's ongo-

They predate scores of other insects and keep their populations in check. They are a valuable team player in pollination, and despite being scary, they also get eaten by birds and amphibians as a critical part of the food web.

So, at your next fall picnic, just remember we're all trying to exist and have a snack (or drink).





NOTL's Best Kept Secret! Close to everything... but away from it all!

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

You can have it all. The Vines is minutes to exciting downtown Niagara-on-the-Lake but set amidst lush vineyards. Built by renowned custom builder, Woodcastle Developments, this limited collection of homes features single family bungalows, with lofts,

notllocal.com

Art STUD



Nyanyas to host African-inspired dinner

Penny Coles The Local

The Nyanyas of Niagara are expecting a good crowd for their African-inspired dinner at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club next Thursday, the highlight of which will be a dynamic guest speaker, Idah Mukuka Nambeya, from the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The chef at the golf club is preparing African recipes for the dinner, says organizers.

In addition, she says, "we have some terrific and unique silent auction items, including some beautiful African-themed handmade art pieces, Shaw tickets, gift certificates to the NOTL golf club, local stores and winery, jewelry, gift certificate to Langdon Hall, tickets to Stratford, is to travel through Africa and many more."

Local musician Sawyer Dundas will be performing before and during the dinner, says Grant.

field representative of the campaign. Stephen Lewis Foundation grandmothers raising their grandchildren orphaned by AIDS. They have stepped up to care for millions of children, and in Canada, Cindy Grant, one of the more than \$33 million has been raised through the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign to help them at the community level, with support that includes food, educational supplies, uniforms, school fees, medical care, housing, bedding counselling, support groups, and more.

> Mukuka Nambeya's job assessing potential organizations and projects for heartbreaking stories to tell. The Nyanyas (Swahili (Thomas Nybo)

"The most unique fac- for grandmother) of Ni- each year and other smaller tor is having Idah Muku- agara is one of 240 grand- events. ka Nambeya at the dinner, mothers and grandothers who will be a great inspira- groups that raises montion to everyone," she adds. ey for the Stephen Lewis day, Oct. 24, beginning at Mukuka Nambeya is a Foundation's grandmothers 6 p.m.

in Zambia, and has been was founded in 2007, the tickets, call Linda at travelling across Canada Nyanyas have raised more recently visiting groups than \$100,000, from two who support African major fundraisers held nyanyas2018@gmail.com.

The African dinner

at the golf club is Thurs-

Tickets are \$75, with 905-327-1354, Terry at 905-468-2438, or email



funding, and she has some Idah Mukuka Nambeya will speak about her experiences with the Stephen Lewis Foundation at the Nyanyas dinner.

A Man Goes to the Movies

Donald Combe Special to The Local

Since the local group a cash bar. To purchase stroyed at forty seven by an all consuming need for love, is portrayed perfectly by Renée Zellweger. See this film with the caveat that you will be forever changed and its images of this tragic figure sives for The Local.

and her music will haunt you for a long while.

Donald Combe is a Judy Garland, de- retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. His Facebook reviews have become popular with his friends and followers, and he has graciously agreed to share his opinions through "short and sweet" exclu-



Renée Zellweger



\$998,000 MLS 30758150 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

\$679,000

MLS 30762390 • Christopher Bowron, Audrey Wright and Nicole Vanderperk

\$1,195,000

MLS 30749148 \bullet Adam Hawley and Christopher Bowron

\$749,000 MLS 30749083 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft.

Ison Niagara Stone Road \$999,000 MLS 30731550 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft	Solution of the second	Example 2014 A State of the second se	A Contraction of the second se		
Christopher Bowron***905-468-2269 Victoria Bolduc*905-941-3726 Philip Bowron*905-348-7626 Bonnie Grimm*905-468-1256 Kim Elltoft**905-380-8011 Randall Armstrong**905-651-2977 Audrey Wright*289-241-0212 109 Queen Street	Nicole Vanderperk* 905-94 Trish Badham* 905-32 Viviane Elltoft* 905-46 Thomas Elltoft* 905-38 Cheryl Carmichael* 905-94 Sarah Gleddie* 905-68 Christine Bruce* 905-32 905-468-3205 St.	9-1563 Linda Williams* 3-2142 Caroline Polgrabia* 0-8012 Patricia Atherton* 1-0276 3-2458 3-9703 ***Broker of Record ** Broke	905-401-4240 905-933-4983 905-933-4983 rr *Sales Representative		



Watch for our LOCAL PARTNER offer details coming early November



Become a Local member

Penny Coles The Local

card, and hope our readabout it as we are.

cal," and if you present it to es! participating businesses, it entitles you to discounts their offers monthly, or and special offers The Local has arranged for you, That's up to them. for a period of one year from the date of issue.

Some great local businesses have come onboard, with more joining us as they learn about the opportunity for them to promote their businesses and services at this time of rants, and you will learn year.

We want to explain our fer soon. plan to you.

let-sized card waiting for It will make our lives easreaders who want to sign ier — it will help identify up, at a cost of \$39.95 (plus locals for us. It saves ask-HST).

helps cover the cost of the sition." program for us, and will also help to support your community newspaper.

businesses to come onboard — their cost is the discounts and special offers for you, our readers.

Our new membership program begins Nov. 7. We will have a website ready by early November and also allows you to sign them an incentive, they up online, using PayPal or will come. It will give them a credit card.

But the really exciting Street." part of this, to us, is the amazing support we have received from local businesses, as you can see in our ad. Karen Skeoch, who looks after advertising for The Local, developed this program and began approaching businesses early in the summer, after a discussion with editor Dave Burket of The Voice of Pelham, who offers a similar program.

The response from local businesses was instant we could have anticipated.

By Nov. 1, we will pub-We are excited to intro- lish in the paper and online duce our new membership the specials and discounts these businesses are offerers will be as enthusiastic ing for the first month. As a Local member, you will It simply says, "I'm Lo- have so many great choic-

> Businesses may change they may stay the same.

Maria Mavridis, of Corks Winebar and Eatery, and Orzo, two great Queen Street restaurants, was the first business owner we approached.

She didn't hesitate. She was in with both restauabout the specials she'll of-

"I told you guys back We will have a wal- in July it was a great idea. ing for ID, which puts our The charge for the cards servers in an awkward po-

Mavridis had helped organize a similar program for a local music festival, There is no charge for she says, "and it was awesome. It's so easy to use."

> She says from a business standpoint, she likes the idea of letting locals know they are welcome and appreciated.

"It's nice to be able to give the locals something, a reason to come to Queen

She compares the program to the days of cou-

and positive, more so than pons as an incentive, but says this is much easier. "It's a really great idea from our perspective."

> Once our membership plan was advertised, some businesses contacted us. We were delighted to hear from Chantal Suthons, who reached out to us to let us know Peller Estates, Trius and Wayne Gretzky Estates would like to be part of our program — offering more great experiences for locals.

> "We all think about being local, but we tend not to visit local businesses in the summer," she says.

> "We see this as a great opportunity for locals to get acquainted with what is in their own backyards. I know I didn't get out to other wineries this summer. We should all be supporting our local businesses — we have so much to offer in Niagara-on-the-Lake. This is a way for us to remember, involve and support our community."

> So much of what the wineries do is local, she says, supporting grape growers, providing jobs, and restaurants offering food-to-table meals. "We make sure we shop local for our supplies as often as we can."

So there you have it - our local membership that explains how to join, and we know if we offer plan. It's a cliche, we know, but we feel it's a win-win situation, for locals who want to support their neighbourhood businesses and businesses who want to welcome locals.







SOUTH BROOK *******

SIMPSON'S

(in Virail)

Exciting nehr LOCAL MEMBERSHIP Coming November 7, 2019



NIAGARA'S LUXURY LEADER

38 HILLSIDE DRIVE, NOTL \$699,000



MLS# 30765210 | Dan Stefels*** & Katie Redekopp*





MLS# 30755475 | Jo-Ann Cudmore

♦ Based on residential unit sales \$500,000+ 2018 year to date ORTIS MLS ® in Niagara Region* | Brokerage *Sales Representative **Broker - ***Broker - Royal LePage NRC Realty KRDS

VOTE

TONY BALDINELLI



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PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITIES

Repealing the current government's tax increases on small business investments



HEALTH CARE GUARANTEE

Commitment to increase federal funding every year





One of my key focuses will be promoting and defending Niagara's agricultural products and interests throughout the world."

Tony Baldinelli, Conservative MP Candidate

AUTHORIZED BY THE OFFICIAL AGENT FOR TONY BALDINELLI

.ocal search and rescue receives surprise gift

Randy Klaassen Special to The Local

Leading up to Thanksgiving weekend, local volunteers of the Civil Air Rescue Emergency Service (CARES Niagara) received a surprise at their training session when member Ron Turnbull's mother showed up - and a reason to to Stewart Harris, CARES' be grateful. She had no intention of

training as a "ground homing my husband, Flight Lieutenant specialist," for the search and rescue organization, which was the evening's focus, but to present the charitable group with a significant donation of \$15,000.

president, Loree Turnbull said, "This is in loving memory of Richard (Dick) Turnbull. The gift is for you to continue your work and training, to help purchase supplies necessary, and for putting up with my son for the past five years."

During the Second World War, Dick Turnbull enlisted with the Royal Canadian Air Force in Nova Scotia. He was posted to wireless training in Calgary, followed by bomber and gunnery training along Lake Erie. He was then sent to Yorkshire, England to serve with 405 Squadron, flying with Wellington bombers.

After flying 32 sorties, on Jan. 17, 1943 his aircraft crashed into the North Sea. He, and one other crew member, survived, climbing into an orange raft. Adrift for some 16 hours, a destroyer spotted them for rescue. Learning the ship was headed to France, the two opted to wait for a nearby submarine which took them to the Isle of Sheppey on the east coast of England. As he recovered from his injuries, a

Ron Turnbull shows a photo of his father, Dick Turnbull, a flight lieutenant in the Second World War. (Photos by Randy Klaassen)



geon, operated on Dick's face. After skin grafts, he was able to volunteers to focus on trainreturn to Toronto, where three ing, rather than to give predays later he married Loree cious time to fundraising," said Garette.

With the story of his fa- us to be thankful for." ther's service in the air force, and his rescue, Ron Turnbull

This is in loving memory of my husband, Flight Lieutenant **Richard (Dick) Turnbull** "

Loree Turnbull

has always had an interest in Lieutenant Turnbull's photo aviation search and rescue. to display on a plaque to be Joining CARES Niagara was a way to honour his father's memory, and his mother Loree's donation was her way to search

mounted in the hallway, as a "thankful" reminder.

unit's operations,

In presenting the cheque German prisoner of war, a sur- who volunteer to rescue others. Nord reported that in the past season, CARES Niagara participated in four major searches, requiring crews to be away from home, famidays at a time. There were also several searches involving several hours, or a day-long operation.

the Royal Canadian Air Force.

The motto ingrained in every aspect of operations is, "That others may live." As a registered charity, CARES relies on donations to operate its training facility, vehicle and aircraft.

For information, or to In recognition of the volunteer, contact cares@ lastmilenet.ca or the website,

"The gift allows CARES Harris. "This is truly a gift for ly and employment, several CARES directors plan to make a copy of Flight

CARES Niagara was a founding member of the national organization, Civil Air Search And Rescue Association (CASARA). All members are volunteers, trained to professional standards established by





Stewart Harris, president of the local Civil Air Rescue Emergency Service, gratefully accepts a cheque for \$15,000 from Loree Turnbull.

AGARA-ON-THE-LA



1594 Concession 6, NOTL

Scarecrow Making

We will supply the 3ft frame and the hay; you dress your own scarecrow!

Pumpkin Carving

We will supply the pumpkins, you just bring your imagination!

Wagon Rides 🥟 Apple Cider **Donations Accepted**

Limited quantities. Please email Karen at karen@redroofretreat.com to reserve your scarecrow!



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notllocal.com THE NOTL LOCAL October 17, 2019 IT'S HOME IMPROVEMENT TIME! The best flooring for entryways and mudrooms

Submitted by **Imperial Hardwood** Flooring

Choose durable flooring that can weather the traffic and moisture in your entry-way or mudroom.

Fall is upon us and with it comes the mud, muck and maybe even snow! Many people are preparing for the season with extra rugs and mats at entry doors - which is a great idea, by the way. But for homeowners who are looking to swap out flooring products that wear down easily, such as carpet and laminate, for more hardy choices, this list is for you!

So, which flooring types work best? Here's our top two:

1. Tile flooring, especially porcelain and ceramic

Tile floors are the most forgiving when it comes to cleanability and ease of maintenance. If your budget allows, go for full-bodimportantly, pick a darker grout colour for your tile flooring that will show



ied porcelain. And most much less wear and tear in high traffic places. 2. Luxury vinyl tiles and luxury vinyl planks

as LVT and LVP, luxury ever, both of these prod- high-humidity places. vinyl tiles and luxury vi- ucts pack quite a punch nyl planks are relatively when it comes to durabil- and luxury vinyl planks house.

Commonly referred to new to the market. How- ity in high-moisture and Luxury vinyl tiles

are usually more budget-friendly than ceramic tiles. They are definitely less permanent than ceramic or porcelain tile, making them easier to replace down the road.

13

Another great thing about LVT is it requires absolutely no grout, so the installation takes less time and makes less mess.

Honorable mention: Solid hardwood flooring

Sandable, sealed hardwoods are great for entrances. They stand up to the traffic and are easy to restore by recoating with finish — or if need be, by completely sanding and refinishing the flooring.

The big drawback of hardwood in entryways and mudrooms is standing water. To avoid problems, make sure you don't let wet shoes or puddles remain on the floors for long periods of time. Keep a plastic boot tray near the door and have an old, dry towel handy for quick cleanup of any water or snow tracked into the



From hardwood, laminate or cork flooring, you'll be sure to find something to suit your style and budget. We will provide you with the best quality customer service from start to finish.

What about those large and heavy pieces of furniture? No worries! We will move them out of the way and put them back when we are done... FREE of charge!





Family values build a solid reputation as business grows

Submitted by A-1 Flooring Canada

Our story starts in 1973, with George Racine as the original founder. It was first known as A-1 Floor & Wall Coverings and was located in the heart of Dunnville, Ontario. The company quickly outgrew the surrounding area and moved to Welland to support their ever growing clientele, and added its memorable new slogan, "Do What's Right". Although Welland was home to A-1 Floor & Wall Coverings for several years, George decided in 1985, it was time to expand again to keep up with demand. This time Bunting Road, in St. Catharines, was to be their new home. Bunting Road had started to become a central hub for renovations, where contractors could find a wide range of companies for their builds. A-1 made the big move to become the first flooring company in the area.

In 1990, A-1 Floor and Wall Coverings, changed its name to A-1 Flooring Inc. and opened its second store in Niagara Falls, Ontario. This store lasted six years be-



Photo supplied by A-1 Flooring Canada

fore separating itself from A-1 values stay the same. We con-Flooring Inc. and moving to Welland to be on its own. In the early 90's, George's son, Sean Racine, started working ing their own families, as we in the warehouse. Sean was a natural, with a knack for developing future business ideas and creating the standard for has provided over 35 years of flooring, within the company.

In the year 2004, Sean bought the business from his father. He took a few risks with some local upcoming businesses in order to grow even further in the area. Sean's had his share of bumps and bruises along the way, but has always taken them as a learning experience. As our business grows, our family

tinuously appreciate our repeat customers as they move from house to house expandare often told: "We just want it 'Done Right'".

To date, our amazing staff locally owned and operated business to the residents of this community and the surrounding areas. A-1 Flooring Canada is dedicated to its employees and customers alike. As we continue to grow, we believe the key to superior customer service is to take complete ownership of our customer's experience, from beginning to end.

Submitted by **Niagara Hot Tubs**

available for all seasons brings a great opportunity to create a lavish outdoor oasis whether the sun is shining, or the snow is falling. With the right hot tub accessories, you can create a backyard escape that caters to your own needs. If you're wondering what fun hot tub accessories are available, we have a few of our favourites already picked out as a starting point for you.

SmartBar

No one ever wants to be the one to have to get out of the hot tub, especially when it's to go grab the drinks. Not only do you feel the frigid chill once you leave the warmth of the jets, but you can also put yourself in an unsafe situation to slip, or drop your drinks around or in the hot tub.

To avoid ever having to leave the spa, invest in a Smart-Bar, with a convenient Smart-Drawer that not only gives you the feeling of a swim-up bar, but also enough storage that you never have to restock it until you're finished with it for the day. Whether you use it as a place to safely keep your drinks or to place your phone, you'll never be out of touch from the

most important things. SmartDeck

The great thing about an Having a hot tub in Niagara outdoor hot tub or even a portable hot tub is that you can choose where you want to enjoy it. But sometimes, the surface around it can be uneven, and hard on your feet. The best and safest way to enjoy your hot tub is to have a level surface around your hot tub, especially around the steps or entry to your spa. The innovative and workable SmartDeck is made up of lockable panels to allow you to build the deck you want, small or large. With lockable panels it also means there's no permanent commitment, you have the freedom to change your backyard spa experience if you want to, making your investment last longer.

SpaCaddy

This is a great solution if you want a smaller or budget-friendly version of the SmartBar. A SpaCaddy is a versatile outdoor spa solution. You can enjoy your outdoor spa with drinks, snacks, towels, or protect your phones, the same as the SmartBar. The difference, it's portable, making it easy to mount and unmount for a quick clean or restock. Enjoy your SpaCaddy effortlessly by swinging it in or out of your

spa for quick access to your favourite things. Visit Niagara Hot Tubs to pick one up and complete your backyard oasis.

SpaUmbrella

If you're the lucky owner of an outdoor hot tub, we bet you have a lot of great memories in your backyard during the summer in Niagara. But, sometimes we're so caught up in the fun and forget to protect ourselves from the sun. The water and products in the spa create a relaxing and enjoyable experience but they can't protect us against the elements. Investing in a SpaUmbrella made up of Sunbrella material, creates a stylish and durable cover for you and your guests. With a sleek European design and adjustable arm to meet your preferences, the SpaUmbrella will have your backyard looking like a luxury resort.

These hot tub accessories are your staple pieces in converting your hot tub into the ultimate spa experience. If you're looking to show your hot tub some love, Niagara Hot Tubs provides you with all the accessories you need to make your hot tub a relaxing experience. Feel free to get in touch with us if you want to learn more about these products, or other ways to recreate your outdoor spa.



Niagara's Most Recommended





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St. Catharines

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Submitted by **Creek Road Paints**

Creek Road Paints, Benjamin Moore not only promotes sustainability in your everyday design, but in the design of your life events as well. From baby showers to birthday parties, wedding events to lifestyle celebrations - Creek Road Paints - along with Green Rentals by Mori and Van Noort Florists, has everything you need to design your engagement with the earth in mind.

2020 promises a year of feminine tones, divisions of space with more natural materials, a backlash of brass, and an overwhelming consideration for sustainability in design. These design elements are not just intended to be applied to your interior design, but in all areas in which design needs to be considered.

From the use of vertical garden walls and live plants - which create bursts of gorgeous greens that add shape and texture to any decorative setting, to something as simple as a seed bomb party favour - containing wildflower seeds that are then organically wrapped for presentation

designed to be presented to Noort Florists have to offer. your guests as something that is not only unique in itself, but is reusing household materienvironmentally responsible. The wildflowers these seed bombs will produce are the These custom signs can either perfect habitats for our much be motivational, hysterical or needed pollinators (ie. the bees). Creek Road Paints has successfully created these seed bombs for clients and previous events, but they are also available to order in-store, or can simply be purchased for the guerilla gardener at heart.

only prides itself on its ability to promote green design when it comes to your home, but for your life and wedding event. events as well. Reusing and/or repurposing existing household materials for your signs, décor at Creek Road Paints, table settings and venue not Benjamin Moore. only follow the existing trends of recycled elements in design The Colour Council is in, but promote a unique quality to your atmosphere as well. From window frames for table settings to an arbor built that blossoms with potential" using old entry doors and shutters - these aging items find new purpose, while adding a timeless elegance to your lours at our fingertips – hue event, and promise you won't will never have to compromise find anything as sustainable or your taste or your palette. Visunique than what Creek Road it us up the creek for further Paints, Mori Gardens and Van rental inquiries.

Another sign of the times als - like deck boards and old trim - for decoration as well. anything that coordinates with the thematic elements of your event. Creek Road Paints customizes any sign to suit any manner, etiquette, level of humour (or lack thereof), on any material of your choice, while constructing them with sus-Creek Road Paints not tainability in mind. From old glassware to any clean surface, we can customize any object to mirror the concept of your

> There is always something Moore for you home, party or

> And one Moore thing ... and 2020's Colour of the Year is First Light 2102-70, which "promotes a soft, rosy hue and "sets the tone for decades to come." With this palette in mind, and a catalogue of co-

Doing more harm than good with DIY drain cleaners

Submitted by Wellbrook Plumbing

Everyone dreads the day they hop into the shower, turn on the tap and instead of the water flowing down the drain, it begins to back up and you're left with more first thought might be to grab a bottle of drain cleaner from the nearest hardware store. These at-home solutions are so heavily advertised, it makes sense.

While these at-home solutime, they are actually doing more harm than good!

Drain cleaners can cause damage to your home's pipes.

Commercial drain cleaners like Drano are made of Home drain cleaners, are they ingredients like hydrochloric acid and other acid ingreadvertised as 'safe for pipes', unfortunately, they aren't.

period of time, they are not our water system. When you effective at solving the entirety of the problem so you'll end up with a clogged drain before long.

DIY Drain cleaners are harmful to you.

With such visible warnof a bath than a shower. Your ing labels, it isn't surprising to hear that these at-home drain cleaners are harmful to you while in use. They can burn your skin and eyes if they come in contact, gloves are always recommended. But it isn't as well known that the tions seem convenient at the harmful chemicals from these products linger in the air and can damage your lungs! Protect yourself, family, and pets by avoiding these harmful products.

bad for the environment?

Not only are at-home dients that eat away at your drain cleaners bad for you pipes while they sit. Despite and your pipes, but they are many of these products being also bad for the environment. When you're standing in ankle-deep water, trying While at-home drain to take a shower, it's hard to cleaners may solve your remember that the water clogged drain problem for a you're using drains back into

pour that thick, chemically smelling drain cleaner down your pipes, you are pouring it right into your water system. Be mindful of your impact when choosing the way you choose to solve your clogged drain problem!

While there are clean, easy ways to help solve a clogged drain at home, it is suggested that you call in the professionals so that they are able to remove all grease and debris ensuring a clog-free, damage-free future for you and vour showers, sinks, and garbage disposals. Let Wellbrook save you from the annoyance of clogged drains today.











Updating your garage door



Submitted by **Overhead Door** St. Catharines Ltd.

October 17, 2019

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Take some time to look at your home with a critical eye. What catches your attention? Maybe you've been considering a garage door update, but couldn't decide on the style classic look, a real wood door that would best accentuate the from our Traditional Wood personality of your property. One way to modernize your home's facade is the Modern Aluminum Model 521 garage

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more design options while combine technical benefits enjoying the benefits of an alu- with expert Amish craftsminum garage door. Available manship that reflects handmade artistry.

If you are thinking about provides more design flexibili- how best to keep your famty while enhancing the style of ily warm this winter, our Thermacore[®] Insulated Steel Garage Doors are the ideal option to seal air leaks while adding aesthetic value to their homes. These stylish garage doors are adding comfort to your home by providing protection from air infiltration



Measha Brueggergosman 📕 🛏 to return to Niagara

Opera singer makes comeback with Bravo Niagara! after open-heart surgery

Penny Coles The Local

In a deep, sultry voice as hauntingly beautiful as when she sings, Canadian opera start Measha Bruegsummer in Nova Scotia, where she has spent the from open-heart surgery, as an opportunity to be with needed her.

be with them.

bypass — never mind that it's her second, 10 years after her first heart surgery.

"off the beaten track," overlooking a private lake so emergency room, where the small it's not on a map, she is surgery was performed. feeling good. Great, in fact.

out," she says. "I'm real-

after her surgery, and shortly after that, her mother was tumour.

anything but joy and gratgergosman describes her itude in Brueggergosman's voice as she talks about the past few months. Although here for a couple of days. A last four months recovering it took heart surgery to keep her at home, it was where she was meant to be her family when they most at this time in her life, she says. And life wouldn't be And when she needed to the same without hardships along the way — hardships She is just 42, far too which she describes as "reyoung to require a double directions, the doors of opportunity swinging open."

She was finishing up a tour that had included a Annapolis Valley of Nova Carnegie Hall in May, and Scotia, which she describes ended in July in Calgary, as down a long driveway, when she began having chest pains and went to the

The last four months, she "This is exactly how I says, have been an opportuhoped my life would turn nity to take some time off to be with her kids, and to look

her life. He died within days be in a place she loves, doing the work she loves.

And Christine Mori, diagnosed with a cancerous founder of Bravo Niagara!, couldn't be happier that the But there is no hint of renowned international opera star has chosen Niagara for her return.

"The last time she was lot of times musicians are on tours and are in and out of here the same day, but we ended up spending a lot of time with her. She had to get to Hamilton while she was here, so she took my car. That's the kind of relationships we've developed with a lot of people, by giving them our personal attention."

Mori says she has ar-From her home in the sold-out performance at ranged a "very special concert," with 30 children from the Chorus Niagara Children's Choir singing a few songs on stage with her.

'She's gone from Carnegie Hall, with thousands of people in the spring, to this 300-seat, intimate venue. It's going to be an amazing recital."

She is much more accustomed to filling large opera houses, and for her to perform before a small audience at this stage of her career is rare, says Mori.

Brueggergosman's for the Royal Family at Westminster Abbey in 2017, to celebrate Commonwealth Day,

Continued on page 17





Measha Brueggergosman performing her 2017 Bravo Niagara! Songs of Freedom project. (Alex Heidbuechel)

Commemorating historic battle



Ron Dale conducted the tour of Sir Isaac Brock's last days in Queenston Sunday, and spoke about the Battle of Queenston Heights, which took place on Oct. 13, 1812, Brock's death, and his burial - four times - finally put to rest permanently at the base of Brock's Monument. (Fred Mercnik)

Singer to perform in intimate recital hall

Continued from page 16

singing songs such as We Shall Overcome, and Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.

able to have her here in Niagara again."

In addition to cancelling some concert dates this summer, Brueggergosman also had to give up her Carmen debut in Helsinki, which she admits to having been a very lucrative opportunity she missed out on.

Cancellations are not good for business, when so many people are depending on you to perform, she says. Relationships and repare important for longevity in her career.

"You'd think open-heart surgery would give you a get mind herself it has not been out of jail free card."

shores me up."

always.

"We're so fortunate to be life when you don't need of my job. For me it's classiyour faith, but especially when your heart breaks, physically and emotionally," she says, speaking of the loss dents and \$5 for high school of her father.

> "People truly loved my dad. He was the pillar of the firstontariopac.ca/Online/ community in two provinces. The most beautiful thing about my father's life is he was exactly who people thought he was. He was consistent, and tender-hearted, and very generous."

Sometimes she finds she utations are built slowly, and is caught by her grief — it hits her, and makes her sad, but she knows she is healing. She also has to constantly revery long since his death, But people tend to re- but in the meantime she has member the cancellation, been there for her mother and not the reason for it, she and her boys, "and there is a life to be lived, a purpose to be filled, things to be done, and a need to think beyond ourselves. There is so much more to this existence than ourselves."

gig where it is. I can dust off When asked if it has my skills in a collaborative helped her through the dif- community, regenerate my ficult times, she says it helps commitment to ensemble performances, where I start-"There is no time in your ed. This is the favourite part cal music at its most honest."

Tickets are \$53, \$28 for university and college stustudents. To purchase tickets online visit https://www. mapSelect.asp.



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says

"They're not sympathetic to the reason for being derailed, they tend to focus on the fact that it was derailed. They have a short memory for the reason. I'll do reputation."

reachable, being dependable, and being kind.

kindness. That's something I io Performing Arts Centre, value in people around me, although her first in the and something I try to be small, intimate Recital Hall. consistent about."

The next step for her, anything I can to mend the in this life to be lived, is to relationships. You are your come to Niagara, which she loves, and to perform for To her, that means being Mori and Bravo Niagara!, which she also loves.

It will be her second per-"There is always time for formance at the FirstOntar-"I've only ever had great

Her faith also keeps times in the Niagara region, her strong. "My faith is my and I don't say that lightly. I armour to protect me. It am so grateful to have this







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1630 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil, Ontario



Luscious lashes can be yours

Submitted by Swag Hair Co.

Are you looking to enhance your natural beauty? Looking for a low-maintenance makeup routine? Meet Emily, certified esthetician at Swag Hair Company and three-time certified lash specialist. With two years' experience, Emily is learning quickly and efficiently while expanding her portfolio and has quickly became a lash ex-

the International Beauty In- be for anyone, and any age. brid and volume lash exten- bit of fullness, and darkness stitute, Emily has taken an The goal is to make you look additional three courses to expand her knowledge and is always keeping up to date hance your natural beauty by on the latest beauty trends to adding thickness, length, or service her clients to the best volume to your natural lashes of her ability.

"At Swag Hair Company, we understand what it's like ing the time it takes you to get you want!" to live a busy life, and that is ready in the morning." why we offer semi-perma-

pert. Since graduating from tint" says Emily. "Lashes can styles of lashes - classic, hy- most natural look, adding a and feel beautiful without applied individually to each the use of makeup. It will enand accentuate the beauty of your eyes all while minimiz-

nent beauty solutions like lash and lash styles? Emily spe- one eyelash applied to every es. Depending whether you extensions, and lash lift and cializes in three different one of your lashes. This is the want a light volume, or a dra-

sions. "Lash extensions are to your lash line. one of your natural lashes, and range in styles to suit. Along with the style, we can personalize the curl of the lashes, and the length - to make your lashes just what

Hybrid is a mixture of classic and volume lashes. The classic will frame out the shape of the lash style, while the 3D fans will fill out and add volume to the style.

"Volume lashes are anywhere from a 2D to a 10D Classic is a 1:1 applica- lash fan that will add volume What are lash extensions tion - meaning that there is and darkness to your lash-

matic volume is up to you!"

"As much as we believe in responsible beauty when it comes to hair, we also believe in this when it comes to enhancing our natural beauty. We believe strongly in taking care of our lash extensions the same way to keep the integrity of our natural lashes," says Cristina, owner of Swag Hair Company.

As well as lash extensions, Swag Hair Company also offers lash lift and tint.

A lash lift and tint is simply the most natural way to enhance what you already have. It is an hour-long, fourstep process in which your natural lash is "permed" and coloured to make it look as if you have curled your lashes and have applied mascara. It is a semi-permanent enhancement that lasts four to six weeks and lets you leave the mascara, and most importantly the damaging lash curler, behind.

Have we piqued your curiosity? Feel free to stop by Swag Hair Company and speak with Emily or give us a call to reserve your appointment. Consultations are always complimentary.





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THE NOTL LOCAL



Diabetes and foot health – a very important connection





Submitted by Audrey Wall Foot Clinic

Why is foot health so important when a person has diabetes? A number of physiologic changes can happen when blood glucose (sugar) isn't well controlled.

abetes.ca), "Diabetes can cut. Diabetes can make cause nerve damage (also these injuries more difknown as diabetes pe- ficult to heal. Unnoticed ripheral neuropathy) and and untreated, even small poor blood flow or circu- foot injuries can quickly lation to the legs and feet become infected, poten-(also known as peripheral tially leading to serious arterial disease). As a result, people with diabetes According are less likely to feel a foot keep your feet healthy

to Diabetes Canada (di- injury, such as a blister or when you have diabetes? complications."

What can you do to

Check your feet daily for changes in skin or nails, or injuries - use a hand mirror if you have trouble seeing your feet.

Before putting on shoes, look and feel the inside to ensure they're clean of any debris.

- Keep the skin between your toes dry - never put moisturizing cream between your toes as this can promote skin breakdown or infection.
- Make sure to have a dipractitioner at least of them.

once a year.

If you can't see or reach your feet, visit a qualified foot care provider for help with trimming nails, calluses or corns instead of trimming by feel.

Healthy feet keep you abetic foot assessment moving and enjoying life by a qualified health – make sure you take care





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Great things are happening at Crossroads Public School

SCHOO

Ella Edgecombe, **Brooke Rowe, Liza** Weberbauer **Special to The Local**

Crossroads Sports

thanks to the coaches Mr. Holowchuk and Mrs. Breakespeare, the junior game was fun to play and it was cool in the morning but got hot during the afternoon. Intermediate lieved because it was less coaches were Mrs. Lisi and Mr. Van't Riet and they had fun playing their to teach the Grade 4/5 stutournament.

Classroom News

on an amazing field trip to Wildplay Niagara Falls Whirlpool

the people in front of me playdough! were a little slower. I really enjoyed it and wanted to stay longer."

Grade 5 was drum-In junior and inter- ming! We brought buck- Crossroads' first assembly mediate co-ed soccer, ets and learned how to drum. Brooke Whyte tions to all the Shining Stars said, "When I first heard about it I was excited and team had two goals. The a bit nervous. I was less nervous when we started. When Josh had to go I was a little sad (but a little renoisy)." Special thanks to 10 (periods 5 and 6) we Josh Brown for coming in had our Terry Fox Run. dents great drumming!

were making something white. We walked or ran Grade 8 classes went that smelled so good and the whole school was wondering what the delicious and awareness for cancer Adventure smell was. The answer research. It was a great af-Course. Luke Midgley was cinnamon playdough. ternoon.

said, "I was confident but Yes! They made cinnamon

Whole School Happenings

On Friday, Oct. 4 it was of the year. Congratulaof September. Thank you for being kind! Also, a big thank you to Mr. Reschke for the great slide show!

Terry Fox Run

On Thursday, Oct, Students and teachers brought in toonies and Kindergarten classes the school wore red and around the school in the afternoon to raise money

> Easton Andres takes first place in Crossroads cross-country competition. (Photos supplied)

Jullian Draayer and Dani Sawyer compete together in a cross-country race.



Aaralyn Unruh, Ellery Sawatzky, Chienna Lua, Mackanzie Overweg, Olivia Breakspeare try out the high ropes at the Wildplay Niagara Falls Whirlpool Adventure Course.



Taking part in Terry Fox Run last week at Crossroads Public School were Vanessa Kardko, Sophia Salter, Isabella Beccario, Aaralyn Unruh and Renae Stearns. (Photos supplied)







Running Friends Katya Weberbauer, Rachel Wiens, Annika Janzen, Ellery Sawatzky and Nellena Gregoire at a recent Crossroads cross-country competition.



drumming.

Teacher Miss Fraser and the Kindergarten students Graham Staz, Elinor Rifkin, Samantha Jones, teacher Alison Witcomb, and Frannie Baskin enjoyed a beautiful afternoon for Crossroads' annual Terry Fox Run.



Out for the Terry Fox Run in the Virgil Sports Park were Nicole Falk and Reagan Rossi learn bucket Brooke Whyte, Addison Driedger, Megan Dyck, Dylan Dietsch and Elisa Jordan-Smith.

notllocal.com

THE NOTL LOCAL

October 17, 2019 21

Ghost tours continue to thrill

Kim Wade **Special to The Local**

It was a dark and stormy night...well not really, it was more dark and chilly but unnerving nonetheless as I arrived at Fort George for an interview.

The late night interview was scheduled for around 10:30 p.m. after the last ticket holders headed into Fort George for the final ghost tour of the night. As I wandered alone through the dimly lit and almost desolate parking lot, I could not help but wonder if this was the smartest idea I have ever had. I was about to interview Kyle Upton, the founder of the ghost tours at Fort George. Now I found myself in one of the most haunted places in what has been described as the most haunted town in Canada, with a nearly full moon shining overhead and too close to midnight for comfort.

The sign on the driveway indicated to park to the right and follow the path. Unsure where the path was, and armed with my cell phone flashlight, I wandered in the parking lot for a while until I heard a rustling behind a car in front of me. I decided quickly to follow the eerily lit cement path to my right. The small furry black and white creature also scurried away, thankfully heading in the opposite direction. As I headed down the path, I could make out a building with two dark figures standing in front of a dimly lit doorway. I sure hoped they were living! As I approached, I could see that it looked like one of them was wearing a dark cloak. That is when I met Kyle Upton, founder of the Fort George ghost tours, standing on the porch of the visitors centre. To my relief, Upton is most certainly alive.

I was invited into the warmth of the visitors centre, where we began the interview, accompanied by a tour security member. It is clear that Upton's first interest in Fort George is its history. He explained that he had been a volunteer at the fort while he was in high school and participated in their youth programs. During his university years, he worked at the fort as a gardener and a tour guide.

Over the years, he explained how older staff members used to tell stories about some of the strange happenings at the fort. At the time, he was not concerned with the legitimacy of the stories taining tales told in the evening ryteller's repertoire. during overnight stays in the bar-

racks with other youth, or stories told among employees. He got the idea of starting a ghost tour at Fort George after he participated in a historical ghost tour in Williamsburg, Virginia. Upton thought it would be great to bring the idea back to Fort George, since he had heard his share of ghost stories over the years.

He thought this would be a way to "get people into history even if they don't think they are."

When he returned to Niagara-on-the-Lake, he approached Parks Canada with the idea. He was told that although it sounded like a nice idea, the federal government could not support it because they could not confirm nor deny the existence of ghosts.

Next, he approached the Friends of Fort George, a non-profit cooperative association that organizes programs and events at the fort. The Friends of Fort George said they would support the ghost tours.

His next challenge was to gather the stories. So Upton went back to some of the people that had shared their stories and experiences with the supernatural. The stories came from fort staff, people who had lived at the fort and local residents. He wanted to make sure these experiences were legitimate and had not been made up for purely entertainment value as campfire material. After being satisfied the stories were based on legitimate experiences, he established the first ghost tours in 1994.

The tours have grown since then, and the number of stories have continued to grow over the 26 years since the tours started. Upton explains that the stories still come from fort staff, but the biggest surprise for him has been that stories began to come from people on the tours. He said they have certain core stories they tell in the summer tours, but some stories and sightings have been added over the years as they noticed patterns have emerged in certain experiences.

Before introducing a new story onto the tour, staff wait to see if a pattern is established to root out any potential attention seekers or jokesters. However, when several people over the years start to report seeing the same little girl skipping around grounds or have a feeling that a The other part is to celebrate the child is tugging at their coats, it is spooky season of Halloween. hard to ignore. The story of Sarah

George, prepares for another Halloween tour. (Kim Wade) have had a personal paranormal experience that they share with their group. These personal stories make each tour unique and diverse enough that they often see repeat customers to the tours.

Kyle Upton, tour leader and the founder of the Ghost Tours at Fort

As the founder of the tours and a lover of history, Upton is concerned with maintaining the integrity of the tour. He wants to ensure the stories being told have met this criteria, because, he explains, they are living stories and hard to contain. He doesn't want his ghost stories to turn into fish stories — as in a fish story, he does not want "the fish to get any bigger," because it turns away from the real experience.

Unlike other ghost tours, Fort George offers a captive atmosphere. The tours take place in the actual area where the experiences occurred. You are not standing at a comfortable distance across the street or tentatively peering through a window. You are actually standing in the spot where the activity happens. Upton explains that Fort George has experienced all of the known paranormal phenomena, from glowing fog, to hearing footsteps, creaky boards, dark figures and apparitions. "Fort George checks all the boxes," for paranormal activity, he says.

At this time of year, participants are treated to a longer and more in-depth tour than during summer evenings. The Halloween tours travel through more of the buildings, with more stories to match. Part of the reason for the change in format is practical — the weather at this time of year is colder and can be inclement.

However, Upton surmis but thought they were enter- Ann was then added to the sto- the appeal to these stories har- purchased in advance at Friends kens to a deeper question that of Fort George by calling 905-

orizes that as people move away from religious establishments, they are looking for answers as to what happens after we die. What happens after this life? This is the core connection we have to each other and the biggest mystery for all of us, he says. Upton explains that some people come to Fort George looking for confirmation of an afterlife, some are looking for a paranormal experience and some get dragged along for the ride. Whatever the reason for joining the moonlit tour through one of the most haunted places in Canada, they are sure to be entertained.

Outside, the last tour has ended. We can hear the footfalls of the participants walking a little bit too quickly to their cars in the dark, chatting excitedly about their experience.

As I conclude the interview, I cannot help be aware of my surroundings in the visitors centre. Did a shadow pass through the light shining under the door? I could have sworn I caught a glimpse of it in my periphery. It may have passed by a couple times as we chatted, or was it just as Upton said, "Fort George has an atmosphere."

Couple that with the power of suggestion, a good storyteller and some consistent patterns of unexplained phenomena, then you have yourself the makings for a very entertaining and a spooky way to spend an evening at Fort George during this special time of year.

Halloween Tours at Fort George run Oct. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 30, and 31. Tours start at: 7, 7:15, and 7:30 p.m., and 10, 10:15 and 10:30 p.m. (excluding Sunday). Halloween tickets must be Also, each tour guide may is universal to all of us. He the- 468-6621. Tickets are \$25.



LOCAL HAPPENINGS



FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING **ARTS CENTRE**

October 18 Gord's Legacy

October 20 **Hear! Here! Niagara Music Series** with Mark Lalama Trio

> Monday, October 21 **Bruce Cockburn**

Monday, October 24 Max Weinberg's Jukebox

www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca

FAMILY FRIENDLY DROP-IN **ART STUDIO**

October 27 @ 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Drop in to our Family Friendly Art Studio, to make your own artwork. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to explore art and get creative! Families are encouraged to see the exhibition in our gallery and then get their hands messy working on their own artwork in our studio. \$2 suggested donation.

FAMOUS AND INFAMOUS

October 28 @ 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

On the fourth Monday of the month the Niagara Historical Museum offers a free community day and the popular Famous & Infamous biography series open to all. On Oct. 28 Linda Fritz will be discussing Vanessa Bell.

LOCAL WORSHIP

BEEFSTEAK SOCIETY DINNER

November 8 @ 7:00 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Join the Friends of Fort George for a special fundraiser dinner; fashioned after the popular Sublime Beefsteak Society of England. Enjoy a steak dinner, live music, an auction and great entertainment. All proceeds from the evening will help to support student employment opportunities at Fort George and Brock's Monument. Tickets must be purchased in advance as seating is limited. Call the Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621 or email: admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca for more information.

Kids Programming Ages 5 & under

CORNERSTONE

Sunday, October 20th

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. at 434 Hunter Rd.

Offices at 1570 Niagara Stone Rd.

www.ccchurch.ca

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNİTED CHURCH 1453 York Road, St. Davids 905-262-5242 stdavids-queenstonuc.ca Minister: Rev. Rick Hawley Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Come and celebrate God's love for us all G Ġ

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IN MEMORIAM

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LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU ANSWERS

Answer from October 10, 2019

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

"Arrivederci --- " 63 Concerning, in legalese **17** Stimulant **18** Gives added assurance **20** Episcopate 21 Crackpot "... Sleepin' in the --- sun!" (Mercer/Carmichael) 24 Powerful chopper 27 Bad toupée 28 Apparel **30** Field or box sport Down: 35 Hot iron 1 "Good Time Charlie's got 2 the ---" (Danny O'Keefe) 3 "Iron Man" Ripken 4 Unity 38 Bunyan's ox 5 39 Change college **40** Defeat decisively 6 Be unwell 7 42 Slumbered 8 **43** As before 9 **44** Asks Rene about footwear **46** Tune in 47 Sugar spirit 48 Wipes clean 50 "--- of the Cave Bear" **54** Chicken precursor, or not

16

23

36

37

41

(Auel)

64 Literary miser --- Marner **65** "There is a --- in the affairs of men ..." (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar") 66 Category 67 Former Senate majority leader --- Lott In this way Promote to excess Not just one-shot Seven Sisters NYC Shelf-like sleeping space "--- , Caesar!" Faculty head Implements **10** "Old ----" (1989 Gregory Peck/Jane Fonda movie) 11 Conrad's "--- Jim" 12 "Nanny McPhee" star Thompson 13 Piece of cake **19** Bridge teams

31 Bertie Wooster's Agatha, for example 32 Taliesin West locale 33 Fry briefly over high heat **34** John with an Oscar and a Tony 36 Transvaal trekker 39 Virgin's bower **40** All do this in court 42 Brain box? 43 Revulsion 45 Known to just a few 46 Barrel stave 49 Bowling alley button 50 Hurry 51 Kachina maker 52 Inspected **53** Barcelona boy 56 Alaska's first governor 57 "--- we forget" (Kipling) **59** Sin 61 Respectful form of address

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ITEMS

Down: 1 Thus, 2 Hype, 3 Repeatable, .1n91T 78 63 In re, 64 Silas, 65 Tide, 66 Sort, 58 Royalties, 60 Usage, 62 Open, Erases, 50 The Clan, 54 Egg, 55 Del, 44 Sneakers, 46 Listen, 47 Rum, 48 40 Hout, 41 Ail, 42 Slept, 43 Ditto, 30 Blues, 37 Cal, 38 Babe, 39 Coins, 28 Attire, 30 Lacrosse, 35 Brand, 23 Noonday, 24 Apache, 27 Rug, Upper, 18 Reaffirms, 20 See, 21 Nut, 71, ismoR 81, inev 3 81, ismey H 81 Across: 1 Throb, 6 Bade, 10 Glee,

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS Vino, 56 Egan, 57 Lest, 59 Err, 61 Sir. Reset, 50 Trot, 51 Hopi, 52 Eyed, 53 43 Disgust, 45 Arcane, 46 Lag, 49 BOCK, 39 Clematis, 40 Rise, 42 Skull, Scottsdale, 33 Saute, 34 Elton, 36 26, thu A 15, this T 29, the sedded 32 Fours, 22 U C E, 25 Pine, 26 Ellipse, 11 Lord, 12 Emma, 13 Easy, 19 8 Dean, 9 Enforces, 10 Gringo, 4 One, 5 Barnard, 6 Berth, 7 Ave,





(Top) Lion Joe, Lion Glenn, Lion Don and Lion Janet work in the kitchen to prepare fish and chips, including pan-fried haddock, at the St. Davids Lions Hall on York Road. The Lions fish fries run the first and third Friday of the month, except in December, so there is an opportunity to join the regulars and enjoy a fish dinner this Friday, Oct 18. Below, St. Davids Leos help out. (Rosie Gowsell-Pattison)



Legion Thursday fish fry



Gary Bradham (left), Chris Toye, Stan Harrington, Rick Cairnes, Lanny James and Linda Carson prepare fish and chip dinners at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall Thursday. The Legion holds its fundraising fish fry every week, and also offers baked fish as an alternative to battered. Below, Tony Baldinelli, with Laura Sentinal, and his wife Carol and son Daniel, enjoy a Legion fish fry dinner. (Penny Coles)



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