One large branch fell down in a windstorm about seven weeks ago, and he felt it was dangerous to leave the two oak trees standing. His staff had been communicating with the town about the permit, and he had arranged to have a crane and crew lined up to remove the trees Saturday, expecting to have the permit by then, he says.

He phoned the town when the crew arrived, told town staff the arborist said the trees were a safety hazard and he was going to take them down, and the staff person he spoke to said “okay.” So he went ahead. “I’m not going to wait on a safety issue.”

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Regional candidate Andrea Kaiser gets for what it currently pays on those items is one of her priorities.

Roberts said NOTL’s $35 million contribution to the region is “a lot of money.” He called for more accountability and reporting about what the town receives from the region, holding up that elected body’s 2021 financial report, suggesting that there are many gaps in reporting. Roberts called for a value-for-money audit of where that $35 million goes, and promised to open a constituency office if elected and be a full-time regional councillor.

Miele warned that as NOTL continues to grow, what the town pays to the region will follow. He suggested that especially when it comes to policing, the town is getting little value for what it pays. It comes back to budget time, he said, and promised to work with other rural regional councillors to push for expanded services to the smaller communities.

Policing in general continued to be a hot topic during the proceedings. The candidates were asked what each would do to stop road racing through the streets of NOTL’s five distinct communities. The question took some in the audience by surprise, but not the candidates.

“That question came up at the door in Old Town,” Roberts said. “I had never heard of such a thing (until then).” This would need to be addressed in a very aggressive way. But I was not aware that there is a shortage of those stepping up who want to get into policing. It’s going to be a stretch to get more policing here. We may have to find alternative ways, whether it be speed bumps or cameras or some other method. Another alternative is to see what the OPP can offer us.”

Both Kaiser and Miele, who have sat on town council in the past, referenced the old community policing committee, and suggested its return would be welcomed. “I live on the Parkway,” Kaiser told the audience. “Sunday nights after 11 p.m., motorcycle racing would start. It’s dangerous and it’s loud. We had a few residents who got together, and one met with Niagara Regional Police and shared the regular nature of the races. One night, they set up a barricade, and the police were waiting. It worked, and it stopped. I encourage residents dealing with that to do something like that.”

“It comes down to all of us doing our due diligence,” added Miele. “If you see things, report them. But the fact is we need more police in Niagara-on-the-Lake. There are thefts, break-ins, robberies, things we wouldn’t have thought of decades ago. I understand there are shortages, but we need another officer on our roadways. I think it’s doable. We need to work on with all the municipalities. I think it’s doable, I know I can make it happen. That’s my promise.”

Lindsay Luby pointed out that a number of times over the past four years Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa voted against a motion at the region that Lord Mayor Betty Disero actually supported. She asked the candidates under what circumstances that would be appropriate, and how each intended to work with the next lord mayor at the region.

“We all want to work together and collaborate for what’s best for Niagara-on-the-Lake,” said Roberts. “At the region there are a number of issues we need to work on with all the municipalities. I would put our interests first, but ensure that our interests would align with and support the other municipalities as well, whether it be on policing, health care, agriculture or development issues. If there was a glaring disagreement, the lord mayor and I would have to sit down and work out what would be in the best interests of the town.”

Kaiser said, “I don’t think one vote supersedes the other. At the end of the day, we are both one vote at the region. That being said,
Continued from page 2

would meet with the mayor once a month to understand each other’s perspectives.”

“It’s the will of the council, not the will of the mayor (that presides),” Miele opined. “For instance, on the St. Davids Roundabout, (town council) voted unanimously to say no to that. The will of the region might be a little different. There are 30 plus representatives there. We have to work together, especially with the rural mayors and rural regional reps. Rural communities always get the shaft at the region because we have a very small vote. We need to build those rural allies and plan our attack on the larger city representation.”

With some contentious issues arising in town over the past four years, the ability of a councillor at the region or the municipality to deal with them in an effective way has been extremely important.

Miele suggested that development, specifically the Sandwood Estate, may have been one of the most contentious issues facing current councillors. He pointed to official plans and provincial policies as the guiding principles for coming to a consensus. All five communities, he added, have to be on board as an entire community. Amendments and negotiations have to happen, and not everyone will always be happy with every decision.

Roberts also pointed to official plans, saying that finalizing the region’s plan, then aligning the town’s with it, is his top priority. Calling the success of the region is based on collaboration. Certainly, as much work needs to be done to ensure that the lord mayor are in agreement, especially since we only have those two votes.

Mayor, regional councillor need to work together

FocusNOTL meeting organizer Joe Accardo talks to Paolo Miele.

Andrea Kaiser prepares to answer a question.

William Roberts chats with a resident after the meeting.

Pat Darte withdraws from regional council race

“Please vote for one of these three candidates,” she said, with a laugh.

FocusNOTL Joe Accardo thanked people who attended and watched the previous meet and greet sessions online. He also thanked the Legion, and announce that the collections held after each session had already raised $940 for Branch 124 before the end of Tuesday’s event.

“They’ve told me they’re donating it for hurricane relief,” Accardo informed the crowd, “which means the amount that was collected will be doubled by the feds.”

As with the previous four events hosted by the grassroots political organization, Tuesday’s session was videotaped by Betty Anne James. All five sessions can be viewed on YouTube on the FocusNOTL Election 2022 channel. Links on the group’s Facebook page will also take you to the videos.

Penny Coles
The Local

Regional council candidate Pat Darte sent out an email Friday afternoon, 10 days before the Oct. 24 voting day, saying, “I have officially taken my name off the nomination list for the 2022 NOTL election.”

The race is now down to Andrea Kaiser, Paolo Miele and William Roberts. Darte is likely to receive some votes. Because it is past the date when candidates can withdraw their nomination, his name will still appear on the voting ballot when residents go to the polls, as it has been on ballots since advance voting began Oct. 8.

Darte “informed the town clerk in writing that he wished to withdraw as a candidate,” said town communication co-ordinator Marah Minor.

“As the deadline for official withdrawal was Aug. 22, providing notice to the public will be the responsibility of the candidate.”

Darte did not give any explanation for his decision in the email sent to the press, simply asking that residents be made aware they should not vote for him.

There were originally five candidates for regional council, but Barbara Worthing made her decision to withdraw before the Aug. 19 deadline.
Climate change policies need to respect people

Owen Bjorgan
The Local

Climate change conversation is at an all time high, which is worthy of celebration. We must appreciate that awareness leads to education, and education leads to action. If the mean global temperature is rising, one positive takeaway is that is the rate this is happening which raises alarm bells. Since 1990, some of these broader regions have experienced an average uptick of 1 degree Celsius. That doesn’t sound like much, but that number really counts when vast sections of the planet hover just under 0 degrees Celsius in order to keep ice and permafrost locked up, under threat of never forming again once melted.

Tackling climate change faces serious — and sometimes unusual — political and social boundaries, though. Climate change, like all things we can’t help ourselves with, has become a political lightning rod, like COVID-19 or religion or election seasons around the world.

For example, and quite interestingly, I noticed over the last half year how climate change is the second topic of content on Facebook that gets flagged, following when Facebook started doing this with COVID, which was the first maneuver of its kind. I recognize this has rubbed some people the wrong way.

For instance, a month or so ago I posted a photo about a storm. Just a classic thunderstorm in the backyard kind of deal. My post was flagged with climate change information. I really didn’t care, but I did find it odd, as I didn’t mention climate change or suggest anything about it.

In social media, algorithms exist that are designed to hunt down certain keywords you put in your posts, and if that post goes against the grain, is outright outlandish, or even totally scientifically correct, it can be flagged by simply speaking of the matter. To some, this can give an impression that

We need an EXPERIENCED SENIOR LEADER to address the mismanagement at the region and get value for the $35 MILLION in taxes we send each year.

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Need trusted information sources to engage public

Continued from page 4

sweeping decision-making around climate change is an ‘agenda,’ which may cause people to tune out from the real issue at hand — which is what exactly we don’t want right now.

We need people engaged, and to do that, they need to trust their sources of information. Over the past three years, levels of trust in higher government have floundered across the globe. This is a hurdle that must be addressed if we’re going to make real change. Two points come to mind about this.

Firstly, as a rigid believer of the firm science and real-world observations of climate change, I want to see improvements on the messaging behind educating people about it. If it feels forced upon you, it can cause you to have suspicions, and it defeats the purpose of a cause we should all get behind.

Additionally, I also want to make sure regular working people don’t get left in the dust as powers-that-be around the world are beginning to introduce quick and sometimes dramatic ideas to our previously established economic codes. Barely covered by major news outlets, which is shocking considering the scope of the event, massive farmer-led protests occurred in the Netherlands during the summer of 2022. In an effort to halve nitrogen and phosphorous damage to ecosystems by 2030, as well as proposed goals to reduce cattle herd sizes to limit methane emissions, the government introduced these regulations, and it stirred the pot with farmers who fear for their livelihoods.

I’ll be first to tell you that we truly need to consider ways to better protect our watersheds and the amount of methane entering our atmosphere. Absolutely. However, I believe governments can’t leave people’s livelihoods in the dust, even if the broader intention is globally benevolent. If you are going to force farmers, the people who feed society, into a limited operating capacity, you best be financially supporting them or giving them transitional support of some methodology.

Which reminds me of the hurting coal towns tucked into the naturally lush but humanly defeated hollows of the Appalachian Mountains, where I recently filmed Hidden Corners: Appalachia. Of course, it is essential that we gradually distance ourselves from the ozone-depleting, atmosphere-clogging greenhouse gases which warm our planet. However, where was the financial support from the federal and various state governments in the 1980s when they swept the livelihoods of these communities out from under their feet? What happened next was a damaging sequence of events that still exists to this day.

With little to no supported transition, financial help, or supplement, many of these communities now live in severe rural poverty, which generally means a higher propensity of culture that doesn’t trust government or believe in climate change.

In a delicate but blunt summary, world leaders need to do this thing called leading, and show how it is possible to mitigate climate change, protect our ecosystems, and find ways to realistically support people along the way during this transitional time.

Also, perhaps instead of clamping down on everyday people for these changes, maybe governments around the world should show a hankering to take on massive corporations who are ultimately the world’s largest players of greenhouse gas emissions. The barrier to that, as we all know, is that friends don’t pick on their own friends.

This farm field along Lake Erie shows a juxtaposition of agriculture, forest, and renewable energy. Will Canadians be supported by our governments as we transition away from less sustainable practices? (Owen Bjorgan)
Municipal candidates will be doing their best to convince voters to put their X beside their names, as we count down to Monday, election day.

According to the town, there are 16,102 eligible voters for the local election, of which 22% is under 30. By Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2,112 individuals had voted in the advance polls. That sounds like a lot. Let’s hope it’s reflective of a high voter turnout by the end of the day Monday.

In 2018, the voter turnout in NOTL was 58 per cent. That was high, but not surprising — that was the year for change, with a new lord mayor and only two returning municipal councillors.

This year, we will have at least three newcomers to council, and can select from a total of 13 candidates for eight seats, which may be generating more interest in the election.

That there is a crew of young people all hoping for a seat, wanting to take NOTL into the future to make it a more family-friendly community, is adding to the excitement of this election time.

Not that experience isn’t valuable, it certainly is, but we’re likely to see some of both on the next council.

Much has been made during this election campaign about balancing the needs of residents against tourists. Every hot topic has an element of finding that balance, whether it’s parking, traffic congestion, buses, short-term rentals, or the municipal accommodation tax. And every candidate understands that. Pretty sure those who are elected will also understand what their priorities need to be.

The only issues that come to mind that are not in some way related to tourism are those in St. Davids — the pool everyone wants, the roundabout nobody wants — and Glendale, which for all the development and growth it is facing, has received very little attention during this campaign.

Maybe someone from Glendale should start thinking about running four years from now. We can’t blame them for rumbling about a ward system. A subject that has come up — and comes up every four years — is selective voting. It is important to vote for all eight councillors, or only the ones you are really certain will do a good job.

Donald Combe asked The Local to put the idea to voters, saying “there are eight councillors and one mayor. The most powerful the mayor has is one vote that will break a tie. All eight councillors hold the power, yet whenever anything is unpopular it is the fault of the mayor. No blame goes to the councillors.”

On past councils, few council votes were recorded. The press would only know how the vote was divided, and the outcome. If you wanted to blame a councillor, it would be difficult to know who to blame.

This council has been working very well together, and it is about asking for polled votes, maybe because the issues this term have been more contentious. If you don’t find your answer about how individual councillors voted in the news, the town should have that information.

Combe pointed out that just because the voter has the option of voting for eight councillors does not indicate he must vote for all eight. In fact, he says, by only voting for one councillor he or she feels well do the best job, the voter, in essence, gives eight votes to that one candidate.

That, he says, is a concept not always understood.

There is some validity to selective voting, although it would be difficult to know how effective it is, and we might need a larger voter pool for it to be significant.

We’ll let the experts weigh in. Let us know your thoughts and we’ll make them available online before Monday.

Another way to look at it though is that when the NOTL council is sworn in, there will be eight people sitting around the table. It might be worth thinking about who you want to see at the table.

In this election, surely there are eight candidates worthy of the job. Some might say — and we at The Local would agree — that the difficulty will be who to eliminate, with 13 really good choices. Everyone running in the election does so because they love the town, and they want the best for it. To all of you who are putting yourselves out there, thank you.

For voters who haven’t been to an advance poll — the last is today, Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the town hall until 8 p.m. — please, just get out and vote on Monday.

For all you need to know about your candidats, we have made information available in our past print editions, and it is still available in one place online. It includes the submissions we collected from every candidate at no charge, as most community newspapers do lead-up to an election. It is at the top of our website: notllocal.com

Penny Coles
The Local

**LETTERS**

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

**DISTRESS CENTRE**
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Service for youth 416-586-5437 1-800-686-6868
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Meetings held Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. John’s Anglican Church 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting 905-682-2140

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**First year students at Niagara College**
are putting themselves out there.

**LETTERS**

Donald Combe
Special to The Local
Martha Costello, a bril- liant barrister in London, prepares for the next step of her career as she applies for Silk (Brixbox 2011, three seasons). This is brilliant, almost mesmer- izing courtroom drama.

Donald Combe is a re- tired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Un- til he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously

**VOTER CARD INFORMATION**
Qualified electors for the 2022 municipal and school board election should receive their voter cards in the mail. If you did not receive your voter card or it has an error, it can be changed on the spot at an advance poll or on election day.

Please bring a government-issued piece of ID and proof of your local address. Any additions, deletions, and changes to the voters’ list can be made on the spot at any poll.

**LAST CHANCE FOR ADVANCE POLL**
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Municipal Offices - 1593 Four Mile Creek Road

**ELECTION DAY, OCT. 24**
Qualified electors are welcome to vote at any Niagara-on-the-Lake polling location 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**COMMUNITY CENTRE - 14 ANDERSON LANE**
Laura Secord Homestead - 29 Queenston Street

**CROSSROADS PUBLIC SCHOOL - 1350 NIAGARA STONE ROAD**
St. Davids Public School - 1344 York Road

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - 524 YORK ROAD**

**PLEASE NOTE**
Voter information is available on our website at notllocal.com or call: 905-246-5878 or 905-934-1040
Planning and practising family escape is essential
You may have less than two minutes

Ben Foster
The Local

My name is Ben Foster. I came here from England when I was five, and I now live in Niagara-on-the-Lake which is a really lovely place to live. We have visitors come to stay and they really love coming here for holidays. I could now be a good tour guide. It is a great place to live and has lots of tourism, but living here is different to visiting and I would like to have more things to do in my local neighbourhood.

Recently The Local newspaper agreed to have a co-op placement, which I have just started, and I am really enjoying it. I was asked to think about a column for young people. So, I am thinking about how I can make the most of this opportunity and also make it something that other young people might enjoy being a part of, and of course read.

I would love to know what other young people are doing in NOTL, and share your stories about living here.

I would also like to tell readers about young people in NOTL, and share your stories about baby sitting here. Do you have a story you can share? Or something you have achieved and that you are proud of? I would love to hear from you. For example, I really enjoyed the outdoor pickleball courts when they were open, so next week I plan to write about pickelball for youth in NOTL. I am a pretty good competitive bowler, and have fun going to tournaments, so one day I might write about that.

As the local elections are taking place, what do you want to see happen in NOTL? Are the elections just a big yawn for you? If they are, what would make you take more interest?

If I had a chance to talk to a town councillor what would you like me to ask on your behalf?

If I was a town councillor I would want to see more planned activities, especially at the community centre, for young people. The library is a great place in NOTL for children, with lots of activities available during school holidays. I have really enjoyed going there to them, so thumbs up to the library.

Now I am getting older (I'm 16, in Grade 11) there seems less to do in the town, unless my parents are able to take me to St Catharines or Niagara Falls for things like swimming, sports, internet groups or leisure activities.

I think it would also be great if town councillors could hear about all the things we can do, what we achieve and what we can do to help make NOTL a place for young people too. I am giving a shout-out to those who hope to be elected, and any future election, to those who are elected, to tell us what you think about young people living here and what their plans might be for us in the future?

If you are reading this and have an activity for under 18s already available in NOTL, let me know so I can pass it on!

And if you want to share your ideas at an open house to talk about a youth hub at the Cornerstone Church campus in Virgil, 570 Niagara Stone Rd., it's Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. Maybe see you there.
There were 16 candidates at the St. Davids Ratepayers Association meeting Tuesday evening. This group includes the three mayoral candidates, Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa, with council candidates Tim Balasiuk and Allan Bisback beside them.

Regional Councillor

One (1) to be elected at large
Pat DARTE
Andrea KAISER
Paolo MIELE
William A. ROBERTS
Barbara WORTHY

Two (2) to be elected at large
Natalia BENOIT
Larry HUIBERS
Jolanta PAWLAK

There were 16 candidates at the St. Davids Ratepayers Association meeting Tuesday evening. This group includes the three mayoral candidates, Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa, with council candidates Tim Balasiuk and Allan Bisback beside them. (Photos by Dave Gilchrist)
Pool, roundabout discussed as expected

Continued from page 8

bylaws, with Disero saying the current bylaws are old, exceptions can be granted from the province, however she assured the crowd the new zoning bylaw will bring back conceptual zoning soon.

Gary Zalepa spoke of the need for strategic guidelines village by village.

Council candidates were asked the question on the minds of most St. Davids residents — is a new pool in the future or will the current one be repaired.

All of the candidates felt strongly that it needs to be repaired or replaced, as the number of children in the village is growing, although the high cost of replacing it is a concern, and looking for grants to help fund it will be important.

Erwin Wiens maintained the need is for a new pool, that the current one is irreparable, and aggressive fundraising and lobbying is required to fund it.

Candidate Adriana Cater-Vizzari, a St. Davids resident, was the crowd favourite judging by the loud

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Village needs more amenities for families

Continued from page 9

response when she spoke. With four children, she has been a volunteer parent at the pool and a member of the pool fundraising committee. She was supportive not only of a pool but for more amenities for children in the village.

The other question bound to come up at the meeting was about the regional roundabout at the corner of Four Mile Creek Road and York Road.

Mayoral candidate Vaughn Goettler was strongly against it, as are most residents. He suggested a light at that intersection would be the better option, with a roundabout at Concession 6 and York Road.

Zalepa, the incumbent regional councillor running for lord mayor, supported the process the region has gone through to get to this stage, and the need for proper infrastructure.

Disero told the crowd she has been working with the region to stop the funding for the roundabout, adding several factors were not taken into account during the planning stages and she is strongly against it.

Lack of amenities and community services in St. Davids were put to the candidates for solutions, with council candidate Wendy Cheropita saying as the village grows it needs a vision to plan for, but space for amenities is limited.

Council candidate John McCallum said the citizens of St. Davids need to decide what they want, and the developers need to provide the fees to pay for it.

By asking what St Davids residents wanted when his team went door to door, council candidate Allan Bisback was able to list five priorities: improved library services, paths, public washrooms, a community youth hub, and a pool.

The Local goes to press Tuesday for Wednesday delivery but was able to cover some of the St Davids meeting and all of the FocusNOTL meet & greet at the Royal Canadian Legion hall.

Dave Rusch of KWW Radio St. Davids had the audio of the St. Davids meeting on his site by a little after 11 p.m. Tuesday night. To listen to the entire meeting, slightly more than two and a half hours, go to KWWradio.com.
Four council candidates attend FocusNOTL meeting

Penny Coles
The Local

Last Wednesday, a small crowd of about 100 people gathered for FocusNOTL’s last meeting for municipal council candidates.

Five candidates were invited to the meet and greet at the Royal Canadian Legion hall, and four attended — Alistair (AJ) Harlond declined to participate.

Each was given an opportunity to talk about themselves and their priorities, before being asked questions that were answered by each candidate in turn.

The topics were similar to those throughout the campaign — the cost of litigation over planning issues was discussed; questions were asked about the municipal accommodation tax; and the roundabout in St. Davids that nobody seems to think is a good idea was also talked about.

Incumbent Wendy Cheropita was the first to tackle the question of litigation between the town and developers, and whether candidates would handle them differently. She said of the $2.5 million spent on lawsuits during the last four years, some are “fights that are absolutely worth fighting,” and she would not back down on going to battle for “one of the top heritage properties” in town.

However, some litigation could be avoided by creating policies such as contextual zoning, design guidelines and community planning permits to protect built and natural heritage, and maintain streetscapes.

Adriana Cater-Vizzari spoke of requiring clear guidelines for developers, and mentioned the need for transparency and resident engagement “so we all have a clear idea of what is happening on a regular basis.”

Tim Balasiuk said he believes the majority of people know the lawsuits against the town are because of development. “We are protecting the town through those lawsuits. We are the ones getting sued. We aren’t suing anybody.” Moving forward, he added, “It does come down to policies. Developers need to know when they come to town what exactly they can do. We’ve grown so quickly — we were a small town, and the policies don’t match where we’re headed.”

Spending $2.3 million over four years out of a total budget $183 million is an acceptable amount, said incumbent Allan Bisback, “if you understand that we are defending the policies and the planning parameters of this and previous councils.” Out of 200 applications over four years, “we’re fighting on three or four of them.”

In NOTL, he said, there is a “really good developer who is not appealing, who is not in conflict with the town.”

Why can one developer build based on the policies and the parameters set by the town, and the other developers can’t, he asks. “To tell the truth I’m getting a little bit irritated over developers who continue to come to this town when they know the rules, they know what they bought, and they know what was approved,” he said, drawing enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The next question was about whether the town and residents should be involved in the development of a tourism marketing plan; be responsible for appointing the DMO (the destination marketing organization); when MAT funds are spent; have a say on how the town is brand ed, and determine how many visitors should be invited.

Cater-Vizzari said the town should put out a request for proposals for a DMO, and resident engagement is key in the development of a tourism strategy. “We know about the town and what we want to see. It has to be collaborative.”

She also reminded the audience they will be voting for people to represent their needs, and that they should vote for the candidates who would best meet those needs and interests. As for how many visitors should be invited, she said, “I don’t know how you would eliminate visitors,” but added it’s important to consider the
Lawsuits, MAT revenue topics of discussion

Continued from page 11

transportation of visitors to town, and that discussion should also include community engagement. Balasiuk said the DMO could be the Chamber of Commerce’s tourism arm. “We’ve worked with the chamber for years and have a great working relationship with Tourism NOTL. I feel continuing that relationship is the best course of action.”

As for approving a marketing plan, “we’ll obviously have a say about putting a marketing plan in place. As far as the branding is concerned, the town is the brand. We have a beautiful community, a number of historic sites, we have Parks Canada, and these parks are open to everybody. These people are going to continue to come.”

To the question about inviting tourists, he said, the Shaw Festival brings travellers who are spending money and staying multiple days — the hotels, spas, and wineries all attract people who come and stay longer. “The average stay for the Queen Street tourist is 89 minutes, “as they go up and down the street and buy an ice cream cone.”

Bisback said the town should lead the tourism strategy, but not take it over — it should be all-inclusive, with all the benefactors of tourism involved, along with residents. “I don’t like the idea of what I’ve heard on limiting people, or attracting certain kinds of people. We can’t say red cars can come and yellow cars can’t — that’s divisive. What we can do is create a marketing plan, once we figure out what it is we want to be when we grow up. We can subtly change the marketing plan to attract the people we want to come.”

As long as Tourism NOTL can meet town requirements and expectations, they can do the job of DMO, he said, but that has to be determined as the part of the tourism strategy.

Cheropita said once the town does a request for proposals, the tourism strategy will be developed with the tourism industry, small businesses, and residents all working together with the right consultant. “The money for it can come from the province, the municipal accommodation tax, or the taxpayers, and I don’t want to see taxpayers pay for this. We have two other great options.”

Cheropita said she was always in favour of having MAT funding built into the tourism strategy, with the proper planning, “to know how much you need, and where you want it to go. We should all be at the table to determine that.”

The next question was about MAT revenue as a fiscal tool. Balasiuk said when the discussion first surfaced, the Shaw Festival and hotel stakeholders said it would deter tourists and change how many days people would stay in NOTL.

But then he discovered “these hotels have a $25 a day resort fee.” The accommodation tax the town imposed “works out to be about $3 per night.”

It’s a great opportunity to collect new revenue, he added, but the town still has to figure out how it’s going to be collected, who is going to manage it, and where the funds are going to go. When it comes time for the town to talk about allocating the funds, he said, “we do need bike lanes in NOTL. We have active tourists, active folks in town, and it is unsafe right now. We’ve seen the congestion, and seen the amount of traffic. I think being able to create a safe environment using this money is ideal.”

Bisback said he’s disappointed with the three and four per cent that is going to be collected.” The purpose of the tax is to generate incremental revenue to be used on the municipal side for operations, and on the revenue generating marketing side. This is a recurring revenue stream.”

The DMO will have in the range of $1 million to $1.5 million to spend, and the 50 per cent that stays with the town will be put into a reserve to go to tourism assets, not to operational budgets, he said.

“We currently spend, as best as I can ascertain, nearly $1 million on what I’ve heard on limiting the right consultant. “We currently spend, as best as I can ascertain, nearly $1 million on...”

Continued on page 13

VOTER CARD - TOP 10 CANDIDATES

During the course of the Election Campaign I have reviewed and assessed the qualification of the candidates: Through direct discussions, the many “Meet & Greet” sessions, reviews of how incumbents conduct themselves and vote, as well as input from many citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake, I believe that these Top 10 Candidates will be the best to serve with skill, respect, honesty and integrity, and in a transparent fashion.

I encourage everyone to vote their choices for a balanced Council for today and new talent for the future.

LORD MAYOR

DISERO, BETTY
- Accessible FULL-TIME mayor with integrity and proven strong fiscal management
- Paid down the town’s debt
- Championed the MAT
- Added to NOTL’s reserves
- Stands up to aggressive developers and always puts residents first

REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

KAISER, ANDREA
- former NOTL Councillor with deep agricultural experience
- Brings transparency, honesty and integrity

COUNCILLOR

BALASIUK, TIM
- Committed to protect the historic legacy of NOTL
- Strong advocate for recreation needs of the community

BISBACK, ALLAN
- Outstanding Budget Chair
- Organised and effective common sense Governance
- Championed the MAT

BURROUGHS, GARY
- Veteran with deep Regional and Municipal experience
- Supports Contextual Zoning in NOTL

CARTER-VIZZARI, ADRIANA
- Articulate, dynamic voice for young families
- Provides competent representation for St. Davids

MADVIRIS, MARIA
- Preserve Culture and Heritage
- Strong supporter of local community groups and non-profit organizations

MELL, RICHARD
- Will ensure that tourism pays its fair share in NOTL
- Wants harmony between tourism and residents

O’CONNOR, SANDRA
- Trusted guardian of accessible quality healthcare
- Fully committed to environmental stewardship

RULLER, NICK
- Fiscally responsible former Fire Chief
- Strong understanding of inter-departmental operating procedures

Please do not forget to take this Voter Card with you when you vote – John Hale, NOTL email: jmh1626@gmail.com
Continued from page 12

keeping our town beautiful and ready to go for tourists. I don’t begrudge doing that, I think we need to do that, but right now that’s buried in the tax rate. There’s an opportunity to start off-setting that. I’m optimistic that in two or three years we’ll start seeing it as a real benefit to residents and tourists.

Cheropita clarified again she was never against the tax. “I was against the process.”

Right now there is no plan, she said. “I would have liked to see a plan in place. The MAT is a wonderful tool to help us fund tourism infrastructure, like bicycle lanes.” The determination of where the money will go should come from the tourism strategy, “where you have residents and the small business community at the same table to guide tourism visitation and determine who we want to come into this community.”

She said she is looking forward to having a process in place to determine with residents and the business community where the money is to be spent, and to tackle the concerns of the residents, such as congestion. Cater-Vizzari said she worked for 12 years in a city that collected MAT revenue, and having a clear and transparent understanding of the tax to share with workers is important, so when tourists are faced with paying it “it’s not a shock, and workers can explain what it’s for.”

When questioned about their “bottom line” on the region’s plan to build a roundabout in St. Davids, Bisback said it’s the number one issue he’s heard about from that community. “I don’t support the roundabout the way it’s been presented.”

The current council has been unanimous “with three motions to the region, saying pause, stop, take a break.”

Holding consultations during the pandemic was unfair, he said, and he hasn’t seen any data that suggests there are huge traffic volumes that require a roundabout. “I’m not against roundabouts,” he said, but he wonders why the region is determined to go ahead on what he calls a “traffic experiment. There needs to be some more work done.”

Cheropita said the region needs to look through a larger lens at the entire village, rather than one intersection, where public safety is more of a concern than keeping traffic moving. “Clearly there needs to be more consultation.”

Cater-Vizzari, a St. Davids resident, said during the election four years ago, the roundabout “wasn’t even on people’s radar.”

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“I’m really grateful we’re here now and talking about St. Davids.”

The roundabout “does move traffic, and if that is its sole purpose it does make sense,” she said. “The problem is we don’t want the centre of our town with just traffic moving through it.”

Residents want to have a town centre and be a village, she added. “We want walkability. We want more shops.”

She says she crosses her children at that intersection four times a day, and “it’s not okay now. It’s busy. It needs to be addressed.”

She suggested new data is needed to reflect the number of new residents and that Newburn Bridge is now open. St. Davids, she said, does not want to be a throughway to Niagara Falls. “The roundabout is not the solution for us. I’m really glad we’re talking about it — that’s step one towards finding a solution.”

Balasuk said he recognizes St. Davids residents want to keep a small town feel, and families are extremely worried about the safety of it. “I want to be the voice of the townspeople, and see if the people are saying they don’t want a roundabout.”

A question about short-term rentals, also related to MAT funding, asked if accommodations with fewer than five rooms should receive special treatment versus hotels, or should they be made to collect and pay the same taxes.

Cheropita repeated that she would have preferred to see a plan in place for MAT funding. “We don’t know if we need two per cent, we don’t know if we need four per cent, we don’t know if we need hotels only or should we have all the tourism industry collecting it.”

These are really important details to know to determine who should be taxed and how much is needed from them, she said, suggesting B&Bs are already preparing for when they will have to implement it.

“If we’re going to have this tool, we may as well be maximizing it, and fund tourism infrastructure to the best of our ability,” Cater-Vizzari said short-term rentals should be discussed with the new council. “I understand these things need time to develop, and these people seem to be a group of people who want to act. It’s just a matter of putting them in place.”

Balasuk said he believes short-term rentals should pay the new tax as well. “People have been working on it for two years. It’s been implemented. There’s no reason residents should be paying for tourism infrastructure any longer.”

It’s intended as a step program, he said, hotels are charging it, “and ‘we’ll get to STRs (short-term rentals) eventually. We are a tourist destination, and STRs should pay a MAT tax.”

Bisback cautioned “managing expectations” about the tourism strategy. “It will not fix everything and it’s about a year away if we want to have people included and consulted in a proper way.”

With regard to special treatment for short-term rentals, he said, there was a strategy involved when it was decided the tax would only target accommodations five rooms or more. The discussion began during a pandemic, when hotels could stay open but short-term rental accommodations were closed. “We made a decision at the time to say let’s put it in for five rooms and above, and let the short-term accommodations recover through the pandemic.”

Homes that are B&Bs have a surcharge based on assessment, he said, so pay more in taxes than a typical residential lot.

“We need to be very careful about going down the road to make short-term accommodations commercial operations, because once you switch a residential lot to commercial, you can’t bring it back. And you’ll have commercial growth all over the place.”

He suggested focusing on B&B operators as our residents, our friends, our concierges. They live in the community, and offer a much different experience than hotels.

Bisback got in the last word when he said residents should be proud of the way hosted B&Bs have presented their town, and the town should concentrate on doing some work on the issues created by unhosted short-term rental accommodations.

A video of the meeting is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8HRqUpY7dnU

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE VOTES**

October 24, 2022

All agree roundabout should be put on hold

On October 24

Wendy is an effective, collaborative and results driven leader. She uses her expertise in strategic planning when making decisions for our community — always keeping the long term outcome in mind.

**ROBIN GARRETT**

**CHAIR NIAGARA DISTRICT AIRPORT**

For Town Councillor

Ad paid for by the Wendy Cheropita campaign
IAN HAMILTON, author of the Ava Lee crime series, will be featured at the library’s Wine and Words event at Palatine Hills Estate Winery Nov. 2.

He began taking himself seriously as an author and began writing about the exploits of Ava Lee, the petite, 5-foot-2, Chinese Canadian, skilled in martial arts. He is also known for his Heat on catering, and will be bringing his food truck to serve Chinese-themed delights, inspired by Hamilton’s books.

Stephanie Pietruniak, wine retail operations manager, says expect the food to be amazing — Curtiss will be offering fried wonton with a twist — they’ll be filled with comfort food.

An avid reader, Pietruniak says she loves books and book clubs, and is excited to be bringing Wine and Words back to Palatine, which has hosted the popular series during pre-COVID days. She reached out to the library, hoping to get the event going again, and Krause agreed it is time to pair Palatine wines with Hamilton’s words.

“It’s such a great thing for the community,” Pietruniak says. “We have the perfect space here for it, and we’re all about life-style experiences. This is really a good fit for Palatine.”

Tickets are $40 each, and include the food and one glass of wine.

Go to https://notlpubliclibrary.libnet.info/events/Author-Visits to purchase tickets.
Right time. Right choice for Niagara-on-the-Lake.

VOTE

Vaughn
Lord Mayor
Goettler

Accountable Leadership
Financial Integrity
Preserving NOTL Heritage

WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AS YOU VOTE IN THIS CRITICAL ELECTION?
Vaughn has been listening . . .

- The Town's financial sustainability, wise investment in infrastructure and amenities for the future;
- Priorities of farmers to thrive, while protecting agricultural viability and promoting technological advances for farming;
- Preserving the pride and heritage of each of our distinct Villages, while ensuring each is a valued part of what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake a desirable place to call home;
- Strategic development with future generations in mind, while avoiding lawsuits;
- Encourage youth to contribute to community, via schooling, housing and career opportunities;
- Preserving the natural resources of every area of Niagara-on-the-Lake;
- Develop plan for seniors’ housing, community, medical care, and related amenities;
- Plan for local healthcare and healthcare workers, including urgent care, imaging and clinics.

YOUR CHOICES WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE!
ASK YOURSELF . . .

- Has the Lord Mayor earned your vote?
- Has the Lord Mayor taken responsibility for failures, as well as successes, of the previous term?
- A Councillor who has served for multiple terms should have had a positive impact on critical decisions and plans. If they have not, do they deserve your vote to become Lord Mayor?
- Has the Lord Mayor taken a leadership role in optimizing the collaboration of Council, Committees, Staff and the Chamber of Commerce?
- Are candidates for Lord Mayor capable of establishing business relationships and rapport with the Region and the Province, to the benefit of Niagara-on-the-Lake?
- Is there a solution to our concerns with Tourism? We need to attract tourists who contribute to the vitality of the Town. With strategic and effective planning, infrastructure and zoning, Tourism should not be considered a problem.

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For many musicians and performers, the endless monotony of touring can be exhausting, one city, town or concert hall blending into the next, with nary a truly memorable moment among them.

For classical guitarist Milos Karadaglic, though, the March 15, 2020 Bravo Niagara Festival recital at St. Mark’s Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake is one that will remain etched in his mind forever.

“There was such an incredible feeling of tension in the air,” says the musician known professionally by his first name, “because nobody knew what was going to happen with our lives and the world we knew up to that point. It was very difficult for me to go on stage knowing that it might be the last time for a while.”

The uncertainty was, of course, prompted by the looming presence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Still in its early stages, much was unknown about how it would affect lives and for how long. Bravo Niagara founder Chris Moti and Alexis Spiedenner opted to go on with the show that Sunday afternoon, offering refunds to anyone who decided not to attend. About half of the ticket holders did show up.

“In that moment, as challenging as it was,” Karadaglic says today, “it reminded us that music has this very unique, uniting power, no matter what happens in the world around us. We all left that concert feeling inspired and feeling that we all experienced something profound and unique, where the music gave us a moment of respite away from the worries in front of us.”

With that in mind, the return of Milos to Niagara marks a fitting start for Bravo Niagara! Festival’s first full post-pandemic season on Sunday, Oct. 23. It’s become a bit of a biannual tradition for Milos to appear in Niagara, having performed for Bravo Niagara! in 2018 as well.

“What keeps me coming back is the extraordinary passion and dedication of the team that runs this series,” he explains. “There is also a beautiful sense of community in the town, a wonderful sense of appreciation for music-making on the highest level. It’s a perfect little jewel of a place, and a perfect setting for classical guitar.”

The Montenegro-born guitarist will be playing a solo recital at the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre this Sunday. The repertoire will include works by Bach, Villa-Lobos, Harold Arlen and Spanish guitarist Isaac Albéniz, among others.

His latest album, 2021’s The Moon and The Forest, sees him collaborating with both Ottawa National Arts Centre Orchestra and the BBC Symphony Orchestra on works by British composer Joby Talbot and American Howard Shore.

There is a compelling, stark contrast between the gentleness of his guitar playing and the heft and weight of the orchestral accompaniment on the recordings.

“One of my most important missions is to bring new repertoire to the world of classical guitar,” he explains. “Especially when it comes to concertos for classical guitar and orchestra. There is often a misconception about the power of the guitar. Yes, it’s quiet in its volume, but at the same time it’s very powerful in its emotional capabilities. It’s not an accident that it is the most popular instrument in the world.”

On The Moon and The Forest, Karadaglic embraces the unique qualities of his instrument, bringing them to the forefront and using the orchestra to support his playing.

“It gives the guitar wings to fly to new heights musically and emotionally,” he says of the orchestral accompaniment.

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“It gives the guitar wings to fly to new heights musically and emotionally,” he says of the orchestral accompaniment. “The Moon and The Forest is part of a project that began many years ago, in collaboration with Joby Talbot and Howard Shore, to bring those ideals to life. Recording these concertos challenged us in so many different ways. I am very proud of that project.”

In contrast, Milos says that his selections for this week’s recital constitute an homage to the work and the legacy of the great classical guitarist Andrés Segovia, an inspiration to countless guitarists today.

“He was a true pioneer of the instrument,” says Karadaglic. “I brought it to the map on the international concert program. The idea for this program came about a year ago when the Town Hall in New York marked the hundredth anniversary of Segovia’s debut in North America. They asked me to recreate the program that he played there.”

To the Segovia works, Milos adds a few surprises, as well as the Canadian premiere of Amor Fati, written by modern French composer Mathias Duplessy.

“This continues the tradition of guitarists commissioning new works, and bringing the instrument to the next level when it comes to its technical possibilities,” he says of the Duplessy number.

Karadaglic recently signed a recording contract with Sony Classical, after many years recording for Universal Music, Decca Classics and Deutsche Grammophon. “The change marks an exciting new chapter for the 39-year-old,” he says. “It’s sort of the end of an era, in a sense, when you have been recording with the same team for so many years,” he admits. “On one hand you are sad, but on the other you are excited about new people in your life, new ideas and new energies. I’m very much looking forward to that.”

He promises that his next project, to come in early 2023, will take him away from his expected repertoire in an attempt to get back to the roots where he feels the guitar is at its strongest, and away from the Spanish and Latin sounds that people usually associate with him.

“This area of the baroque repertoire has so many treasures,” he explains. “So many pieces that are not obvious and not particularly expected when you think of classical guitar. I feel that the audience will be able to hear a very different Milos than what they’ve been hearing so far!”

Tickets for Milos Karadaglic’s Sunday afternoon’s show, which starts at 2 p.m., are available at bravoniagara.org. As well, Bravo Niagara! offers a special fall concerts package, and their new Bravo Circle membership with special benefits. Visit their website for more information.

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Mike Balsom
The Local

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Bosley Real Estate is offering a special fall concerts package, and their new Bravo Circle membership with special benefits. Visit their website for more information.
The Pillar & Post Monet-inspired gardens (top left and middle right) are a perfect spot for a walk and beautiful photos any time of year, but never more so on these sunny fall days. There is no shortage of fall colours — this is the perfect time to enjoy them. Walk, bike or drive along the Niagara River Parkway, stop for a picnic or just to enjoy the view, and realize how lucky we are to live and work in such a beautiful spot. (Photos by David Gilchrist)
Karen Heppner asks husband Ben questions, providing the opportunity for him to display his story-telling skills with his answers. (Mike Balsom)

Ben Heppner and wife Karen captivate audience

A charming and intimate conversation between renowned Canadian tenor Ben Heppner and his wife Karen marked the return of the speaker series at St. Mark’s Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake Monday.

It was a “new branch of this partnership” for the couple, married for 43 years. Ben retired from singing in 2014, then moved into broadcasting, hosting both Saturday Afternoon at The Opera and Backstage for CBC Radio. He retired from the national broadcaster in 2021.

Karen is a semi-retired pastor, now working primarily as an independent consultant.

St. Mark’s music director James Bourne reached out to Ben in an effort to restart the speaker series with a lecture, but the Companion of the Order of Canada balked at the idea.

“I’m really bad at lecturing,” he told The Local. “I do really well at answering questions, though. Someone came up with the idea, I can’t remember who, that maybe Karen could interview me. She has a real dynamism that I thought would be perfect in this situation. This is really a tryout, the first time it’s ever happened.”

“I piqued my interest a couple of years ago,” Karen adds. “I was just waiting for the opportunity. When Ben said Niagara-on-the-Lake contacted him, well, I know he’s a great storyteller, and he can captivate an audience, but I knew he would say no to just speaking. So I offered to interview him, and he loved the idea.”

The gathered observers laughed loudly when Karen began the session with a rapid-fire series of questions, modelled after late-night host Stephen Colbert’s Colbert Ques tionet.

They learned that the opera singer, known for working with some of the world’s most lauded conductors, actually enjoys listening to jazz and choral gospel music at home. They discovered his favourite movie is The Shawshank Redemption, his favourite smell is the scent of clover in the fields of Dawson Creek in British Columbia, where he grew up, and he prefers sparkling water over flat water.

Though the couple has owned dogs for many years, he admitted he is actually a cat person, and when Karen asked him to name one thing he owned that he would be willing to give up, he surprised her by naming his beloved Honda Goldwing motorcycle.

“I’ve had a motorcycle since 2006,” he said. “I have sent it to Texas and rode it back, I sent it to Salt Lake City and rode it back along Route 66. I love it. But it’s a big bike, 1,200 pounds without me on it. It’s getting more difficult to handle it at low speeds. But she never expected me to say that.”

The self-professed “nine-year overnight success” regaled the audience with stories of his life in the opera world, and his eventual move to radio.

Karen Heppner asks husband Ben questions, providing the opportunity for him to display his story-telling skills with his answers. (Mike Balsom)

Couple launch return of St. Mark’s speaker series

Mike Balsom
The Local

Common sense leadership
Election Day October 24, 2022

Let’s talk Leadership
- What kind of leader do we want for our Town?
- As Lord Mayor, I will always lead with honesty and integrity. My experience demonstrates my ability to assemble strong teams and work together to achieve results. I am organized and efficient and able to work smart.

Let’s talk Results
- The Town is nowhere close to completing its Official Plan. Current Council has a history of investing in expensive studies and then letting them sit on the shelf.
- I have a proven track record of delivering results at Town Council and Region of Niagara. I will work with Council and staff to be fiscally responsible and deliver positive, actionable results.

Let’s talk Smart Growth
- Current legal expenses are significant in comparison to the Town’s Operating Budget in other years.
- As Lord Mayor, I will create strong policies to guide growth. We will amend the development polices and by-laws to provide builders with clear guidelines that will reduce litigation. Setting clarity in the community’s expectations for development.

On October 24th vote Gary Zalepa, Lord Mayor for Leadership, Results and Smart Growth! www.GaryZalepa.com | Election@GaryZalepa.com

Continued on page 19
Church may use relaxed format in future series

Continued from page 18

audience with stories of his upbringing in a rural Mennonite family, where music, especially singing, was always part of the daily routine. He admitted that when he auditioned for the music department at the University of British Columbia a year after leaving high school, he knew very little about opera and, in fact, thought that it was quite strange.

“I was really focused on choral music, actually,” Ben explained. “I didn’t have big designs on a career. Not until much, much later.”

The couple shared stories of his early days before he had a manager, when their home phone was equipped with a long extension cord so Karen could take booking requests while preparing the family. And Ben said he actually worked with a crew doing home restorations between 1979, when he won the CBC Talent Festival, and 1988, when he prevailed in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Contest.

“I needed to make money,” he told the audience. “I was married, and we had three kids. I was pulling plaster and lath off the walls in living rooms. Really dusty work. We pulled a fridge out of a house that hadn’t had electricity for two weeks. It was full of food. I decided right then to work so hard (on my career) that I would never have to do that again.”

Hilarious stories of poorly-timed costume fails and the perils of sharing the stage with a horse and eight Afghan hounds followed. And he spoke of his many brushes with royalty, including Queen Elizabeth II, Princess Diana, King Harold of Norway and Queen Sylvia of Sweden.

Karen asked him questions about his command of the various languages in which he was required to sing the studied French, German and Italian, but learned just enough Russian and Czech to get by.

He spoke of his love for performing recitals in small towns, such as Yorkton and Swift Current, Saskatchewan, even when he was in demand at La Scala. For someone who holds several honorary doctorates and has sung some of the most difficult operas from Wagner and Strauss, it’s one of the many indicators of just how down to earth he truly is.

It was an engaging, informative and entertaining afternoon, and Benedict’s warden Allan Magnacca looks forward to the church hosting more in the coming months, though no future dates or appearances have yet to be announced.

“The series we did a long time ago was always based on religious themes,” Magnacca said Monday. “But this is more the way we want to go. We’d like to do about four or five a year, not during the tourist season, but this time of year when more people have time to attend.”

The Heppners, meanwhile, hold out the possibility the relaxed conversation between them that debuted at St. Mark’s may find its way to other venues across the country. “Nobody left,” laughed the tenor when asked if he thought it went well. “I think maybe in the future, we can more formalize it, make it a little less off-the-cuff, and more planned. If the opportunity comes up, I think we will certainly rise to the occasion.”

Please recycle this newspaper

The People’s Voice for the People’s Daily News

October 19, 2022

VOTE GARY ZALEPA

for LORD MAYOR

On October 24th vote Gary Zalepa, Lord Mayor for Leadership, Results and Smart Growth!

www.GaryZalepa.com    |    Election@GaryZalepa.com

Phil Leboudec
Phil’s Your Independent Grocer
Gary Zalepa brings the leadership that our Town and Council needs to benefit our community. He has my support for Lord Mayor.

George Lepp
Lepp Family Farms
Gary is the leader we need to get our town back on track, he is a community minded individual with proven experience.

Rick Sherk
Retired Business Owner
We need Gary as the Lord Mayor. He brings experience, a genuine understanding of what is important for our town and he is a great listener.
Kinsmen clean up road, honouring Bob Forbes

Ken Slingerland
NOTL Kinsmen

Twelve members of the Kinsmen Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake cleaned up Niagara Stone Road on a recent Saturday, from Henegan Road in Virgil to Anderson Lane in Old Town. The cleanup was in honour of Kinsmen life member Bob Forbes, who passed away from cancer earlier in the summer of 2022. Bob initiated the Adopt-a-Road program 10 years ago and chaired the event until 2019. The Niagara Region program is a public service program for citizen/volunteer organizations to pick up litter along approved Regional Niagara road right of ways. It is a way for environmentally-conscious citizens and community organizations to contribute to a cleaner and more beautiful Niagara Region road system. Over the past 10 years, many of the Kinsmen have donated their time to clean up Niagara Stone Road (Region 55) three times each year. Club members have participated 30 times in total, even during COVID-19, for a total of 1,440 community service hours.

The Kinsmen Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake was established in 1970 and meets two times per month at the Kinsmen Scout Hall, 430 King Street.

Kinsmen present at the last clean-up include Wig Balauf, Alan Teichroeb, Fred Teichgraf, Mike Friessen, Ed Marcynuk, Bob Dick (kneeling), Phil Bergen, Harold Dyck, Rod Konik (kneeling), and Ken Slingerland. John Vanderlee was in charge of refreshments, and Karl Evans took the photo.
Museum co-ordinates 12 Open Door heritage sites

Building will be open to public Saturday

Barbara Worthy
NOTL Museum

This Saturday is Niagra-ras Doors Open event, and many doors are opening. Joining the list is Navy Hall, the iconic Parks Canada wood and stone structure on Ricardo Street that was home to Canada’s first provincial parliament from 1792 to 1796. These two locations join the Court House, Willowbank Estate, Clare’s Harley-Davidson, Ravine Estate Winery, The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, The Shaw Festival, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, St. Mark’s Anglican Church, The Exchange Brewery, the Niagara Apothecary, and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, to welcome curious residents and tourists alike.

All these sites share historical, architectural, or cultural significant qualities. And that’s the purpose of the Doors Open province-wide program. This heritage tourism initiative is led by the Ontario Heritage Trust. Each year, communities across Ontario open local sites of interest for free public tours. The program was launched in 2002 to create access, awareness and excitement about the province’s heritage and to provide unique opportunities to explore and enjoy some of the most interesting places in Ontario cities, towns and villages.

The full-day event is being coordinated by the NOTL Museum, which itself is housed in a heritage building dating back to 1875. “The last time we were able to do this in person was back in 2017,” said the museum’s managing director Sarah Kaufman. “During the COVID years many sites opted for a digital Doors Open, so we’re thrilled to see the doors opening wide again this year.”

Site hours vary for all participating locations, so visitors are encouraged to check tour times and opening hours prior to visiting.

On Saturday Oct. 22, put on those walking boots, fire up the GPS, and open a few doors this weekend.

For more information visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca/ and click on Niagara-on-the-Lake, or call the museum at 905-468-3912.

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NOW OFFERING FINANCING!
The need is great: the walk was worth the pain

Mike Balsom
The Local

I learned a few things by wearing a pair of four-inch pink stilettos at Walk a Mile in Her Shoes this past weekend at the Pen Centre. First, any man treading so precariously on such footwear will garner a ton of attention. Quizzical looks from surprised shoppers and hoots and hollers from retail employees were the order of the day, as more than 150 of us paraded all around the shopping mall to raise awareness about gender-based violence.

Second, the tiles on the floor at the Pen Centre provide very little grip. Either I never noticed it before, or I vented first as torture devices. I would rank them among the most gruesome and horrifying forms of torture that I once saw in a Ripley’s Believe it or Not column, scarring me for life.

Four days later, my shins and calves are still aching from the effort I expended to keep from falling off those heels, but it was worth it.

As an ambassador for Gillian’s Place, I, along with four other men, were tasked with generating support and awareness of the event, judging by Saturday’s turnout of more than 150 walkers and more than 35 teams, we must have collected almost $6,000 to support Gillian’s Place, the shelter for women and female-identifying people who are victims of violence and abuse. Like myself, O’Connor said it wasn’t easy to walk in high heels, but agreed that completing the uncomfortable trek was a very small sacrifice for such a great cause.

That cause only became greater during the peak periods of the pandemic. Since March, 2020, Gillian’s Place saw a 150 per cent increase in crisis calls, a 91 per cent rise in need across all of its programs and services, and a 98 per cent increase in community outreach services.

In the year ending March 31, 2022, 255 people stayed at the shelter, almost 10,000 calls were answered by Gillian’s Place counsellors, 630 obtained legal advice and 400 attended counselling appointments.

This year’s goal for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes was set at $120,000, much-needed funds to help support Gillian’s Place’s safe shelter and myriad of support services, including counselling, legal advice, transitional housing support and child and youth programs. By the time the walk was over, shortly after 12 noon, that goal had been reached.

Nationally, half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence by the age of 16. And two-thirds of all Canadian women who has experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

These statistics are unfathomable and inexcusable. As an ambassador, I was able to use this platform, as well as my daily YourTV program, to draw attention to the cause. I wore the pink stilettos for a month on set, giving me a chance to discuss Gillian’s Place and the walk with each of my guests. And as an ambassador, I signed the Men’s Pledge, promising to work actively to end men’s gender-based violence and to work hard to reveal, know and overcome gender biases. Just like walking a mile in those stilettos, it’s not easy work, but it is worthwhile and vital work.

To anyone reading this who is a male or male-identifying individual, as the month of October continues, I hope more of you will visit gilliansplace.com and sign the pledge yourself. And while you are there, consider making a donation to the campaign to end gender-based violence, which wraps up on Oct. 31. Mike won’t ask for donations, but The Local will on his behalf. He’s done so much for this community, and this is an important cause he is supporting.

https://bit.ly/3qIVR6u

Mike won’t ask for donations, but The Local will on his behalf. He’s done so much for this community, and this is an important cause he is supporting.
A re-enactment to commemorate the 210th anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights, the first major engagement of the War of 1812, was held on the heights Saturday. British soldiers (left) Runchey’s Coloured Corps and First Nations Warriors fought shoulder to shoulder to defend Upper Canada against the U.S. (right). During the initial phase of the battle, Maj. Gen. Isaac Brock, commander of the British forces, was killed. Lt. Col. John Macdonell took over, and was mortally wounded, and both were dragged off the field. The funeral procession (bottom left) of the two men was re-enacted at Fort George Sunday, marking the exact day 201 years after their funeral was held. (Photos by Penny Coles and David Gilchrist)

Historic battle commemorated

THE NOTL Local October 19, 2022

For more information, or to request a lawn sign, please visit: www.facebook.com/AlexBradnamDSBN
Email: AlexBradnam@aol.com | Call: 905-934-7108
Fife and drum corps a great learning experience

New members needed, from 10 to 12 years old

Peter Alexander was one of the first to join the Fife and Drum Corps at Fort George in 1987, and is still there. Although he tried his hand at other careers since, they were short-lived, and he kept returning to the fort.

He began as a young volunteer, learned to play an instrument and perform for the public, and was able to work through part-time high school and university. Now the music program co-ordinator, he is helping his son work his way through the program as he did.

After two years of COVID, with no opportunity for recruitment, Alexander is hoping to rebuild the program. He’s looking for kids ages 10 to 12, and says it’s a great way for young people to get together, have fun, learn about Canadian history and to play musical instruments, all while developing life skills and becoming part of a program that will lead to summer jobs at the fort.

Plus, he says, “it’s a really unique program. These kids are doing things totally different than anything else other kids are doing, and they have great stories to tell.”

Alexander enjoyed all those experiences as a kid, and still loves his work.

His parents, Erika and Jim Alexander, developed the program at a time when he was already interested in music and history, and he became involved at the age of 13, first learning how to play a fife, and then the drum.

He has worked at Walt Disney World in Florida, and played jazz professionally in Montreal for a time, but always returned to Fort George, where he became a full-time employee in 1998. “I still love it,” he says. “It doesn’t come without its issues, particularly wearing the uniform on hot days in the summer,” he adds, but he now spends most of his time teaching. He and Gavin Watt, the education co-ordinator, estimate they have trained about 200 kids, including Watt’s son Alex, who joined when he was 12, and Peter’s son William, who has been with the corps for the last four years.

But because of COVID he says, “we lost a generation. We’ve got four or five senior musicians, and some alumni, but we’re truly rebuilding right now. We hope for 10 new members for the first couple of years — that’s our recruiting goal. Full strength for us is 20.”

They are unable to participate in some of their traditional events because they don’t have enough members — for the first time since the Candlelight Stroll became a holiday tradition in town, the Fife and Drum Corps will not be taking part, and marching in the Christmas Parade isn’t a sure thing either.

This Sunday, Oct. 23, parents and youth aged 10 to 12 are invited to drop in at the fort between 1:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. to talk with Alexander, watch a fife and drum practice, and get a better understanding of what is involved.

“This is the 35th anniversary of this program, and over the years it has become a core part of a visitor’s experience at Fort George. We perform for the public, deliver programs and participate in local events. The students learn pretty quickly that marching and playing music isn’t easy, but that hard work pays off,” says Alexander.

“We give the students drum sticks and fifes at the beginning to see if they’re stronger in one or the other. If they decide to continue with the program, they sign on as Parks Canada volunteers, and this time counts towards school volunteer hours. There is also the possibility of summer employment once they reach 15.”

These students can be proud of preserving an art form of music that’s been

Continued on page 25
Continued from page 24

around for hundreds of years, says Alexander, while becoming the next generation of cultural stewards.

Sarah Mateus-Jimenez joined the corps in 2014, when she was 10, and was still part of the program this summer.

Emailing The Local from Germany where she is on a Rotary Youth Exchange, she says her involvement with the fort played a huge part in the application process for the exchange program.

“She is learning a different culture and a new language, she says, while forging friendships with students from around the world. “I’m eternally grateful to the fort for giving me the interpersonal skills needed to succeed.”

She became involved in the fife and drum corps because her brother was already in the program. “While I did have a love for history, at home I was constantly hearing my brother practice the fife and tell us all these stories about the fort.” The second she turned 10, she began pushing her parents to let her join.

She knew she wanted to play the snare drum, which she did from the beginning. “I was so excited about the uniform — it looked incredibly sharp and impressive, and I’ve always felt pride taking care of my uniform.”

Succeeding at the fort takes “a good amount of focus and discipline,” she says, but “Peter Alexander has always been amazing at making the program fun for all the children. Learning about history in various games, and learning the instrument in an interactive group keeps you motivated to improve and develop your musical skills.”

“Everything I’ve done throughout these years in school, sport and other extracurricular,” she continues, “has been thanks to the skills I learned at the fort.” Being at the fort and interacting with the public all day, helping teach new recruits, giving presentations and learning from my colleagues gave me self-confidence and public speaking skills, as well as the interpersonal skills required to be a good interpreter to the public and a fun teacher for the kids.”

Growing up at the fort, she adds, “keeps you humble no matter how well you know your songs and history.”

And being able to start teaching others from such a young age “gave me a passion for teaching and volunteering. For the past six years I’ve volunteered as a soccer coach for various clubs and as a trainer for high performance athletes as well.”

Matteu-Jimenez says her advice for anyone joining the fort program is “to just stay focused. It takes hard work for a long time, but the results are worth it. I can confidently say the people I’ve met over my time at the fort are my family, and that the fort has always taught me skills applicable to every aspect of my life.”

Sarah Allegra is another graduate of the fife and drum program.

Now working on her master’s degree in business administration at Brock University, she is also working in the tourism industry in Niagara Falls.

While at Fort George, she realized how much fun it is to work in the tourism industry. “I met visitors from all over the world and had so many interesting conversations while I was working there.”

Allegra joined the fife and drum corps as a volunteer in 2014 at the age of 13. She stayed with it through high school and into her third year of university, and was an active member until Sept. 2021. “I really did grow up in the fife and drum corps,” she says. “I am now a part of the corps alumni and visit often.

It was the music that first attracted her to the program. “I was interested in learning how to play the snare drum, and Fort George offered entirely free lessons through to be taught at my own pace. This is one of my favourite things about the program — every student learns and progresses at a rate that is comfortable for them. Each student gets one-on-one lessons with an instructor, which is often Drum Major Peter Alexander. He identifies students’ strengths and weaknesses and then gives advice and exercises that will help each individual get better at the instrument. He has mastered both the fife and the drum, so you can go to him with almost any question about those instruments.”

The uniform definitely takes some getting used to, she says, “but once I wore it enough it started to just feel like regular clothing. I think our regiment definitely has one of the nicest uniforms.”

Her favourite instrument is still the drum. “The fife is a beautiful instrument, but I really enjoy playing and learning new songs on the drum. There are some really cool drum solos I learned while in the corps, and they are so fun to play with a whole line of drummers,” says Allegra.

“Fort George is such an exciting place, full of friendly people, that even the most challenging tasks can be a lot of fun.”

The hardest part, she says, was at the very start. “I had to learn all the basics of playing the drum. I had to learn how to hold the sticks properly, how to read drum music, how to gain speed. That was hard, but I practised and improved. Once I got the basics down, the hardest part was over.”

Fort George has had a huge impact on her life, she says.

“I formed so many important relationships while at Fort George. I have amazing friends from Fort George and have made so many great memories that I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”

She also met her fiancé, Colin Selmon, now part of the infantry at Fort George, while they were working there together.

“Most of the skills I now list on my resume are skills I gained while in the fife and drum corps,” Allegra says, especially public speaking.

“When corps members turn 15 and are hired as full-time summer staff, they begin learning how to give history talks about the fort. George. With three music demonstrations every day, five days a week, there is so much opportunity to improve and to give better talks to our visitors.”

The service program has always been Canada Day, she says, when the corps parades through NOTL during the day and then performs for a large crowd in the parade square at Fort George.

“They always acknowledge and congratulate any new senior corps members in front of the crowd, and then the night ends with the best firework show I’ve ever seen.”

To any young person interested in joining, Allegra says, “please don’t give up if it seems hard at first. It takes a lot of work to get the basics down, but then I promise, you’ll have a conversation with a visitor, to re-enactments, to all the special events we attend, there are so many fun memories made in the fife and drum corps. And don’t forget, once you turn 15, you could be getting paid for it.”

No previous musical experience or training is required to join, and Parks Canada provides the instruments, musical instruction, and all necessary equipment, such as uniforms and music.

Rehearsals take place every Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and volunteers help deliver programs a few times a week in July and August.
Mike Balsom
The Local

As Yellow Door Theatre Project gets ready to present the world premiere of yet another original play by Leslie Wade and Scott Christian this December, the Niagara-on-the-Lake youth theatre group is celebrating the latest nomination for the playwrighting team.

Wade and Christian’s original song, A Portrait Of Me, from their 2021 musical Dead Reckoning, is one of 12 finalists for the Stiles and Drew Best New Song Prize, to be awarded in London, England on Monday, Nov. 21.

“To be short-listed to 12 from 175 song submissions is pretty incredible,” Wade told The Local. “We had a Zoom meeting with Stiles and Drew, and that was really kind of surreal.”

“They are kind of on the level of Webber and Rice or Cameron Mackintosh,” added Christian. “That’s so weird. “Zoom call with them was like British theatre royalty.”

“Great people to write for,” Wade said. “For some kids it was a better life, but for a lot it wasn’t,” Wade said. “There was a lot of neglect, and there was no paperwork. This story is about a little girl named Mary who gets taken by accident and brought to Niagara-on-the-Lake and gets lost in the system. Her father is a rat-catcher. He comes to Canada, and ends up finding her. The characters are larger than life. It’s very Dickensian, an Oliver Twist kind of world.”

At a recent gathering at YDTP’s Line 2 facility, Wade explained her inspiration for the Christmas musical.

“A few years ago, Andrea Hills (YDTP founder and artistic producer) asked me to write a musical about the Pied Piper,” Wade exclaimed. “It’s really not a comedic story that lends itself to songs. I started deconstructing it, and I thought, ‘rats, rat-catcher, Victorian England, home children, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Dickensian musical! That’s how it all came about.”

Wade explained that between 1860 and 1930, more than 100,000 children were taken from the streets of London and moved to the colonies. Niagara-on-the-Lake actually had a home, located originally on Rye Street, to which many of these children were moved.

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At the recent event held to thank the sponsors who have kept YDTP going through the pandemic, Wade invited the young cast, as well as their adult mentor, Christoph Ibrahim, up front to sing one of the Wade/Christian compositions from Nobody’s Children.

The musical is to be directed by Kerry Ann Doherty, a member of the Shaw Festival ensemble and an actor and producer.) asked me to write a musical about the Pied Piper,” Wade exclaimed. “It’s really not a comedic story that lends itself to songs. I started deconstructing it, and I thought, ‘rats, rat-catcher, Victorian England, home children, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Dickensian musical! That’s how it all came about.”

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Continued on page 27

The cast of Nobody’s Children performs a song from the musical to a crowd gathered at the Yellow Door studio. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
Continued from page 26

Original play based on story of Rye Street ‘home children’

director with extensive credits across Canada and the UK. Born in Belfast, the founder and artistic director of theatreSix in Toronto now lives in NOTL.

The event also gave YDTP an opportunity to recognize the support of the Ontario government through a Trillium Foundation grant, and to thank its sponsors who kept things going during the pandemic.

They also recognized their current sponsors who are supporting the non-profit organization for its current season. Vaughn and Lauren Goettler, through their Goettler Family Foundation, were thanked, along with the James A. Burton Family Foundation and Lezlie and Bob Murch.

Yellow Door Theatre Project’s production of Wade and Christian’s Nobody’s Children will be performed at the FirstOntario PAC in St. Catharines from Dec. 7 to 10. Tickets are $17 and available at firstontariopac.ca.

The Yellow Door event also recognized the sponsors who are supporting the non-profit organization for its current season. Vaughn and Lauren Goettler, through their Goettler Family Foundation, were thanked, along with the James A. Burton (right) Family Foundation and Lezlie (left) and Bob Murch. (Mike Balsom)
Interview with Ishani

What made you choose Niagara Dog Rescue?
A: Because I wanted to help Spot’s friends and family. And because I love dogs. Some dogs don’t stay alive, so I wanted to help them.

On the lemonade stand, what was your favourite part?
A: Selling lemonade and popcorn and watermelon juice. I loved it...it was the best day.

Did you enjoy your friends helping you out?
A: Yeah, because it was very fun.

What was your favourite part of the day?
A: When my friends came over to help.

Did you make the lemonade yourself?
A: No, a little bit of help but mostly I did it.

Did you make the lemonade stand? What do you have to say about it?
A: I designed and painted it with my Daddy. I decorated with my mom.

What about the lemonade poster?
A: I did it with my grandpa.

Is there anything anything else you would like to say?
A: I had a lot of fun and I really really want to do it again.

Ishani Ayona Pal, 6 years old

Ishani Ayona Pal, who is 6 years old, held a lemonade and popcorn stand in her front yard and donated all her proceeds earned from her stand to the Niagara Dog Rescue (NDR), the place who helped her family find their rescue dog, Spot.

Ishani lives in Old Town NOTL and that Saturday just happened to be super hot and sunny, a perfect day for some ice cold lemonade and some delicious popcorn to go with it. Ishani sold over 40 litres of lemonade and over 60 bags of popcorn!

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

Ishani Ayona Pal, 6 years old

Today I’m going to review one of my favourite movies: Moana, by Walt Disney Animation Studios. It’s about an island girl (named Moana) who is chosen by the ocean to go on a special mission. A long time ago, a demigod called Maui, who had the power to shapeshift, stole the heart of Te Fiti, the mother island. Many believed that whoever possessed the heart would be able to create life itself.

After stealing the heart, Maui is confronted by Te Ka, a lava monster. He ends up losing the heart and his magical fishhook, which is what gave him the power to shapeshift. Without the heart in its rightful place, darkness spreads, draining the life out of islands.

When the darkness reaches the shores of Moana’s island, she sets sail on a sea voyage to find Maui and restore the heart of Te Fiti.

I really like this movie because it’s about a big adventure and it has a lot of fun songs in it. I give it a five star review.

Ishani lives in Old Town NOTL, and that Saturday just happened to be super hot and sunny, a perfect day for some ice cold lemonade and some delicious popcorn to go with it. Ishani sold over 40 litres of lemonade and over 60 bags of popcorn!

The generosity and support from her friends and neighbours was just overwhelming. Even Ishani’s friends helped her out at the stand during the day. Ishani was invited to an NDR event where she handed over the donation cheque of over $900.

By: Taleah Bucci, 11

What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?
A: A tuba toothpaste

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.
Halloween spirits

Benchview Equestrian Centre’s Halloween Spirit Show included riders in costumes, lots of treats, and ribbons handed out, including to Alyanna O’Donnell (above), dressed as Hermione and riding Zoey as Harry from Harry Potter, and Pirate Hannah Gilchrist with Sandy in her first competition. (Photos by David Gilchrist)
Preds on losing streak, but not time to panic yet

Mike Balsom
The Local

Losses to North York on Friday and Durham on Monday have dropped the Niagara Predators record to 3-3-0 on the season and stretched their Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) losing streak to four in a row.

Despite the streak, head coach Kevin Taylor doesn’t think it’s time to push the panic button.

“I wanted to win badly last night,” Taylor told The Local Tuesday, “but Durham is a tough team. They know how to win.”

Taylor added that he saw a lot of upside to the Predators performance Monday.

“Those were guys discussing the game in the change room after,” explained Taylor. “That is very rare. They were pushing each other, which surprised me. That’s a good thing.”

Friday night’s match at home against the undefeated Renegades started out well enough for the Preds. The two teams traded shots back and forth through a scoreless first period, with North York coming out with a 10-9 shots-on-goal advantage.

The second period, however, saw the Renegades boxing the Predators in their own end, repeatedly putting pressure on Predators’ top goal scorer Anthony Tropea, who got his first junior start between the pipes.

“Jaroslav Dohnal picked up the share in this section, please contact:...
CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

BUNNIES FOR SALE: Mini lionhead and standard rabbits available in NOTL. $20 each. Great pets! Call Mary 226-203-2995

NOTICES

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040 Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

Sell your unwanted items or advertise your garage sale in our CLASSIFIEDS

To place your classified ad, contact Karen: classifieds@notllocal.com Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across:
1 Limerick’s second word, usually
4 Delicate
9 Eat greedily
14 Medical insurer
15 Delayed
16 Radio receiver
17 Australian running bird
18 Univision news anchor Jorge --
19 Make amends
20 Open grassland
22 Enshrined
24 Endowed
26 Biblical weed
27 Brow
28 This
29 C is
32 Expatriate
34 Oar
35 Papa
36 Gated
37 Dun
38 Visor
39 Ayes
40 Get
41 Nevada
42 Nos
43 Pass
44 Snob
45 Pulp
46 Rattled
49 Riverside
53 Usage
54 Odors
55 Savor
57 N Y C
58 Ollie
59 Elude
60 C P A
61 Feels
62 Deeds
63 A T F.

Down:
1 Where
2 Amman
3 Sound bites
4 Foreword
5 R N A
6 Aimed
7 Icon
8 Less than
9 Starrs
10 Cutie
11 Anon
12 Rene
13 Fred
21 Gorges
22 Hair
23 Ewe
28 Touts
29 Casablanca
30 IPod
31 Sara
32 Egan
33 Mayo
35 Pivots
37 Despised
38 Ventures
40 Gals
41 N S A
43 Purses
45 Peril
46 Revue
47 Egypt
48 Decaf
49 Roof
50 Idle
51 Vole
52 Dale
56 Odd.
OUR HERITAGE IS AN ELECTION ISSUE

From Old Town to St. Davids and Virgil, from Queenston to Glendale and everywhere in between, the heritage of Niagara-on-the-Lake is at risk.

The Niagara Foundation posed several questions to the candidates for Lord Mayor, Town Councillor and Regional Councillor to get their views on heritage, planning and development matters. Here’s how the mayoral candidates responded to one of the Foundation’s questions:

Many residents are angry and frustrated over the type of building that has been going on recently. How do you view the issue of contextual architecture, and do you think the Town should adopt and enforce policies around it?

**BETTY DISERO**
“I know this is an issue that is very important to the town. I support contextual zoning. It was in place until 2009 and then removed. Since then, we have seen homes being built that are out of context with our heritage environment. It is starting to escalate and we must return to contextual zoning.”

**VAUGHN GOETTLER**
“I absolutely support contextual architecture, respect for sufficient lot size, protection of our urban forest and wildlife corridors, with cautious and wise development programs moving forward. I totally share our residents’ anger with inappropriate architectural designs and over building.”

**GARY ZALEPA**
“On principle contextual architecture and related policies appear to be a good process for managing the concerns mentioned. Having seen the use of such policies not be effective in the past causes me to wish to investigate how the previous issues can be resolved so that a contextual framework can be successful.”

In the upcoming election, be informed. Find all the candidates’ answers to other questions we asked on our website: theniagarafoundation.com

info@theniagarafoundation.com