

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Pumpkin patch supports hospital, Ronald McDonald House

page 13

The trusted voice of our community.

notllocal.com

OCTOBER 22, 2020

Volume 2 · Issue 43



Cathy Wall, with Taurus, and her daughter Thea, are hoping friends and neighbours who decide not to celebrate Halloween in their traditional manner will instead donate to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Cathy loves to see people stop and smile at the decorations outside the Walls' Frontier Drive home. (Penny Coles)

Local family turns Halloween into fundraiser for SickKids

Support is for hospital that saved teenager's life

Penny Coles
The Local

This Halloween is going to be different for everyone, maybe even the scariest one ever faced, says Virgil resident Thea Wall.

She is referring to the danger of COVID, and how families will handle Halloween during a pandemic, but at this time of year, she and the Wall family are reminded of a Halloween many years ago, when they faced a far more frightening situation.

Thea's mother Cathy says she loves the tradition of Halloween, the decorating, trick or treating, and most of all, "the smiles on the faces of youngsters who come to the door. I look forward to that more than anything every year."

This year, in order to avoid the risks associated with kids going door to door, the Walls have come up with a different way to celebrate one of their favourite times of year.

Thea and Cathy are encouraging local families and

friends who have decided not to participate in a typical Halloween to instead donate the money they would spend on the celebration to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. That's what the Wall family is doing, in recognition of the October 14 years ago, when a phone call from the hospital saved Thea's life.

When Thea and her brother Brandon were youngsters, growing up in Virgil in a neighbourhood of families, Cathy loved to have the local kids

come to the house for pizza before they headed out in their costumes. They would come back to the house throughout the evening when their bags were full and needed emptying, before going off to knock on more doors.

The Wall house was always decorated to the hilt, inside and out, a tradition Cathy began even before she and husband Richard had kids, she says.

Cathy's childhood was not the easiest, she relates. Her mother was just 15 when Cathy was born, she grew up "surrounded by negativity," and holidays were not the happy

occasion they were for other families. She determined when she was quite young that if she was ever fortunate enough to have her own children, their childhood would be very different than it was for her, and she would be the best mother she could be. That has always meant going all out on all the holidays, making each a festive, magical occasion for her kids.

She has decorated their Frontier home, as usual, this year, and loves seeing the smiles it brings to adults and kids as they walk by.

But the decision to make a donation to SickKids, she says,

is Thea's story to tell, although her struggle is one none of the family will forget.

"Halloween always meant a neighbourhood party at the Walls," recalls Thea. "The kids came, and the parents, Dad's generation that he grew up with, they would all stop by. It was one of the best holidays for us."

But then came the year that it all changed for the Wall family.

At just 13 years old, Thea, now 27, was in McMaster Children's Hospital that Oc-

Continued on page 14

12 Artist Couples
12 Readings
1 Script
Endless Laughs

Locations across St. Catharines
Including Lunch or Dinner

THE *foster*
FESTIVAL

THE *Christmas*
TREE
by Norm Foster
Dec 4-19, 2020

Directed by Marcia Kash

Starring Niagara Artist couples
Tara Rosling & Patrick McManus
Sharry Flett & Anthony Bekenn
Nicole Joy-Fraser & Jason Chesworth and more!



visit fosterfestival.com

Contact tracing reaching timeline targets, Public Health says

Penny Coles
The Local

Last week Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa contacted regional Public Health to question the timing of contact tracing, which is considered key to stemming the rising cases of the novel coronavirus.

He had received a call from a local winery, explaining they got a “courtesy” call from Public Health, informing the winery that two weeks earlier, someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19 had visited them.

Zalepa had also just read an article in the Globe and Mail on

the importance of contact tracing, and the need for “robust and timely” testing in place for it to be effective. He was concerned about the reason for the delay. By the time winery staff learned of the case, it was too late for precautionary measures to be effective.

The answer came from Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting medical officer of health for the Niagara Region. In the specific case of the winery, Hirji says, the reason for the delay is that his department only learned about the visit by someone with a positive test result two weeks later, from another area outside the region where the testing had occurred.

In Niagara, he said, despite a six-fold increase in COVID cases, his department has been meeting the provincial standard of reaching contacts in 90 to 100 per cent of cases within 24 hours.

To accomplish that, he says, they’ve pulled people away from other departments, scaling back services in those areas out of necessity to handle contact tracing.

The majority of new cases come from contact with family or household members, he says.

His impression is people are noting the rise in cases and are respecting the guidelines that call for fewer contacts, he added.

He suggests there was an increase two weeks after the September long weekend, likely due to the number of visitors to Niagara, and if there is to be another rise stemming from the Thanksgiving holiday, we may see “a bump in cases later this week.”

But the big driver of the region’s increase in cases is that people with symptoms of infection are not isolating and getting tested, continuing to go about their life and spreading infection as a result.

“Many are not getting tested until a week or 10 days later, when their illness isn’t going away. So by the time we learn about a case, the infection has spread farther, and it’s too late for us to do much useful follow-up,” he says.

Another challenge for contact tracing is that people are not forthcoming about where they have been or who they might have been in contact with, he says.

“We speak with cases daily, and often several days later, we catch them telling stories inconsistent with what they originally told us, and learn they have had additional contacts. Or in interviewing new cases, we learn they are linked to a previous case, but that previous case had not mentioned them as a contact of theirs.”

People misleading the public about COVID-19, or not wanting to share personal details with public institutions, “is harming the effectiveness of contact tracing across Canada,” Hirji says.

“Public Health is not an enforcement agency that will get people in trouble. We prioritize privacy of our clients and will protect their personal information. We just want to find where infection may be spreading and stop it.”

Another of his concerns is the number of unnecessary tests, which are “of low value,” such as routinely testing long-term care home staff, or employers requiring staff to be tested before reporting to work.

“This testing has been shown to do virtually no good. However, it is clogging up the provincial lab system, resulting in slower turn-around time for tests of symptomatic people.”

Delays in test results slow Public Health’s response with contact tracing, he says. The message from Public Health, Hirji adds, is to isolate immediately even with mild symptoms, and get tested.

What he couldn’t address was the delay in appointments for testing, a question he referred to Niagara Health.

A call to the Niagara Health department that makes appointments suggests the caller leave a message, and expect a response within three to four days, and that a test will be scheduled the same day.

A statement regarding the testing backup from Niagara Health says, “Over the past month, our assessment centres experienced a surge in the numbers of people requesting testing, and moving to an appointment-only model and prioritizing testing for those



Dr. Mustafa Hirji (Photo supplied)

most at risk has allowed our teams to provide more efficient service to patients.”

In September, the statement says, more than 16,600 tests were completed, about 6,300 more than in August, and from Oct. 11 to 18, more than 9,600 tests have been completed.

“Teams are working diligently to return calls in a timely manner, and we appreciate the community’s patience and understanding.”

Calls are being returned within 48 hours, the statement says, “and we are scheduling patients for appointments within 24 hours of their call back.” Testing is prioritized for those most at risk.

For more information on testing, visit <https://www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/assessmentcentres>.

Anecdotal comments from the community suggest the wait time for call-backs and appointments could be longer, but Zalepa says, following a period of long delays, his sense is the wait time is lessening, thanks to the messaging that is getting out about unnecessary testing. The up-to-date response time now “may be better than what we’re hearing,” he says. He also reinforces the message of Public Health, to call a physician for advice before assuming a test is necessary.

The news from the Public Health about contact tracing is “a really good piece of information,” says Zalepa, that should give people confidence “that things are being done right” in Niagara, and that there are ways the public can be helpful by providing the correct information to Public Health.

Niagara Region is one of several that have partnered with other regions to share resources when their local systems are overwhelmed, he adds. “This creativity allows one area that starts to get ahead to help other areas that require help.”

As other regions see COVID cases increase, that impacts on NOTL businesses, such as wineries, especially on the weekends. “It’s a challenge,” says Zalepa. “We’re encouraging local businesses to be vigilant and not get too complacent. We all have a role to play in getting that message out,” he says.


“We’re at a point where we can end up with the type of closures seen elsewhere in the province. Dr. Hirji made some good points of what we can do, and the messages we need to get out.”

To bring down the number of cases across the region, Hirji encourages workplaces to follow the provincial regulation to screen their staff for symptoms, so they are prompted to isolate and get tested.

Local municipalities should proactively enforce this provincial regulation, he says. “There seems to be very little enforcement of this, and we find many businesses daily who are not following this rule, often leading to spread of infection in their workplaces.”

At the same time, asymptomatic testing, such as businesses requiring testing of their employees, should be discouraged, he says. “Testing should be done because of symptoms, or because a health care provider or Public Health has instructed it. This will let labs get results out faster, and speed the turn-around on contact tracing.”

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
DENTAL



Dr. Kevin Clark and
Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark
Dentists
and their registered
Dental Hygiene Team

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

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009

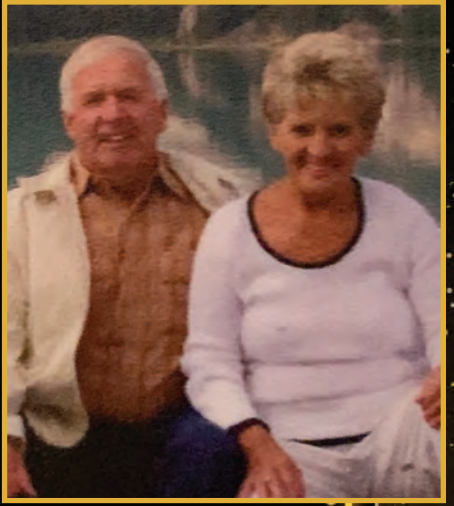



CREEKROAD
PAINTERS

Painting in Niagara-on-the-Lake
for more than 40 years.

Robert Bradley

T: 905.380.0298 E: paintersnotl@gmail.com



Blessings on your
60th
Wedding Anniversary
Fred and Betty!
“Hearts that grow deeply, can never grow old....”
October 22, 1960
Lots of Love, your children,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Celebrate your happy moments with the **NOTL LOCAL**
Advertise in our **LOCAL CELEBRATIONS**
Contact: karen@notllocal.com Pricing starts at \$20. Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.

Miller Waste trucks rolling



NOTL residents will be seeing Miller Waste Systems trucks rolling through the streets of town this week, for regular garbage collection, as well as green bins and grey and blue bins. There is no limit for recycling items. With regular garbage being picked up every other week, next week is the off-week for NOTL. For more information, visit www.niagararegion.ca/waste/

Youth Advisory Council looks for new members, new ideas

Penny Coles
The Local

The Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council is looking for new members, says this year's chair, Janvi Ganatra.

The 17-year-old, Grade 12 A.N. Myer Secondary School student from Glendale has been a member from its formation in 2017, when she was in her first year of high school, and has taken over from previous chair Bethany Poltl, who is now in university.

When Ganatra first heard about the council, she thought it sounded like an interesting opportunity, so she joined, she says. She's glad she did. "I'd heard about youth councils in other cities, and I was excited our town had one."

At the moment, it's down to just two members returning from last year, she says, herself and a Crossroads Public School student.

The committee welcomes youth from NOTL from public school to high school, ages 13 to 18, and Ganatra is hoping to build the membership to at least six or eight, or possibly more. "The more the merrier," she adds.

She's excited at the thought that there will be "new members, new ideas, new creativity and innovation. I'm looking forward to a really good year with a new committee."

She's been brainstorming ideas, guided by the knowledge that during the pandemic, meetings and events will likely be virtual, but that could turn out to be a benefit, she says, finding it more convenient to meet virtually, taking less time out of busy schedules and school work for teens if they can just sit down at their computer for a meeting. Events can be tailored to be held online. "We'll be looking for new things we can do virtually if COVID continues."

She'd like to see a virtual youth forum, to give the young people in the community a chance to talk about what they would like

the council to do for them. She's proud of the many accomplishments of the council, including the Mental Health and Wellness Conference for Grade 8 students from all NOTL schools, which had to be held as a virtual series of speakers earlier this year, once COVID shut down schools.

Helping to bring a Pathstone Mental Health walk-in clinic to town was also an important step for helping young people, she says.

Ganatra says being a member of the advisory council is a valuable experience, teaches important skills, such as leadership, and encourages community involvement. It helps build volunteer hours, necessary to graduate from high school, and of course it looks good on a resume, she adds.

"It shows your involvement in your community, and it's a good way to have your voice heard. It's a great opportunity."

When Poltl, the chair of the council for its first four years, approached the town council to ask about forming a youth advisory council, her vision was to unite local youth, to provide a voice for them, and to create partnerships to help young people become more involved in the community, she says. She feels the LMYAC is achieving that goal.

"I had a fantastically motivated group of young people join me, my friends, all ambitious and looking to make change. Change is made slowly, however we did see some of our ideas come to light."

A graduate of Laura Secord Secondary School now attending the University of Waterloo, Poltl lists council accomplishments she's most proud of: the Holiday Celebration at Christmas, recognizing local youth talent, an event that evolved with new members and new ideas; hosting one of the only Youth Mental Health and Wellness Conferences, with experts leading workshops; and Youth Leader-

ship workshops, teaching leadership strategies and skills necessary for the next stages of life for youth.

Due to COVID, "we had environment initiatives which had to be put on hold, but hopefully come next spring we can re-establish those."

As new members joined over the four years, the council began to evolve as well, she says.

"I would encourage all of our NOTL youth to get involved," she adds, offering to mentor new members.

"You might be on sports teams and in other clubs. I would say get involved with our LMYAC and be a representative for the youth on your teams, clubs and activities you are already involved in. If you want to make a difference, have your voice heard, put in an application. I know young people sometimes doubt that what they have to say will be of value. I will tell you that it is. Each of us has something to contribute." Her motto, she says, is, "Together we achieve great things."

For those considering attending university in the future, she adds, "I can tell you a side benefit of being so active in your



Janvi Ganatra is this year's chair of the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, and is hoping for a robust new membership. (Photo supplied)

community is the awards and scholarships. Universities are looking for you to be well-rounded and involved, in your school and in your community. So be a part of our LMYAC. Ex-

press your ideas and your thoughts, and as a group we can see things happen for youth in our beautiful and supportive town, one I am proud to call my home town."

To apply, go to the Join the Conversation page on the Town's website at <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/notlyouth>.

The deadline is Oct. 30.

Packing it in



Fernando Spadafora of Fernando's Hair Salon on Mississauga Street packs up his car on his last day of business Oct. 17, after 25 years in business in NOTL. He's ready to retire and enjoy life. (Mike Balsom)

The O'CONNOR Team

905.327.5589 cell | 905.468.4214 office

theoconnorteam.ca

CARRIAGE TRADE

LUXURY PROPERTIES

Find your dream with our trusted, local team.

james o'connor
sales representative

margie vangelder
sales representative

ROYAL LEPAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated

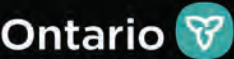
The solution to COVID-19 starts with keeping your distance.

- Wear a face covering.
- Keep 2m apart from anyone outside of your household.
- Limit your close contact to your household only.
- Wash your hands often.



Stopping the spread starts with you. Visit ontario.ca/coronavirus to learn more

Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Legion gearing up for Remembrance Day

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The annual Poppy Campaign put forth by the Royal Canadian Legion always has three main pillars: ceremonies to recognize those who fought for their country, education so the next generation never forgets those sacrifices, and raising funds to help veterans in need.

As usual, come Friday, Oct. 30, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 will be distributing poppies in Niagara-on-the-Lake. You might notice some changes, however, in the way things are done.

Marg Boldt, Branch 124's Poppy Campaign chair, has been contacting the usual retail and commercial locations who place poppy boxes in their facilities. "A few have said they can't, due to COVID," she says. "But we'll just do our best to get them out there."

Canvassing is a different story, though. "As far as putting people out," she adds, "I don't want to see anyone getting sick. The group that we would normally have going out, we're saying you can do it, if you feel comfortable. But we're not actively seeking canvassers out."

Many of the volunteers who normally participate would be considered in the group at higher risk to the novel coronavirus. Boldt clarifies that they're not going to stop anyone from canvassing, but the Legion is not actively promoting it as an option this year. This means, of course, that shoppers may not be able to find a poppy outside of either valu-mart, Penner's Home Hardware or other busy locations in the next few weeks.

"It's much more effective to have the canvassers out there," Boldt laments. "But with the times, we go with whatever we can and do our best. That means getting them inside the stores is important."

The Poppy Campaign is largely a local initiative, conducted by each of the Royal Canadian Legion's 1,400 branches across the country. Donations collected from the last Friday in October to Nov. 11 are held in trust at the branch level to directly support veterans and their families within their community.

Proceeds are used to help veterans via grants for food, heating costs, clothing, prescriptions, and other urgent needs. The 58-page Poppy Manual, available at www.legion.ca, lists a number of other accepted expenditures, including supporting cadet units, constructing, maintaining or improving monuments, providing educational bursaries for children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of veterans, and providing comforts for veterans and their surviving spouses who are hospitalized and in need.

"Just recently we had to help a veteran," says Boldt, a



Last year, veteran Doug Garrett distributed poppies on Queen Street. There will be no push for Legion members to get out with their poppy boxes, but the choice is theirs. (Penny Coles/File Photo)

branch past-president. "This year we're using some of the funds to send a fish and chips dinner to our veterans who are 80 and older."

In addition to the poppies, Legion branches across Canada are also promoting and selling cloth masks printed with the organization's logo. The masks are all made in Canada and were designed by the Legion's head office. They have been available nationally since September, and it has been difficult for the national office to keep up with demand.

Branch 124 office manager Elizabeth Richards is expecting a shipment of the masks to arrive by the end of October. They can be ordered at www.poppystore.ca, as can other items, including clothing, jewelry, umbrellas, and commemorative items.

On the education front, poppy boxes will arrive at local schools by the end of the month. As well, Boldt says fellow past-president Stan Harrington will soon be distributing materials for the annual Remembrance Day poster contest.

As for events to mark Remembrance Day, local Remembrance services for seniors will not take place. The branch is currently investigating ways to help local seniors reflect on their past. The inability to gather together under current pandemic guidelines means that the annual Veterans' Dinner is cancelled as well.

Families who usually lay wreaths in memory of their loved ones at the Queenston and Old Town cenotaphs on Nov. 11 will instead be invited to place them the day before. There will be no public ceremony on Queen Street next month. Instead, Boldt adds that "we're having a small, private service with the lord mayor, the minister and the (branch) president at the cenotaph in front of the Legion (410 King Street) on Remembrance Day."

There will be a spot at each cenotaph for the public to leave their poppies as a personal act of remembrance on Nov. 11, as well. There are plans to livestream the private ceremony, though details were not available at press time.



Legion masks are available at www.poppystore.ca.

LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: M^CGARR REALTY

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Local Brokerage Wins International Award

McGarr Realty Corp. Brokerage has been recognized in the category of Outstanding Social Media Savvy by LuxuryRealEstate.com, a select group of more than 130,000 professionals.

With properties in more than 70 countries collectively, this group sells more than \$300 billion of real estate annually, making it the most elite and comprehensive luxury real estate network in the world.

"To say we are honoured is an understatement. The calibre of brokerages we are recognized amongst is truly something to celebrate. We're recognized for this award out of almost 1,000 companies internationally," says Raiana Schwenker, creative director and sales representative for McGarr.

The brokerage, with offices in St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake, uniquely offers its clients a locally founded and operated boutique real estate experience, with the finesse of a globally recognized marketing strategy.

"We are excited to accept this award," says Schwenker, "and having our global industry partners recognize our quintessentially Niagara approach to social media marketing. My mother, Sally McGarr, founded this brokerage with the promise of providing the very best in real estate practices to our clients. This award recognizes that goal, on an international level."

McGarr Realty was founded in 1988, and was built on a foundation of teamwork and collaboration. Proven market knowledge, name recognition and market position are all delivered when a McGarr realtor is selected to meet your real estate goals.

The brokerage recently relocated to their new Niagara-on-the-Lake office, The House of McGarr, located at 1507 Niagara Stone Road. Schwenker invites you to contact the team if you have any questions regarding the current climate of real estate, in town and

around the world.

"As a brokerage, we feel that our local ties to our community are an asset for anyone seeking to buy or sell in town. We recognize that we are not only selling a property, we are

introducing people to our gorgeous corner of the world. We are fortunate to call a community home that many experience as a weekend getaway," says Schwenker.

Kim Schwenker, bro-

ker, Angela Bachert, sales representative and Minnie King, sales representative, represent McGarr in NOTL, and are experienced and knowledgeable professionals who look forward to working with people interested in buying or selling across the region.

"Thank you to all — to our brokerage, and all the wonderful people who make McGarr Realty what it is today, to the local businesses and service providers who help us do what we do and who also believe in #CommunityOverCompetition," says Schwenker.

"Also, thanks to the

clients who have put their trust in us and chosen to invest in us and with us. Your commitment to supporting independent local businesses and people also strengthens our local economy and communities, and is commendable and something to celebrate. To those who may not yet have been clients, but who consistently show support of our local small business by following along, liking/engaging, and sharing our business through social media, referring us to your friends and family, thank you. We are so grateful to all of you!"



Raiana Schwenker, Creative Director | Sales Representative and Sally McGarr, Founder | Broker of Record are thankful for the 30 plus years of support from the community.

“ Also, thanks to the clients who have put their trust in us and chosen to invest in us and with us. ”

Raiana Schwenker

We are the *key* to the home of Niagara's dreams since 1988!

Our Real Estate Portfolio

Family Homes | Condominiums | Luxury Estates | New Home Development | Signature Selection



McGarr
MCGARR REALTY CORP., BROKERAGE

McGarrRealty.com

**5 St. Paul Crescent,
St. Catharines
905-687-9229**

**1507 Niagara Stone Road,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-9229**

International Real Estate Connections

AventureRealty.com

LeadingRE.com

LuxuryRealEstate.com

EDITORIAL

Let’s follow guidelines and hope for a good holiday season

Christmas is still a go, at least at some level, but like many other communities, the town’s beloved Christmas Parade has been cancelled.

Although nobody can pin down the exact year of the first parade, based on early stories in the former Niagara Advance about the tradition, this would have been the 56th year for the event. Due to the coronavirus and the risk to large gatherings of people and the participants in the parade, that will have to wait until next year.

There is no argument that this was the right decision, indeed, it would have been surprising to see it go ahead.

It is still a huge disappointment for some families, however, who make a day of the event, involving several generations and extended family members. Many meet for breakfast pre-parade — ours includes a table for 16 — with a convenient place to park, a short walk to the parade route, and a gathering that ends with exhausted but happy youngsters being carted off to bed after a day to remember.

Other communities across the country have also cancelled their parades, and many, including Niagara-on-the-Lake, are looking for ways to make the season special, offering safe family events.

Some are planning static light displays, others offering a stationary component of their customary parade on a drive-by route, or contests to encourage home and business owners to step up their outdoor decorating.

Whatever NOTL decides to do, it won’t offer the excitement of a parade, but it will give families in the community an occasion to mark the festive season. Knowing the staff of this town’s parks and recreations department, and others expected to be involved, whatever they decide to do will be done with class. We can look forward to that.

But about the day itself that the parade celebrates —while trying to remain positive and focus on what’s important, it’s difficult to picture the traditional family celebrations we are accustomed to. Our Thanksgiving gatherings were cut back by provincial guidelines, and we’d like to have those lifted, safely, of course, in time for our next holiday, especially so we can include

relatives who would otherwise spend the day alone.

The coronavirus statistics in Niagara show steady daily increases, with a fairly steep curve through the month of October. We don’t have the kinds of numbers of other regions, but we could so easily get there.

There is a sense that pandemic fatigue has occurred, that some are not being as cautious as they could be.

The spread may begin with a visitor to town, but it multiplies when we don’t follow the guidelines: staying away from large groups of people, wearing masks, distancing and washing hands.

And apparently we’re not being as honest as we should be when questioned by Public Health. It’s understandable to be embarrassed and not want to admit to behaviour that might have caused others to become sick, but it’s better to fess up and do whatever we can to prevent the spread.

If we heed the safety messages, and even do our part to encourage others to follow them, we may be able to enjoy a traditional holiday with our family, and all it entails.

It may feel like too much of a sacrifice to some, but for most of us, it seems well worth the effort. Turkey dinner, or any traditional holiday meal, is so much better when there’s a group around the table to share it with.

Penny Coles
The Local



Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

The full week of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website <https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca>. In Part II of my podcast, thanks to AstroButterfly, we get Mars retrograde – The Hero’s Journey.

Thursday, Oct. 22: The Sun moves from peace-loving Libra into sexy Scorpio at 6:59 a.m. Retrograde Mercury makes a stressful and potentially positive move this evening. Likely it involves remembering something from the distant past, something that in review, can be re-thought and healed. Oct 22, 1844, is the birth date of one of Canada’s most famous Canadians. Part Indigenous, part Francophone, Louis Riel became the political and spiritual leader for a group of people who had helped build early Canada, but who still suffer from neglect by both Native and official courts.

Friday, Oct. 23: Today is the first quarter Moon in Aquarius, where the Sun in Scorpio is 90 degrees to the Moon in Aquarius. The Moon is also square Mercury and conjunct Saturn. All of this make for an incredibly challenging time where feelings about a better future are thwarted by ideas that are looking back and by big powers that are putting their feet down. Keep your focus on the future you want and stay calm. On a more jubilant note, it was Oct. 23, 1993 that Joe Carter of the Toronto Blue Jays hit a home run to win the World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Next week it’s the full Moon in Taurus and more. So, until then, shine on!



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Doctor Thorne is a lavish drama that follows the lives of Dr. Thomas Thorne and his charming niece Mary, in a mini series based on Anthony Trollope’s novel that is directed by Julian Fellowes. Illegitimacy, demon drink and the problems of being in love outside one’s social class are the intriguing elements of the tale. However, the heroine, Mary, discovers a family secret that changes her life and the course of her love forever.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet” exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Kudos to Town for exceptional care

Our family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1949 (Niagara Township, then).

I have seen many changes, some good and some very troubling. There have been a myriad of complaint letters to the editor recently, many which are valid complaints, and I share concerns in regards to the direction of our town, especially the last few years.

This year has been challenging for all of us, those in leadership, as well as all taxpayers. I expect we will be unable to find one resident who has not been tested in some degree.

With all the complaint letters to the editor, I would like to give kudos to one department of our unique town. In April my wife passed on, and we had always considered being laid to rest in Niagara-on-the Lake. We chose Niagara Lakeshore cemetery. In the midst of COVID, Easter weekend and all the regulations, David Voogt and his staff were compassionate and professional every step of the way.

Visiting the cemetery regularly during this summer, I was amazed at the exceptional care the staff takes to maintain the grounds and gravesites. Even as we sorrow the loss of our loved ones, we are grateful that we can visit such a well-maintained resting place in our town.

Jake Sinke
NOTL

Confederation home not the dump


I live on Confederation Drive, Garrison Village and am in the process of disposing of surplus garden furniture.

Environmentally conscious of the three Rs, last week I placed a number of articles at the curb with ‘FREE’ notices on each. These included a white fibreglass picnic table, four white plastic chairs, a beige sun umbrella and base for this — all in very good condition. I felt these had a good few years of life yet.

After a few days, as it didn’t appear to me that anyone was interested in these, I went to fetch them in, only to get the surprise of my life. Unbelievably, someone had exchanged the umbrella and left an old, torn and faded yellow umbrella. This was only fit for the dump.

To whomever exchanged these items, my place is not the dump. The least you could have done is left me the \$11 that it will cost me to dispose of your junk at the Region’s dump, and the ‘FREE’ notice I had stuck on it.

Hugh Hutton
NOTL



Letters! We want 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 about 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.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

Editor:
Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com
905-246-5878

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

notllocal.com  facebook.com/notllocal  instagram.com/thenotllocal  [@thenotllocal](https://twitter.com/thenotllocal)

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

DISTRESS CENTRE For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711	KIDS HELP PHONE Service for youth 416-586-5437 1-800-668-6868 (Crisis Line) kidshelpphone.ca	ASSAULTED WOMEN’S HELPLINE Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233) 1-866-863-0511 (Toll Free)
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS (Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark’s Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting 905-682-2140	CRIME STOPPERS (TIPS) 1-800-222-8477 niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip
GAMBLER’S ANONYMOUS 905-351-1616		

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

COMMENT

Time to repair the disgrace of long-term care



Wayne Gates, MPP
Special to The Local

Horrific conditions — cockroaches, rotten food, a lack of hygiene and patients crying out for help for hours.

This is what the Canadian military report said about long-term care homes in Niagara. Whistleblowers had been saying it for years, but it took

military intervention to finally blow the lid off this scandal.

To our country's great shame, Canada has the dubious distinction of having the most COVID-19 deaths in long-term care out of any nation on the planet. Make no mistake about it, COVID-19 did not cause the crisis in long-term care, but it shone a light on it for the world to see what families had been raising alarm bells on for over a decade. We even learned last week this government was aware over the summer they were short 6000 PSWs, yet still allowed

this terrible underfunding to continue.

Enough is enough, it's time to close the book on this national disgrace. Seniors — our parents and grandparents — deserve access to quality care. The workers who care for them deserve respect.

This is why the NDP has released our plan for a complete overhaul of long-term care and home care. This plan will finally eliminate the use of for-profit homes and the patchwork of private home care companies that provide these services now. These for-profit homes are so

driven to maximize profits that they're warehousing our loved ones in institution-like facilities, leaving them to live and die in horrible conditions, all to maximize their profits. Instead, we're going to return to a model of publicly-funded, small and modern home-like settings, where each patient can count on direct daily care. We're going to complete what we've been fighting for since 2007, and mandate four hours of care per patient. We'll hire thousands of PSWs and finally make those jobs stable, and good jobs, so they attract the

best candidates and give those workers the respect they deserve. These new employees will be partners in care, no longer overworked under impossible workloads. We'll implement strict inspections regimes and a Senior's Advocate to ensure this progress never slides backwards.

By moving to a system of public and not-for-profit care, we'll eliminate cutting corners to drive up profits for shareholders. Above all, our investments will create 50,000 new spaces, and finally clear these wait-lists for home-care so se-

niors can stay independent, and for long-term care so they can stay in their communities when they enter their twilight years.

The people these 'for-profit' homes have tormented are not statistics, they're our parents and grandparents. They built this country and they deserve care when they need it. No longer can any government say they didn't know what was happening. This is a plan to fix seniors care. The Liberals knew and did nothing, and now if the Conservatives won't fix it then an NDP government will.

Take time to explore Niagara Escarpment midsection



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Enter into an uncomfortable but rewarding world, where the Niagara Escarpment's steep slopes and cliffs have remained preserved in time, and hold secrets to the past about biodiversity and Niagara's human culture.

The beautiful Bruce Trail is the main hiking artery along the top of the escarpment (marked in white rectangular blazes), giving hikers unforgettable views of Niagara's stunning countryside. With lookouts standing above the canopy of old-growth forests, you can almost feel the escarpment's historical energy coming up through your feet.

There are a handful of locations along Niagara-on-the-Lake's section of the Niagara Escarpment where the War of 1812 sifted and shot its way through the dense forests. The high cliffs were used as strategic vantage points to observe volatile landscapes at Queenston Heights, the top of Concession 2, and Woodend. At that point, timber rattlesnakes and wolves likely still inhabited the rocky crags.

There is a lot of human energy and history along the top rim of the escarpment. Aborigines had certainly

used the prevailing edge as a navigational tool, which runs a consistent east-west progression on the Niagara Peninsula. Generally speaking, Lake Ontario is north of the escarpment's face at most times around here.

At a glance from up top, you may see another trail running down below at the bottom of the humongous drop. The aborigines would have used such vistas as ideal hunting points, watching the once numerous game walk down below.

This is now where parts of the Laura Secord Trail and various Bruce Trail side trails (marked in blue rectangular blazes) run along the base of the escarpment. These trails have a generous amount of free parking and access points between Queenston and Woodend. They offer views facing up the escarpment, rather than the classic cliff-top view.

It's a look at the forest mansion from the ground up, versus from the top window out. It's a beautiful world, where the sun drapes down in different densities. At mid-summer, barely any sunlight reaches the forest floor through the green cloak above. Between this factor, and the inevitable angular shade that covers the slope, a world of mosses, ferns, and other cool shady species take hold on the rocks.

Sometimes, these piles of rocks on the midsection of the escarpment form a col-

lective ecosystem that lies as a belt between the upper and lower tier of the cliff. Essentially, we're talking about the inaccessible area of the Niagara Escarpment.

Because of the cooler and more protected conditions, the species richness for such plant groups are a statement to their sheltered existence. The well-drained rocky mess is also an essential hibernation space for snakes; five species of snake call the Niagara Escarpment in NOTL home, none of which are venomous.

The fall colours reveal how some species of tree prefer the well-drained top of the escarpment, while others change colour according to their preference for the wetter lowlands. Some specialize in the area that lies between the top and the bottom.

The scree slopes (hill-sides where rocks pile up from tumbling down over time) and steep pitches are where relatively undisturbed habitats still lie. In my Hidden Corners filming trips to remote landscapes in other parts of the world, as well as Niagara's deepest locales, I found myself thanking gravity and inaccessible slopes, as they have so far disallowed profound human developments to take them over.

The steep slopes have been spared the habitation and travel of humans compared, to the flatter upper and lower parts. This has allowed for another network of animals to subside

on these slopes, including our local canid, the coyote.

I've taken many climbs over these shady slopes, watchful for pockets of poison ivy. I have found many impressive burrows embedded into the escarpment over the years. Their size, the scat (coyote droppings), and other activity nearby indicate that some coyote burrows have interwoven in local spots, while they stay clear of the slightly busier land above and below. This is a safe space for these important ecosystem regulators to shelter and raise their young. Without wolves, cougars, bears, and other historic predators, it's up to coyotes to maintain the balance.

The fascinating and perhaps relatable aspect of these

complex caverns is that they are shared by multiple species, at any point in the year. Totally different life forms most congregate and coexist to survive the frigid Canadian winter. A coyote's cavern, in the world of nature, and with no concept of private property, is a home to many other creatures as well.

The snakes, salamanders, rabbits, moles, and countless insects will shelter in these channels in the escarpment. While this community forms on the forest floor of a slippery slope, the inhabitants of the trees take shelter from such animals, or, choose to hunt them from above.

That depends on where nature has caught you in the food web, though.

The conduits, which dot the land in between the top and bottom, therefore help add to the overall biodiversity that we shelter here in NOTL. My home becomes yours, and yours is mine, until we must eat.

Statistically, the midsection area of the Niagara Escarpment is much less disturbed in terms of modern and historical usage than the upper and lower areas.

In the land of waterfalls between waterfalls, the quieter realms of the Niagara Escarpment are places of biological and historical wonder on a national scale. I recommend taking a local hike at this time of year, or well into winter, to fully gaze upon the shape of the landscape that has shaped us.



Looking down from above, you can view the midsection of the escarpment near Woodend. (Owen Bjorgan)



As of October 19, 2020

BLUE, GREEN, GREY EVERY WEEK
GARBAGE PICK-UP EVERY-OTHER-WEEK

To find your garbage collection week visit niagararegion.ca/waste, download the 'Niagara Region Waste' app or check the new Collection Guide.





Niagara-on-the-Lake Repeals Temporary Face Covering By-law in Favour of Provincial Mandatory Mask Requirements

At the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, Town Council repealed By-law 5248-20, which provided temporary regulations to require the wearing of masks, face shields, or face coverings in enclosed public spaces in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Town will, instead, defer to the requirements of the Provincial Regulation (O.Reg. 364/20: Rules for Areas in Stage 3), which requires the wearing of masks or face coverings that cover the nose, mouth and chin with no gap when in enclosed spaces. Please note, the wearing of appropriate face coverings is also strongly encouraged in outdoor spaces anytime physical distancing is a challenge. Although previously permitted in the Town's temporary By-law, face shields do not comply with the Provincial Regulation.

Exemptions to the Provincial face covering requirements include individuals who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, children under two years old, or those who require accommodation in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act, 2005, or the Human Rights Code. Proof of exemption is not required. Further details are outlined on covid-19.ontario.ca.

Operators of businesses and organizations that are open to the public are encouraged to post accurate signage that reflects Provincial requirements, prohibiting anyone to enter or remain within the enclosed public space unless they are wearing an approved face mask or face covering, subject to exemptions.

It is important to note that shields are no longer an acceptable face covering in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, therefore, previous posters are no longer accurate and are required to be removed. For more information and to access new, printable posters for local businesses, please visit notl.com/facecovering.



Notice Of Electronic Open House

- What:** Notice of Electronic Open House
- When:** Open House
Thursday, October 29, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- Where:** The Electronic Open House will be livestreamed and will be available for viewing at the following link:
<https://livestream.com/notl>
- Regarding:** Heritage Trail - Conceptual Pathway design - Charlotte Street to East West Line

What is this?

Pathway concept of the Heritage Trail design from Charlotte Street to East West Line will be presented. We are asking the Public for questions and comments. There will be a short introduction at the start of the meeting followed by Town staff discussing and explaining the design concept. The public presentations to follow.

Dialogue is encouraged

Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Hall is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 emergency and in-person meetings have been cancelled. As permitted under Provincial legislation and the Town's Procedural By-law, Council and Committee meetings are being conducted electronically during the declared state of emergency.

You are invited to attend these meetings electronically to gather information and provide input regarding this matter.

If you wish to participate and make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Electronic Open House, you must register in advance with Town Staff as noted below. Following registration, you will be provided with instructions on how to connect to the Open House on your computer, tablet or telephone.

Open House - Bobbie Jo Talarico - Administrative Assistant Operations (bobbiejo.talarico@notl.com or **905-468-3266**) Registration opens Monday October 19 at 8:30 am and closes Wednesday October 28 at 4:00 pm

Written comments on the designs are encouraged and must be submitted via Join the Conversation project at www.jointheconversationnotl.org/heritage-trail

For more information

For more information regarding this matter, please contact **Kevin Turcotte**, at **905-468-3266** or via email at kevin.turcotte@notl.com.

The concept will be published to the Join the Conversation page on Tuesday October 20 for review and comments.

If you wish to be notified of the future decision with respect to the design, you must register in the **Join the Conversation** page.



**Notice of Virtual Public Consultation Meeting
Niagara-on-the-Lake Transportation Master Plan (TMP)**

- What:** Notice of Virtual Public Consultation Meeting
Niagara-on-the-Lake Transportation Master Plan (TMP)



- When:** Public Meetings
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 27, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 5, 2020, from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 5, 2020, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

- Where:** The Virtual Public Consultation Meeting may be recorded and will be available for viewing at the following link:
<https://livestream.com/notl>

- Regarding:** The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is developing a Transportation Master Plan (TMP). The TMP will serve as a long-range strategic plan for the Town that addresses existing challenges and opportunities, supports growth, and recommends policies that support an efficient, multi-modal transportation network including vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit mobility. The study will provide an assessment of the Town's transportation improvement needs to the 2031 horizon and will provide recommendations for operational, design, and transportation policies that the Town uses to manage its transportation infrastructure.

What is this?

We are hosting the first round of Virtual Public Consultation Meetings to provide more information on the Transportation Master Plan Update and to provide you with the opportunity to share information with the project team relating to the existing or future transportation network in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The Public Consultation Meeting will be hosted online using the Microsoft Teams platform and will include a presentation by the project team followed by a live question and answer session.

Dialogue is encouraged

Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Hall is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 emergency and in-person meetings have been cancelled. As permitted under Provincial legislation and the Town's Procedural By-law, Council and Committee meetings are being conducted electronically during the declared state of emergency.

You are invited to attend these meetings electronically to gather information and provide input regarding this matter.

If you wish to participate and make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Virtual Public Consultation Meeting, you must register in advance with Town Staff as noted below. Following registration, you will be provided with instructions to connect to the Public Meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

Public Meeting - Bobbie-Jo Talarico, Administrative Assistant, Operations (bobbiejo.talarico@notl.com or **905-468-3266 ext. 302**) Register as soon as possible but prior to 12 noon on Monday, October 26, 2020.

Written comments are encouraged and must be submitted to Bobbie-Jo Talarico, Administrative Assistant bobbiejo.talarico@notl.com, at **1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0** or via email at referencing the above file number. Unless indicated otherwise, all submissions, including personal information, will become part of the public record.

For more information

The presentation, along with a summary of the Question and Answers will be posted on the project webpage following the meeting: www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan. The project webpage where you will also find information on the study, an online survey, key dates and events, and further opportunities to submit input to the project team. For more information regarding this meeting, please contact:

Mike Komljenovic, Engineering Supervisor at **905-468-3266 ext. 240** or via email at mike.komljenovic@notl.com or

Brandon Orr, Project Manager, Stantec Consulting Ltd. at **437-221-5339** or via email at Brandon.Orr@stantec.com

Please click this link to Join the Conversation to submit comments/concerns: www.jointheconversationnotl.org

If you wish to be notified of the future decision with respect to the Transportation Master Plan, you must Register in the **Join the Conversation** page.

Shaw Festival musical revues move indoors

Local Staff

The Shaw Festival's concert series, held until now at outdoor venues, is ready to move indoors.

The three musical revues developed for out-

door performances will be offered in the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre, on the grounds of the Shaw Festival Theatre.

There will be a limit of 50 guests, with safety protocols in place.

Featuring the music of

Duke Ellington, Dorothy Fields and Cole Porter, the socially distanced, free indoor performances run Wednesdays to Fridays at 6 p.m., and Saturdays at 2 p.m. from Oct. 28 through Nov. 20.

Each concert features the music of a renowned 20th century artist. The *Duke Ellington Revue* and *Dorothy Fields Revue* are directed by Associate Artistic Director Kimberley Rampersad with music direction by Paul Sportelli. The *Cole Porter Revue* is directed by Tim Carroll with choreography by Kimberley Rampersad and music direction by Paul Sportelli.

The 30- to 45-minute concerts feature the talents of Festival ensemble members Kyle Blair, Andrew Broderick, James Daly, Kristi Frank, Élodie Gillett, Alexis Gordon, Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane, Jonathan Tan and Associate Music Director Ryan deSouza.



Andrew Broderick and Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane perform in a Shaw musical revue. (Photos by Peter Andrew Luszyk)



Performing in the Shaw Festival Fall Concert Series are Andrew Broderick (front), Jonathan Tan and Kyle Blair.

Tickets are general seating and can be reserved by calling the Shaw Festival's box office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429). Tickets for the concert series will not be available online. To allow a wider audience to enjoy these concerts, The Shaw is limiting patrons to two tickets per concert

and two concerts per household.

The Shaw Festival musical revues are offered with the support of the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). FedDev Ontario has con-

tributed \$400,000 to The Shaw to support the presentation of the fall concert series and support visitor activity in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

For more information about the Festival's COVID-19 health and safety practices, please visit shawfest.com/dutyofcare/.



**Niagara
on-the-Lake
Realty**
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

LUXURYREAL ESTATE.COM™
WHO'S WHO IN LUXURY REAL ESTATE



25 JAMES STREET
\$1,200,000

MLS 40032491 • Patricia Atherton



29 JOHNSON STREET
\$1,795,000

MLS 40034676 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



548 NIAGARA BLVD
\$2,195,000

MLS 40034402 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



451 GAGE STREET
\$1,700,000

MLS 40033292 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



790 CHARLOTTE STREET
\$1,345,000

MLS 40012266 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



165 PRIDEAUX STREET
\$2,995,000

MLS 30815004 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



LOT 6 KENMIR AVE
\$399,000

MLS 30788326 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



12 GEORGE MANOR
\$699,000

MLS 30807618 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



16 SHEPPARD CRESCENT
\$1,149,000

MLS 30821051 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



144 RIVERBEACH
\$1,279,000

MLS 30827401 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft



330 MARY STREET
\$719,000

MLS 40009081 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



5 HAMPTON COURT
\$1,589,000

MLS 30819667 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

Christopher Bowron***905-468-2269
Kim Elltoft**905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong**905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc*905-941-3726
Philip Bowron*905-348-7626
Bonnie Grimm*905-468-1256

Nicole Vanderperk*905-941-4585
Viviane Elltoft*905-468-2142
Thomas Elltoft*905-380-8012
Cheryl Carmichael*905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie*905-685-2458
Christine Bruce*905-328-9703

Linda Williams*905-401-4240
Caroline Polgrabia*905-933-4983
Patricia Atherton*905-933-4983

***Broker of Record ** Broker *Sales Representative

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Christmas Parade loses another member

Long-time member decides it's time to step back

Penny Coles
The Local

The day after the cancellation of the Christmas Parade was announced, Bob Cheriton resigned after almost two decades as one of the organizers of the popular event.

He has decided it's time to step back from the parade committee, and let others with new ideas step forward.

He has been reflecting on resigning "for a very long time," he says, and with the cancellation of the 2020 event, this became the right time to do it.

Although his resignation is influenced to some degree by his own health, with a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer that he's been battling for almost five years, there was more behind his decision than that.

When he joined the committee, it was at the request of his long-time friend Bruce Pospiech, who was its chair for 30 years, Cheriton says. "I've known him since 1966. He was the best man at my wedding."

Pospiech died in April, 2019, and Cheriton says his decision has a lot to do with the loss of his friend.

In May, 2019, Cheriton lost another dear friend, John Fryer, who was also a dedicated member of the parade committee, over the years putting together a group of more than 30 volunteers to make it run smoothly.

More recently, the death of Dennis Dick, another long-time committee member, has also left a huge hole to fill.

"I came to know Dennis quite well, and I really admired his commitment to the community. All of us would have thought I'd be the first one to go, but it didn't work that way. That makes you reflect."

The 2020 parade, had it occurred, would have been Cheriton's 20th handling communication for the committee, and that also gave him cause for reflection, he says.

"I think it's time to step back and let others come in with some new ideas. It's time for some new people. This is the parade evolving," he says.

He says his decision was influenced in part by the fact

that he doesn't know how many years he has left himself, and wants to spend more of them with family.

"This is a good time to do that. It allows for lots of time to get new volunteers on board and rejuvenate the committee. For me, this feels like the right time. I'll still miss it. I'll miss the people and I'll miss the parade itself. But it's time."

The event is in good shape financially, for those who take it over, although the committee had intended to do some fundraising to "create a new ride for Santa this year."

Then COVID hit, and that was put on hold.

The committee had been considering cancelling the event before their discussion with Lord Mayor Betty Disero, "and it was an obvious decision, not a difficult decision, but still painful." The parade attracts a lot of people, and it would be difficult to enforce physical distancing or mask-wearing, he says, emphasizing as a former member of the parade committee, he is not speaking in any official capacity.

"Monitoring COVID protocols didn't seem practical. The gathering itself would be in violation of provincial regulations, and we aren't getting the impression that things will get better in the near-term," he adds. They don't want to put the crowd at risk, or the many participants, from the volunteer organizers to those on floats.

There has been talk about alternatives, options to make the Christmas season special, despite the pandemic.

Again stressing these are his personal thoughts, he says the town has to be careful, but "there are things they can do. Whatever they decide, they can't tell anyone ahead of time. If they do publicize it, they'd draw a crowd, and they don't want to put people at risk," says Cheriton. "I'm sure they're throwing around a few ideas, and it will be fun to watch and see what they can come up with."

This will be the first time in more than five decades that NOTL families won't see one of the best Christmas parades wind its way through

Old Town Streets. Cheriton says there came a year when Pospiech "put a stake in the ground" declaring it the 40th anniversary of the event, but nobody can pin down precisely the year it started.

Cheriton's wife Rosalie did some research for the committee, finding a reference in the local newspaper of the day, and going by that, Cheriton says it has to be more than 50 years since the first parade took place in Virgil, before moving to the Old Town. Whatever the exact number, "it's been going on a long, long time."

Likewise, he says, it's difficult to say how many people it attracts, but going by the traffic in and out of town and the crowds lining the streets from the former Parliament Oak School property, where it starts, to the Queen Street Cenotaph where it winds up, suffice it to say, "it's a lot of people."

While Cheriton speaks of the timeliness for revitalizing the parade committee for the 2021 event, he also refers to his own health as a reason to step back and concentrate on his family.

He and Rosalie have agreed to "simplify" their lives, beginning with selling their home and moving to a condominium in Kingsview Estates.

In 2016, when Cheriton was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he was told he had a 20 per cent chance of surviving the following summer. He was considered palliative, and put on a course of therapy not with the expectation of ridding him of cancer, but hopefully extending the time he had remaining.

After his diagnosis, he began doing his own research, and discovered an option for patients with inoperable or difficult-to-reach tumours, called irreversible electroporation (IRE), which uses short, repetitive, high-energy pulses of electricity to destroy cancer cells. He found a doctor in Germany who was using IRE on pancreatic tumours, involving surgery to reach them, and while undergoing aggressive chemotherapy here at home, he also made the trip to Germany for the



Bob Cheriton has looked after communications for the parade committee for almost 20 years, and is ready to hand over the reins to new members in time to organize the 2021 event. (Penny Coles)

IRE treatment.

Once home again, he resumed a regimen of chemo, which he continues to this day, in three-month cycles.

Cheriton's case was reviewed recently by his oncologist and a number of his peers, including oncologists and radiologists, to look at what the last round of tests indicated.

"They said nothing has changed in three years. That's quite astonishing," he says, attributing the good news to the "support and extraordinary care" he's received since his diagnosis. And during that time, he adds, "I'm living a reasonable facsimile of a normal life, other than the loss of a few days after chemo from tiredness. I still feel pretty fortunate."

He has also recently been handed a new lease in life that he has long hoped for. When he was in his 40s, he began to lose his hearing from a genetic condition. He had hoped to have a cochlear implant — he had seen a doctor at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, and was looking forward to the surgery. But then he was diagnosed with cancer, and because of his weakened immune system from chemotherapy, it had to be put off.

When he mentioned to his oncologist about a year ago he was still hoping to have the implant, his doctor got in touch with the surgeon at Sunnybrook, "and the next thing I know I get a call from the surgeon, wanting to set a date for surgery."

He had the cochlear implant surgery in January, and the improvement in his hearing, he says, "is stunning."

Measured in a quiet room before the implant, his hearing

was at 10 per cent. Now it's at 90 per cent.

His mother had been one of the first to have the implant at the same hospital, when it was still experimental, and she told him she hoped when his turn came it would work as well for him as it had for her — she was paving the way for him.

"They remember her at the hospital. The director of the program has copies of the documents of her implant. For her it was five to seven hours of surgery, and a fairly extensive recovery period. For me, it was two hours and home the same day."

The external sound processor, in his mother's day, was about the size of a jewelry box, as Cheriton describes it, which she wore around her waist.

His resembles a large hearing aid behind his ear, making masks and his choice of hat difficult to wear, he jokes — but he's quick to add he's not complaining, having been granted the surgery that "gave them pause" considering his age and cancer diagnosis.

He wanted the implant so he could hear his four grandchildren, he says, and it's working.

"It's been years since I've heard better than I can now. I can sit down one on one with these guys and talk to them. That's very special. Life is pretty darn good, and I feel like a very lucky person."

During the early days of the COVID lockdown, Cheriton, says he found himself feeling down, having trouble finding the positive, upbeat attitude he is known for.

"I was not the me that I know," he says.

But then the NOTL Golf

Club opened for the season, and depression disappeared.

"I remember clearly the first day the club opened. It was a beautiful, sunny day, and when I got out on the golf course, I felt completely liberated. Being able to play golf, regardless of COVID, has been terrific."

He continues to play golf several times a week, in two leagues, and occasionally with Rosalie.

He is also still on the NOTL Hydro board. He says he became a "serious techie" as a youngster, which led to a career in telecommunications and information technology that allows him to be useful and contribute in a meaningful way. NOTL Hydro, he says, is run by an incredible team, including president Tim Curtis.

"They're a great group to work with. Even with the recent fraud, the part of the story that gets lost in the shuffle is that it was our people doing their job that realized something was wrong," he says, referring to the discovery of an employee stealing a significant amount of money.

"If I feel like I'm timing out, I will walk away from it," says Cheriton. "But I'm not there yet. It's a great board, and I'm still having fun."

He also still likes the idea of "engaging with the community," and says he's not giving up on volunteerism. He's interested in history, so may look for an opportunity to explore local history further, to contribute in some way.

"Odds are I'll find something else to do," says Cheriton, who would be the first to admit, the odds so far have been in his favour.

TONY BALDINELLI, MP
NIAGARA FALLS

TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA
WWW.TONYBALDINELLIMP.CA

Niagara Falls / NOTL : 905-353-9590
Fort Erie : 905-871-9991

ANDREWS LAW PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
Barristers & Solicitors

905.468.0081
info@rjwandrews.ca

REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS

Linda Attoe, RP
Counselling · Psychotherapy · Psychoanalysis

By Phone or Videoconference

www.lindaattoe.com | 905-468-0046
Serving the Niagara Region since 2005

Life in high school, university during pandemic

Bethany Poltl
Special to The Local

I started my first year of university with excitement and apprehension.

I am generally a very positive, “let’s do this” kind of person, as readers of The Local would know from my previous articles. And although I have continued to make the best of the situation as it is, I can tell you that every friend I have spoken with, university or high school, is feeling the strain and stress of the moment. Now, more than ever, mental wellness has to be a priority for all of us.

I chose to go away to the University of Waterloo. I have found that my floor mates are all as serious as I am about our health and our education. We have become a team, working to keep each other positive. I do have to attribute our situation to our residence don who makes sure we are okay and organizes wellness events for us. My professors are available for online consultation and my university residence has a lecture hall for our learning community.

I have joined clubs and sports teams, masked, with hand sanitizing and social distancing. Joining these clubs and teams has helped me meet new friends and establish some routine for socialization outside of daily studying. I feel every effort is being made to try to create a good experience, even though it is not the typical highly social atmosphere of a non-COVID time.

When speaking with my friends, many are not having that same experience at university. Those who chose to go away and stay in residence are feeling alone. Many feel isolated, overwhelmed, uncertain, stressed as they try to work through courses that should be held in labs, lecture halls, or seminar rooms.

Those who stayed home find that they do not feel they are “in university” yet. The people around you do make a difference. Others have expressed that with graduation ceremonies being cancelled, those feelings of closure and moving on to university have been missed.

When I asked my friends to share their experience for this year for this article, some replied it was just too hard to say anything, I understand, as they too are trying to stay positive in this challenging time. For those who did share, their honesty is much appreciated. It takes a lot to share your feelings for all to read. Here are their thoughts on high school and university classes during COVID times.



Bethany Poltl is in her first year at the University of Waterloo. (Photos supplied)

Tannin Dridger-Bradshaw, Grade 9 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School:

“My first year of high school certainly isn’t how I had pictured it would be, but in saying that, it sure has been eventful.

“Being a student during this COVID pandemic has been very strange, with all the changes of how we attend school, but that doesn’t mean that it’s been a terrible experience. There have been many changes at high school, such as smaller class sizes, having to only attend school five out of every 10 days, with online homeschooling on the other days, and always having to wear face masks.

“It will take some getting used to, but I am determined to make it a positive experience. I’ll admit that the masks are very irritating, but it is important to take these precautions to keep myself as well as the other students and teachers safe.

“I am in Cohort A at Holy Cross, with half of the students in the school. We are only studying one subject at a time, for about four weeks, before changing to our next subject. For me personally, doing one class at a time and being in smaller classes has definitely made the change to high school easier.

“Even though I may not be with all of my friends from my old school of St. Michael (Catholic Elementary School in Niagara-on-the-Lake), this was a chance to create new friendships, and meet new people.

“Every student around the world has had to learn how to adapt to a whole new way of learning. I may have

only been a high school student for less than a month, but I know that I will love it even with these restrictions.

“I have to agree with something that my high school teacher had said to my class, that while the COVID pandemic is horrific, there are changes that people such as teachers have only been able to make because of it. For example, using paper during school is very common, but extremely wasteful, however because of the COVID restrictions, teachers have had to make the curriculum online.

“This school year so far has been scary and difficult for everyone, but also different and new. I believe we have to make the best of a bad situation, even if it’s hard.”

Anonymous, Grade 11, DSBN honour roll student:

“I appreciate the anonymity.

“I am not a fan of the way our school board (DSBN) is handling the coronavirus situation. I much prefer the way the Niagara Catholic board is doing things. Having long periods of time dedicated to a single class is exhausting. I (speaking as humbly as I can) am a dedicated, hardworking, good student, but I am struggling like never before, and I’m not doing as well as I would normally.

“On top of the challenge school has become, it’s not even the safest way to do things. The Catholic board has you with the same group every day (for the designated block), while DSBN has you with three different groups, all with their own three different groups. I

know it was a challenge to figure out how to combat the issue, but the fact that the other board managed to find a way that, in my opinion (all my friends agree), is way better, makes me feel a little less forgiving.

“I am a very positive person, so I don’t like speaking this way, but it’s truly heartbreaking that school, the thing I have always loved more than anything, is something that I now dread, and causes me nothing but stress.”

Janvi Ganatra, Grade 12, A.N. Myer Secondary School:

“With COVID cohorts for secondary schools, there is a fully online cohort and two cohorts with a mix of online and in-school learning for two to three days a week. We have two-week mini blocks where we concentrate on two (or three for Multi Subject Instructional Period (MSIP) schools) of our courses at a time, alternating every two weeks. “My school is an MSIP school, so we have five periods instead of four, four courses plus a study period called an MSIP. It’s less stressful not having to concentrate on all four courses at the same time, but with two-week mini blocks, it can be hard for teachers to cover an entire unit and assessments in a limited amount of time.

“This means sometimes we learn the content in one block and get tested on it two weeks later, which is not ideal.

“The in-school experience looks a lot different. Masks of course are mandatory, and we are expected to use hand sanitizer when entering or exiting the building and classrooms. Once we get to school we are required to go directly to class.

“Each day we are in one classroom for four hours, with two 10-minute breaks, all of the desks are two metres apart, and there is a fixed seating plan



Janvi Ganatra is in Grade 12, at A.N. Myer Secondary School.



Tannin Dridger-Bradshaw is in Grade 9, at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

to help with COVID-contact tracing.

“Four hours in one classroom can definitely feel long, but with the short breaks in between, it works out well.

“I feel teachers have been doing a great job of finding

ways to make it easier for students to learn online with recordings of lectures, notes and interactive online tools, as well as making accessing help outside of the classroom as convenient as possible, since we only see them twice a month.”

ThomasTV.com
Audio Video Electronics & More

SAMSUNG
The Frame



SAMSUNG
Buy a 65" or 75" 2020 The Frame television and receive a BONUS 32" The Frame.
From October 16-29, 2020
Terms and Conditions apply. Visit Samsung.com/theframe for details.

CEDIA MEMBER CERTIFIED INSTALLATIONS AND HOME THEATER DESIGN
TV HOME THEATER HIFI AUDIO HDTV ANTENNA

130 Thorold Rd., Welland, ON Tuesday - Saturday 10 - 5
905 788 3221 | www.thomastv.com Sunday - Monday Closed

Graveyard Stories continue virtually this year

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Since 2012, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, has been hosting graveyard tours, taking participants to some of the significant burial sites in town.

At graveside, these volunteers play the roles of prominent citizens of the past, regaling visitors with colourful stories in first person.

COVID-19 restrictions meant this year's tours had to be cancelled, but the volunteers weren't about to be kept from their labour of love.

For the second year in a row, the museum received a Federal New Horizons for Seniors Program grant, designed to provide funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities. That allowed producer Barbara Worthy to mobilize the team of volunteers to record 10 Graveyard Stories that can be accessed via the museum website, nhsm.ca.

Each segment is under 10 minutes, and begins with retired Air Canada pilot Stephen Steele as the Gravedigger. His title seems ominous, but other than a little bit of dirt on his coveralls (worn beneath a tweed jacket), he's a calm, inviting presence, as he opens his book to introduce viewers to the subject of each story.

Steele, of course, is one of the volunteers who has been involved for a number of years. "They're all committed to animating local history," says Worthy. "They work together, and have fun, and they're so willing to do these crazy stories that put

them out of their comfort zone, working through acting, and learning some of the performance techniques and tricks of the trade that they would never do."

Usually the volunteers perform these monologues and discussions with small groups in the cemeteries, up to four times a night. As Worthy asserts, though, this year they had to learn some new skills. "In this digital world, no one had done it in front of a camera before. People who you would think would be quite comfortable, because they can do it in front of an audience, were quite camera shy. They had to learn new techniques."

Though most of the stories focus on one historical figure, the volunteers work together as a cohesive unit with Worthy and co-producer Joe Lapinski. Everyone had input this year on which stories they would film, and what form the visuals should take.

Worthy is quick to point out that none of the volunteers came to the project with any professional acting experience. Watching the segments, that might be difficult to believe, but it's true.

"They come to you as locals in town," says Worthy. "Then you find out they've been ranchers, or ran a farm, or were interior designers. One of our crew is Pam Mundy, who designed our costumes. She is taking a bachelor's degree at Brock right now. She was a policewoman in a past life. Rick Meloen worked for the Town for many years, and Jeff Senson was an IT Specialist, now retired."

Senson does an amazing job portraying John Red-

head, one of the first boatbuilders to run a livery in town, as a sociable and jolly, yet sly fellow. When he looks at the camera and asks, "would this face lie to you?", you're not exactly sure how to answer his question."

The story of The Foam is told from the perspective of a reporter. On the evening of July 11, 1874, seven young men left Toronto aboard the sailing yacht The Foam, apparently headed for a dance in Niagara-on-the-Lake. As darkness fell and the wind began to blow heavily, guests of the Queen's Royal Hotel watched helplessly as the vessel capsized in the lake. The seven men are all buried at St. Mark's Cemetery.

Worthy, who wrote all of the stories, used newspaper reports from the period, embellishing those with dramatic licence to get into the minds of the young ladies anxiously awaiting their paramours.

Of the 10 stories, one of Worthy's favourites is that of Samuel Zimmerman, a railroad baron originally from Pennsylvania, who died on one of his own tracks. Zimmerman, who was married to a politician's daughter, was a prominent local citizen who died along with 58 others in the Desjardins Canal Disaster near Hamilton in 1857. Rick Meloen plays Zimmerman as an arrogant, cigar-chomping captain of industry.

"He (Meloen) is such a historian, and he really wanted to tell the story of Samuel Zimmerman," Worthy enthuses. "It's such a story, and we have never worked out at the graveyard at St. Davids, so it was a chance to talk to the church



Rick Meloen as Samuel Zimmerman tells his story in the St. Davids-Queenston United Church Cemetery. (Photos supplied)



Blair Collins, as Henrietta Sewell, is filmed by Joe Lapinski in St. Mark's Cemetery.

there, and to see if they wanted to be involved in this in the future, when we can do it live again."

The tours were originally based out of St. Mark's Cemetery, but since 2012 have expanded to include stories about gravesites at St. An-

drew's Presbyterian and St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Churches as well.

Worthy says the performers really enjoyed doing it for the camera this year, and getting each episode down on film. And these 10 stories can be accessed at

any time via the website.

"What a great way to share our local history," she says, "in a way that's entertaining, and gives us all a sense of pride of where we've been. It will attract people to our region, because we have some great stories to tell."



Mary Jane Catcher and Tom Catcher are Eliza Whitmore and William Kirby, with Joe Lapinski filming.



Jeff Senson portrays John Redhead, one of the first boatbuilders to run a livery in town.

Home becomes ‘magical’ for Halloween, and every holiday

Continued from page 1

tober, 2006, being treated for anorexia. She was extremely ill, having been admitted 10 weeks earlier, in August. In less than six months, she had gone from being a healthy teenager to a 65-pound skeleton.

She was admitted at 68 pounds, and instead of gaining weight, she lost a few pounds more.

Because of the nature of anorexia, she didn’t want to be in the hospital, didn’t believe she needed to be there, and was angry at her parents for putting her there, she says.

Cathy describes a nightmarish experience, watching the life drain out of her daughter, with Thea resisting and fighting off nurses as they tried to force her to eat. The hospital was really not equipped, at that time, to help kids like Thea, says Cathy.

Thea remembers all the tricks patients such as herself learned to avoid eating. She recalls being delighted when she heard she was finally being discharged, because the hospital couldn’t do any more to help her.

“I thought, I get to go home, I knew they couldn’t make me eat, that I would relapse, and at the time, I thought it was a good thing.”

Her parents were waiting

to hear that there was a bed available for Thea at SickKids, but at the same time, they were arranging to send her to a centre in Arizona that specialized in treatment for anorexia. Thea knew it was a matter of which came first, and was hoping it would be SickKids, because it was closer to home.

She was home for about a week before the phone call came, a few days before Halloween, that was to be her salvation.

“It was a really pivotal week for me,” she says.

She was still losing weight, and when she was discharged from McMaster, it seemed she was being sent home to see her family for what might have been the last time, as they waited for a bed somewhere, or as she says, “to run out of time.”

SickKids, she has no doubt, saved her life.

“They understood. They provide everything you need. This is not a black and white disease, it’s different for everyone. I didn’t understand how sick I was. I wasn’t allowed to walk for three weeks after I was admitted, I was wheel-chaired everywhere. For me it became real while I was there, and I knew they were going to make it better, not worse.”

Thea says she had carried a lot of anger at her parents for forcing the hospital on her, but



Every room in the house proves Cathy Wall is not exaggerating when she says she likes holidays to be magical. (Photos by Penny Coles)

“I came to understand it wasn’t my parents, that they were doing what they did out of love. The hospital provided counseling for me, for my parents, and for all of us together. At some point it started to click, to come together, and I began to understand.”

She is extremely grateful to have had that opportunity, and to have had a bed in the hospital when she needed it. She wants the same for others who might need it, she says.

That’s the incentive behind her plea for donations to SickKids, which is undergoing a massive expansion for a new building beside the existing hospital, giving them more beds to help children like Thea.

“Every dollar is a step closer for another child to recovery. Maybe they’ll see another birthday, Halloween or Christmas because of you. Maybe just another day with their families to fight,” she says on the GoFundMe page she has set up to

collect donations.

“To strive for a world-class hospital is great, but to strive for a hospital of miracles is greater,” she says. “To some families it’s a journey that never ends, while others, one that is never won. SickKids provides families with hope, whose options and time are running thin. The care they provide for kids is beyond medicine, it’s love and laughter, it’s the lengths they go to ensure every day is a day closer to a cure.”

Thea’s journey to health ended after two and a half gruelling months in the hospital, including another relapse, and continuing as an outpatient until she turned 18.

“I can say my battle was won the day I was admitted.”

Thea’s GoFundMe page, notl4sickkids, raised almost \$2,000 toward her \$10,000 goal in the first 24 hours online.

To donate, visit <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/notl4sickkids>



Thea Wall, on the staircase of the Wall family home, with the dog they named Taurus, “so she would have high hopes in life,” says Thea. “She’s tough, she’s our guard puppy.”



“Sit down on the bench,” says Thea, laughing.

NOTL native becomes Global TV anchor

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Kingston and area residents wake up every morning to be greeted on TV by a Niagara-on-the-Lake native.

In 2010, fresh out of Niagara College's broadcasting program, Maegen Kulchar was hired as a weekend reporter and videographer for CKWS TV in the Limestone City. She quickly worked her way up the ranks in both television and radio, and two months ago, took over as one of the hosts of Global News Morning Kingston.

She and co-host Bill Welychka, a Welland native, greet viewers at 6 a.m., Monday to Friday. The program is a three-hour mix of local, national and international news. Kulchar and Welychka tie it all together with light-hearted banter, and a friendly, gregarious approach. The new role for Kulchar suits her perfectly.

A member of one of the last graduating classes at Niagara District Secondary School, Kulchar enrolled at Niagara College after earning a degree in film studies, with a minor in communication, from Ottawa's Carleton University. Her degree gave her advanced standing at Niagara, and Kulchar finished the three-year program in two years.

While studying at Niagara, she volunteered at community channel TVCogeco (now YourTV

Niagara). As a reporter for The Source, she worked alongside staff members who taught her the ins and outs of covering local events.

"It was great," says Kulchar. "I definitely got an insight into what it's like when you get a job after school. The people there were so nice to work with and volunteer with. It was a really, really positive experience."

Taking advantage of her snowbird grandparents living part of the year in Florida, Kulchar applied for and was offered an internship at Fox 35 in Orlando for her final year at the college. What was supposed to be a three-month stay turned into twice that, and she credits the experience there for building her on-air skills.

"I got a bit of everything there," she says. "I followed reporters, spent a week with weather, a week with the production assistant, and I kind of found my way that way. It was really interesting how they do things down there."

The exposure to all areas of the Fox News team suited her well when she began in Kingston. Her original role as a weekend reporter meant she focused on fun stories, covering local events and lifestyle topics. Just months into that part-time gig, though, she was offered a full-time job, and she became a fixture in Kingston.

Her role began to ex-

pand, as well. Over the years, Kulchar has filled in for the assignment editor and has helped produce the 6 and 11 p.m. news, and the morning show. She has also taken on weather reporting for all their broadcasts, and by her fifth year there she was being asked to fill in as a news anchor.

"The station has let me try out everything," she says. "All that filling in gave me a lot of opportunity to grow and learn, and finally to this full-time job as morning anchor."

Kulchar's parents, Larry and Luanne, beam with pride when considering their daughter's success.

"It's pretty exciting," says Luanne, "to know that your child has gone through all this schooling, university and college and internships, and actually made it in the field that she studied in. She decided what she was going to do. She worked hard and took a chance there, and she made it."

"The jobs were few and far between," remembers Larry, "and we told her, even though the Kingston job was part-time, you have to go where the jobs are. She did, and it worked out, she can do almost anything in that CKWS atmosphere."

Her work days are busy. Kulchar arrives at the studio each day at 5 a.m. "I head into the radio booth," she says, "and write and voice the radio news for

our two stations we have. Then we look for new news through social media and email, then we edit video if we have to. After a morning meeting, we get on the air at 6 o'clock, and we're on until 9."

She continues. "After that, what we've been doing with COVID, we tape our interviews, do any editing that is needed. Then we do news breaks, and after that, myself and the producer put together the noon newscast, and at noon I do that newscast."

Her husband, Adam Bergeron, a sales associate for Global's parent company, Corus Entertainment, takes on the morning duties at home, getting their children, Briana, four, and two-year-old Weston, fed and off to school and daycare. Kulchar's schedule allows her to take on the after-school parental duties, and she's there for their bedtime.

Kulchar's parents are both in awe of their daughter's ability to juggle the job with her home life. "She is an amazing mother," says Luanne. Larry adds, "she's well-disciplined, and understanding, and she spent so much time teaching them at home before Briana started school this year."

The former competitive university swimmer met Bergeron while playing softball in Kingston. He grew up in nearby Perth, so has family connections in the area. The young family made the trip back

to NOTL for Thanksgiving weekend recently, where the kids had a chance to play with uncles Dan and Matthew. Before the pandemic, Larry and Luanne would alternate trips monthly with Adam and Maegen, but that hasn't been possible since March. FaceTime calls have helped bridge the distance, but the long weekend was their first chance to get together in months.

Though she admits driving away from her childhood home Monday felt bittersweet, Maegen says Kingston feels like home to her now. And the city is not that different from NOTL.

"Both are on the water, which is nice, we both have a unique downtown, and it's a tight-knit community in Kingston," reflects Kulchar. "I've been here 10 years, and you kind of know everybody. It doesn't feel like a big city to me, which is nice. Back in the day, I would have loved to live in Toronto, but now, looking back, I'm glad I made the move to Kingston. It's a big enough city, but it has that small-town feel."

Kulchar never expected to take on the morning anchor job so soon at CKWS. She assumed she would need to move to a larger market to progress to that position. The previous morning show co-anchor, though, decided to take a different career path, opening up the slot for Kulchar.

"I had been filling in for

the role for three months prior," she explains. "So to get the full-time position, I felt that I accomplished one of my goals. It's definitely a really great feeling."

Kulchar values the growth CKWS has allowed her, but she doesn't rule out an eventual move to another market. "If the right job came along, then it would be a possibility," she admits. "Doing the morning job right now, this is a pretty good place to stay, but this is the type of job where you kind of always keep your eyes open to what's out there."

The full-time studio job means that Kulchar isn't getting out into the community as much as she has been through the years. But she's happy that she can continue to make a difference in people's lives by telling their stories on air.

"One of my main goals in this has always been to be able to help people who are in a jam," she says. "With anchoring, I'm not out there getting the stories, but I am informing people about what's going on in the community and the world, so in that sense I feel that I am making a difference."

Back here in NOTL, Luanne turns to her computer just before 9 a.m. each day, and visits the CKWS website to watch her daughter host the show. Kingston residents aren't the only ones witnessing Maegen Kulchar making a difference.



Maegen Kulchar and co-host Bill Welychka, a Welland native, greet viewers at 6 a.m. on Global TV, Monday to Friday. (Photo supplied)

Ghost stories come from research, locals, guides

**Kim Wade
Special to The Local**

“Tis the season for ghosts, goblins and ghouls. Niagara-on-the-Lake may be lacking in goblins and ghouls but we seem to have plenty of ghosts.” Ghost Walks, which start from 126 Queen Street, started in 2004. According to Daniel Cumerlato, guide and overseer, the walks “originally began out the side door of the Angel Inn,”

then, “in 2011, the Museum of the Paranormal was created, and evolved into today’s shop space in 2012.” As for the stories told on the walks, Cumerlato explains, “at the start, it’s research, taken from personal experiences (books, articles and interviews), and some are found through historical research. As the tours grow, stories tend to flow in from guests, and focus on the most haunted places

featured on the tour or around the area.” As for the older ghost stories, he adds, “legends are always taken with a grain of salt. We attempt to give them validity through historical research, but many times it’s just a great story passed through generations.” Sometimes, the stories come from guests on the tour, locals or even the guides. “For personal stories, we either

gauge the teller, or link it to other unrelated experiences. To gauge the teller is to question the source. This is a talent gained over the years from hearing countless ghost stories, then mixed with the likelihood the story is possible. Some are very over-the-top.” When they link it to other seemingly unrelated experiences, he continues, they must ask, “is the story similar to others told in the past by others?” This step adds validity to the story. “This is the most powerful and fun.” But it is not enough just to have a ghost story. What makes it a great ghost story lies in the way it’s told. Each guide must go through an audition process, says Cumerlato, then train with a veteran guide and develop that ability to tell a great ghost story, and make it come alive for the audience. The guide for Sunday evening’s walk has honed her ability for telling a great ghost story. Susan Reichheld has a surprisingly effervescent personality

for a maiden of the macabre. According to her bio, the PEI native grew up with “ghost ships, haunted houses, and graveyard tales.” She indulged her passion for performing arts by studying theatre at Acadia University, and also developed an interest in history and culture while working at the Halifax Citadel. She has worked as a historical animator, and used her talents to teach English in Japan. Eventually, Reichheld became an elementary school teacher, but continues to don her custom-made costume with cape, hoist her lantern and reprise her role as Lady Stella Marie on chilly autumn evenings. Lady Stella leads her masked group of 15 ghost-seekers through the streets, and through the history of the Old Town. Each tour begins with a brief lesson to bring the group up to speed on the specific historical significance of the area. The tour includes stories of Captain Colin Swayze at the

Olde Angel Inn, paranormal activity at the historic Court House, unfortunate tale of mistaken identity at The Prince of Wales and the legend of the Headless Soldier of Old Fort Niagara. The ghostly walking tour lasts for about 90 minutes, with the most interesting and chilling stories left for the end, before Lady Stella Marie says her goodbyes and disappears into the darkness of Gate Street. Tickets can be purchased at ghostwalks.com or by calling 855-8GHOSTS (855-844-6787). Tours run most evenings, starting at 8:30 p.m. and continuing until the end of December. One last piece of advice is to wear a comfortable pair of shoes, since there is a fair amount of walking during the tour. You may also be grateful for those shoes, as this reporter was when the tour is over, the streets are empty and you get the odd feeling you are not as alone as you hurry back to your parked car.



Susan Reichheld as Lady Stella Marie leads a ghost tour through the Old Town. (Kim Wade)

Painting pumpkins at the Pumphouse

**Kim Wade
Special to The Local**

“I’m so glad that I saw it on Facebook. With COVID it seems like there is nothing to do and I was so excited to see this event was happening” says the mother of three-year-old Jonas Ursini. Jonas, along with his mom and dad, enjoyed a chilly but sunny afternoon, creating a pumpkin for Halloween on

the lawn of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre Saturday. About 30 families at physically distanced tables, painted, carved and decorated pumpkins donated by Warner Ranch and Pumpkin Farm. According to Aimee Medina, the Centre’s marketing coordinator, the event got off to a slow start because of the weather, but was soon busy with parents and children adorning their cre-

ations with multitudes of paint, glitter and stickers. The event was free but the Pumphouse was taking donations to help the centre run these types of programs, and to inspire kids and adults to get into the season by encouraging them to be creative. Additional programs can be discovered at niagara.pumphouse.ca or their Facebook page.



Pumphouse staff welcome visitors and help them paint pumpkins on a beautiful fall day on the grounds of the art gallery. (Photos by Kim Wade)



Catherine Ursini helps son Justin paint a pumpkin at the Pumphouse.

JOIN THE NOTL SOCCER BOARD



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Club will be hosting its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 virtually by Zoom at 8:00 p.m.

All current members are welcome to attend, and we welcome new members! We have vacancies on the Niagara-on-the-Lake Soccer Board which need to be filled.

The NOTL Soccer Club is particularly in need of a club treasurer; if you have an accounting background, please share your gifts and talents and give back to your community! Come out to get involved in soccer, in your community and help keep more than 400 kids playing!



TO BE A PART OF THE SOCCER BOARD E-MAIL US:
niagarasoccerclub@gmail.com
and the Club will send you the Zoom link so you can join us and help keep kids playing!

Geoff Farnsworth: colour explodes at the Pumphouse

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

On display in the newly dedicated Joyner Gallery at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is the work of artist Geoff Farnsworth.

Originally hailing from Kimberley, BC, Farnsworth has been living and painting in St. Catharines over the past seven years. His art education began in BC, where he studied at Capilano College and Emily Carr University of Art & Design, among others. Farnsworth then moved to New York to train at the Arts Students League, from 1997 to 2002. He then moved to Toronto and spent the next five years building upon his studio practice. He left Toronto to work for a year in Thunder Bay, then relocated to the Niagara Region.

Farnsworth has had his works in exhibitions across the world, across the country and across the Niagara region. Internationally, his work has been seen in New York, Washington D.C., and as far away as Norway, Sweden and Trinidad. In addition to his current exhibition in Niagara-on-the-Lake, he currently has work on display at the Canvas Gallery in Toronto, Kurbatoff Gallery in Vancouver and Chenier Fine Arts in Thunder Bay. He has work hanging at Wellington Court restaurant, the Niagara Artists Centre Studio Space (inside Roly Poly), and at his studio, all in St. Catharines. He also has

eight paintings hanging at Jordan Art Gallery in Jordan Village, that span different time periods.

He considers his paintings an exploration of a relationship between figurative and abstraction, and says it's important that they work well as "collections of shape, colour, texture, and energy, while also building a compelling image," focusing on "a balance between plan and accident, known and unknown, restraint and exuberance," with objects from his personal world.

Farnsworth says he likes to repeat and repaint images. For example, viewers are encouraged to look for the "exploding fry truck" at both the Niagara Pumphouse and Jordan Art Gallery.

Although he has national and international success, lately, like so many of us, Farnsworth has been focusing more on staying close to home.

"When COVID hit, I was painting an eight-minute walk from home in an office space my friend rented cheap for me," he says.

"I feel conflicted often, with desiring balances between being solitary and feeling very social. The studio feels often like a joyful respite, and often also I crave to get out of where I woke up. Painting temporarily in spots that come up or are offered changes the whole vibe and creative flow, I would say. At least for me."

He explains how the perspective of his work has changed with

the changing times.

"Middle of March, and I took everything home, including paintings that I'd started there. Finishing these paintings, being back home again, had me continue a theme that felt pertinent to me before, and especially once COVID times started," says Farnsworth.

Home, for him is an old house built in 1875, near Montebello Park, with a studio on top.

The theme he mentions involves painting of people, looking at a famous painting.

"One piece was of a figure (based on a photo of her from behind looking at a self-portrait by Frida Kahlo)," he says.

The observer is gazing at a painting that has become both a still art reference to the original piece (in this case a Kahlo that hangs in the Al-bright Knox in Buffalo), and also more abstracted.

Farnsworth continues to describe how this focus changed to a more inward-looking view, becoming compelled to repeat the motif of a figure looking inward: a Dutchman with two ears on the side of his head looking upon a Van Gogh self-portrait; his daughter looking onto a Kandinsky. Even his subject matter became more inward, and to a literally smaller and more immediate perspective, painting small heads in lots of very small squares.

"These heads were of authors I was reading and re-read-

ing, musicians, myself, one of George Floyd, friends of mine. I painted Klimt, Diebenkorn, Sargent, Seurat, Bacon, Vuillard, Haruki Murakami (twice), Ryu Murakami (once), Georgia O'Keeffe, Cowboy Curtis, David Lynch, people I see downtown and around Niagara, and several others. They are as much about portraiture as they are about paint and process, abstraction, and exploration."

In this exhibition at the Niagara Pumphouse, he has 33 paintings in total. Some are hanging, and some of the smaller pieces are displayed on table tops.

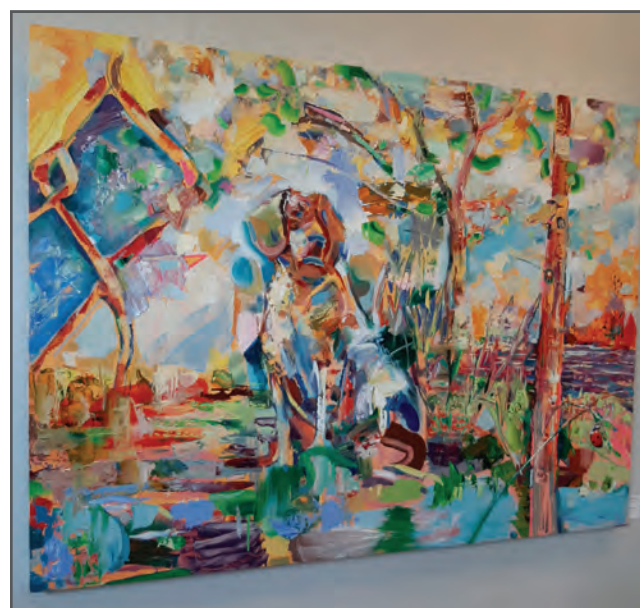
For the immediate future, Farnsworth is still working diligently and even looking to nature for inspiration during our new reality.

"Times are continuing, and I'm finishing up a couple of commission pieces while I get excited about continuing pieces in progress. Yesterday I was walking with a friend in Short Hills, and paying attention to birds and trees. It makes me feel interested in the process between capturing what I have been experiencing sensorily, while also feeling these objects are also pathways into exploration and morphing."

The Geoff Farnsworth exhibition is on display until the end of October at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. For more information, contact niagarapumphouse.ca or geoff-farnsworth.com.



Infinity plays with the Sands of Time by Geoff Farnsworth.



Orange Dog Vision is one of Geoff Farnsworth's paintings at the Pumphouse. (Photos supplied)



NOW OPEN

TO SERVE YOU SAFELY







**COLOUR OF THE YEAR
& COLOUR TRENDS
2021**

AEGEAN TEAL
2136-40

We are open to the public, with safety measures followed and masks worn. Curbside pickup and free delivery with purchase of a gallon or more.

Creek Road Paints

1573 Four Mile Creek Rd. Virgil | 905.329.2077

BIG FALL SALE

SAVE 20%

STORE-WIDE

Bulbs, Perennials, Shrubs, Trees, Pots, Décor & more

Mori Gardens

Design & Garden Centre

1709 Niagara Stone Rd. NOTL | (905)468-7863 | MoriGardens.com

CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

Wine Boutique and Tasting Bar

Open for Tastings

Reservations Only

Curbside and Local Delivery still available!



The Farmhouse Café

Open for Lunch 7 days a Week

Patio and Indoor Dining Available

Reservations Only

Call 905-468-8814

to make your reservation.

Check our website for full details and service hours.

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com

Serving Niagara Since 1977



SIMPSON'S



FLU SHOTS

Call the store

to inquire about availability

and how to book yours.

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121

Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Kids connecting through love of reading

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

It's no exaggeration that this past season has been fraught with unforeseen challenges for everyone. There were also many times this past summer when a bright sunbeam would slip through a fissure in the dark clouds of uncertainty. Meeting Lane Smith was one of them.

Amidst all of the challenges of curtailed summer activities, 11-year-old Lane began thinking of ways to make a difference within her own circle of influence.

She had been reading about the men and women working on southern Ontario farms. After learning that they were far away from their own families for up to eight months of the year, Lane thought of her own close-knit family and couldn't imagine the hardships and loneliness that such separation would bring.

She also has a passion for reading, and wondered if the love of books might be a way to connect with children of the men employed on our farms.

Lane enlisted the help of

her mother, Julie Thompson, and together they began searching for a way to make a connection with farm workers, driving down from Oakville in August to meet with me and work out a plan.

It was a simple idea – she would reach out to 20 school-age friends who would give an age-appropriate brand new book to a Caribbean or Mexican farm worker with a child the same age. It would be a paperback book, something that would slip easily into a suitcase. A name and email address would be included to encourage further correspondence, and hopefully, a “pen pal” friendship.

I knew a number of children in Jamaica who would be interested, and assisted in making the connection with their fathers in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Introductions were made to Nate Dirks, who organizes the Caribbean Worker outreach at Southridge Church. He was enthusiastic after hearing about the project, and promptly set up a number of participants on Vineland farms. Migrants

Matter outreach in Flambo-rough connected them with children from Mexico.

Lane recently shared her experience of the past few months.

“The farm workers I met were hard-working, and very knowledgeable about how to grow things in Ontario's climate. Other work-

ers we saw were very happy when we said hello, or tried out our limited Spanish with them,” says Lane.

“Most of my friends who became Paperback Pals didn't know much about migrant workers or how essential they are, so that we can enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables. My friends learned that

they have to leave their children behind, and that some have been coming here as many as 32 years, spending more time in Canada than in their home country!”

When asked if other children can join Paperback Pals, Lane replied, “Yes! We would love more Ontario kids to sign up so we can

send more books. The best way to start is by emailing me at paperbackpalsbooks@gmail.com. Send me your name and age and I can match you with another child similar to your age. Right now we are signing children up to be Paperback Pals in 2021, and we would love to hear from you.”



Respecting health protocols, Lane enjoyed the opportunity to personally deliver books to Shaun Thomas, whose two young sons are avid readers. (Photos by Jane Andres)

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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

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

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

TRICK OR TREATING AT THE PUMPHOUSE

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

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

HALLOWEEN AT FORT GEORGE

October 31 @ 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE

With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo!
Prices starting at \$20.
Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.
Call Karen 905-641-5335
or email: classified@notllocal.com



Lane Smith and her mother Julie Thompson have books to give to farm workers for their kids.

LOCAL WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, October 25th

10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering

Speaker:
Kevin Bayne

Pre-registration is required to attend in-person worship

Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your

WORSHIP SERVICES

in this section, please contact:

karen@notllocal.com

LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com

Helping home owners for more than 20 years.
office: 905-468-4214 cell: 905-321-8126
www.cudmorehomes.com

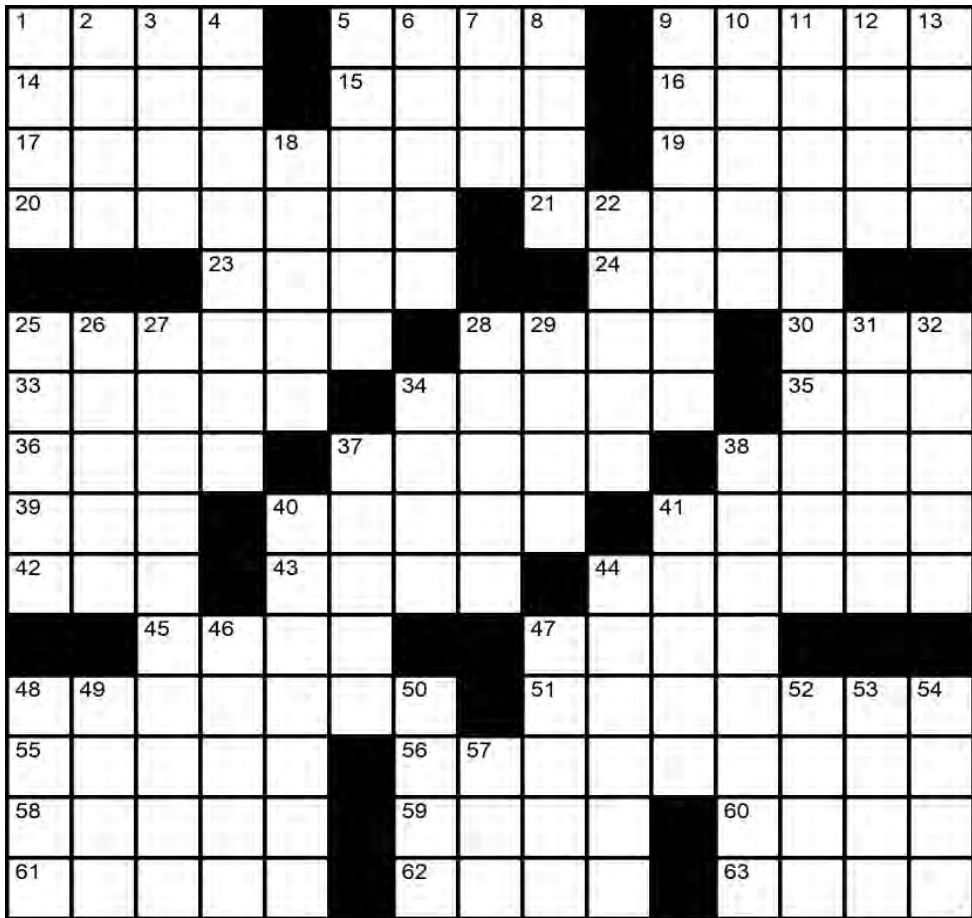
JO-ANN CUDMORE
sales representative

ROYAL LEPAGE
REAL ESTATE COMPANY

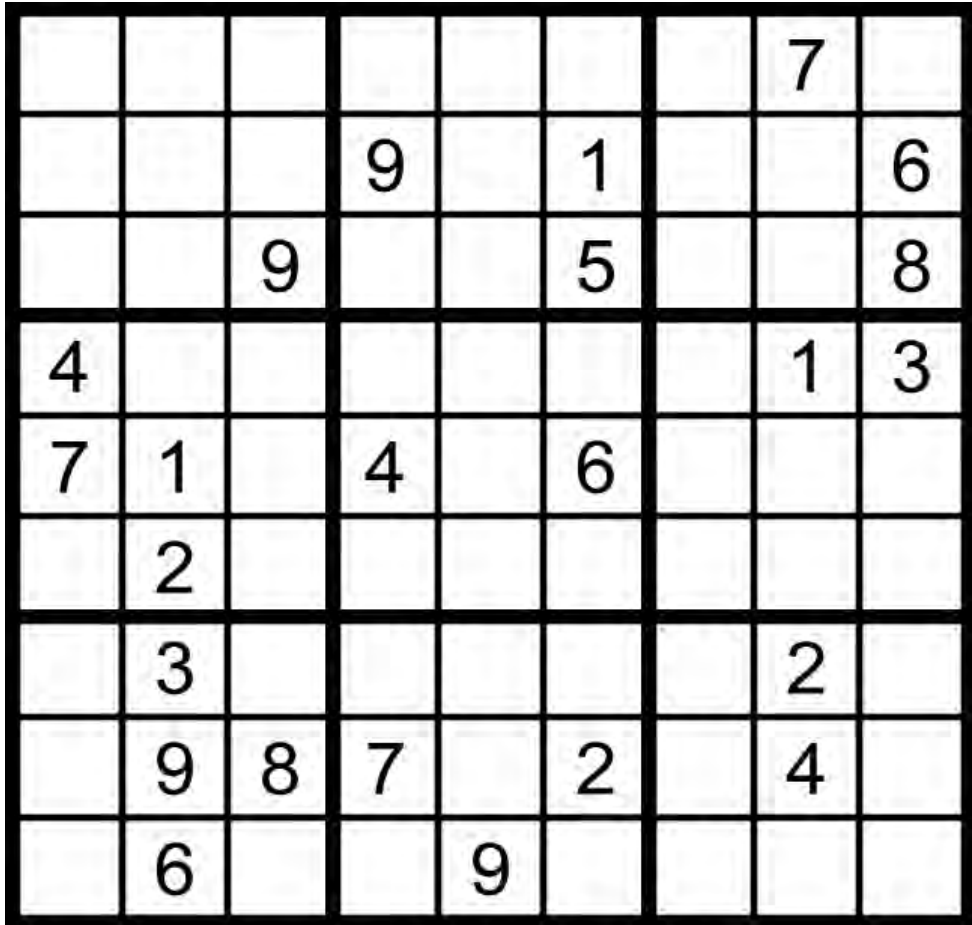
CANADA'S
REAL ESTATE COMPANY

CARRIAGE
TRADE

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



- Across:**
- Butter units
 - Au naturel
 - Sea state 5
 - Brusque
 - "... --- slayeth the silly one" (Book of Job)
 - Crackshot Oakley
 - Speech of violent denunciation
 - Bequeath
 - Least happy
 - Linked
 - Egyptian sacred bird
 - Jaunty rhythm
 - What's coming down the pike
 - Connipion
 - Winter time in Halifax
 - Turned Samoa upside down to find a terrorist
 - Not very enthusiastic
 - Cost-of-living indicator
 - Hindrances
 - Al ---, baseball's "Hebrew Hammer"
 - Zachary Taylor was one
 - Cowpoke's sweetheart
 - Not so many
 - Chessman
 - Shout to a matador
 - Foam at the mouth
 - Cowcatcher
 - Cool, sartorially
 - Scrabble piece
 - Signs up
 - Under close scrutiny
 - Idiots
 - State with a pelican flag
 - Be relaxed
 - Fine, black or liberal, maybe
 - Federal anti-discrimination agency
 - Deathly pale
 - Synchronize
 - Compos mentis
 - "Black Widow" lead --- Winger
 - The --- Marbles, from the Parthenon
 - Do without
 - Customary
 - Crumb catcher
 - Put back to zero, for example
 - Impressionist
 - Extra interest
 - Possessor of "fearful symmetry" (Blake)
 - Hall, crier, car or house, perhaps
 - Give feedback
 - Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
 - Shiver of excitement
 - Raw hides
 - Polish off, or polish?
 - Depend
 - Talks up
 - Scat queen
 - Those opposed
 - Taking all the tricks
 - UN body promoting peaceful nuclear power
 - In a little while
 - Spike
 - Such as cinnabar
- Down:**
- Mount for electronic components
 - Experienced by migraine sufferers
 - Stepped
 - Play grounds
 - Scottish legend
 - Single things
 - Movie medium
 - Onlooker
 - Came from behind
 - "Paper Moon" Oscar winner
 - Loose
 - "Out with it!"
 - Observe



OBITUARY

FORSYTH, JOANNE A. (CONSAUL) —It is with great sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of Joanne on Monday, October 12, 2020, at Cawthra Gardens LTC, Mississauga, ON, at the age of 86. Beloved wife of the late Bill (February 2020) for 65 years. Devoted mother of Holly Forsyth (late David Crawford). Adored grandmother of Tim Cook (Elisa Belanger) and Heather Cook and great-grandmother of Rylee and Harlee. Dear sister of the late Marion McCleary (late Albert). Fondly remembered by her niece Lori Dicks, and many friends.

Arrangements in care of MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St., Niagara-on-the-Lake. A service to celebrate the life of Joanne will be held in the spring of 2021. Those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Alzheimers Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



HELP WANTED

GLENLAKE VINEYARDS

requires **Seasonal Farm Workers** for work in vineyards and orchards in rural Niagara-on-the-Lake. **Full Time March to October 2021**, (approx. 50hr/week). Work is outdoors in varied weather conditions, and physical in nature. Jobs include pruning, tying, weeding, thinning, tucking, suckering and harvesting. Prevailing minimum wage rate applies: \$14.25/hr. No experience or education required. **Fax** resume to: **905-935-6704** or **email** to: **office@glenlakevineyards.com**

Forrer Farms Inc. Seasonal FT Workers

Required for grape & tender fruit farm. Must be available full time April to October 2021. Exp. with pruning and general farm labour preferred but not req'd. No education req'd. Must have own transportation, be fit and willing to work long hours as req'd. Duties to include pruning, thinning, hoeing and suckering. **\$14.25 per hour.**
Mail resume C/O Ray, R.R. 6, 1753 Conc. 2, NOTL, ON L0S 1J0
Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

SEASONAL

FULL TIME FARM WORKERS required for fruit farm April-October 2021. No experience or education required. Must be available 7 days/week in all weather conditions. Job entails pruning, thinning, harvesting fruit plus heavy lifting and considerable ladder work. Must have own transportation, minimum wage \$14.25/hr. Please mail resume with references to **K.L. Farms, 100 Wall Rd., R.R. #3 Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0.**
Only qualified persons will be contacted. (no walk ins)

PUMPKINS

WATSON'S Pumpkins

1085 & 644 Conc #7

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from October 15, 2020

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

Across: 1 Pats, 5 Nudge, 9 Rough, 14 Curt, 15 Envy, 16 Annie, 17 Broadside, 19 Leave, 20 Sadder, 21 Related, 23 Ibis, 24 Lift, 25 Future, 28 Rage, 30 A S T, 33 Osama, 34 Tepid, 35 C P I, 36 Rubs, 37 Rosen, 38 Whig, 39 Gall, 40 Fewer, 41 Piece, 42 Ole, 43 Rant, 44 Fender, 45 Chic, 47 Tile, 48 Enlists, 51 On trial, 55 Loons, 56 Louisiana, 58 Let go, 59 Arts, 60 E E O C, 61 Ashen, 62 Mesh, 63 Sane.

Down: 1 P C Bs, 2 Aura, 3 Trod, 4 Stairlums, 5 Nessie, 6 Units, 7 D V D, 8 Eyer, 9 Rallied, 10 Neal, 11 Unattached, 12 Give, 13 Head, 18 Debra, 22 Elgin, 25 Usual, 27 Tabcloth, 28 Rese, 29 Ape, 31 Spice, 32 Tiger, 34 Town, 37 React, 38 Wineries, 40 Frisson, 41 Pelt, 44 Finish, 46 Hinge, 47 Tours, 48 Ella, 49 Noes, 50 Slam, 52 I A E, 53 Aron, 54 Lace, 57 Ore.

Golden Years Guide

WORRY-FREE WINTERS



The Rennie

Seniors Apartments *by Signature*

Independent Seniors Apartments
2 Bedrooms Available | 1000 Sq+ ft Luxury Living | Full Kitchens & In-Suite Laundry
Call today to discover 905 935 1800
584 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 0B2
www.RennieApartments.com





PERFORMANCE MOBILITY & HOME HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

Visit Our Showroom



ADP Authorized • Veteran Affairs • Insurance • Retail, Rental, Repairs



20% off

(options not included)

2 - 5743 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls **Call us today (289) 296-2822**

Manual Wheelchairs | Power Wheelchairs | Bath Safety Equipment
Power Lift Recliners | Equipment Rentals | Walkers | Rollators
Scooters | Hospital Beds | Lifts & Elevating





The Rennie

Seniors Apartments *by Signature*



Worry-Free Winters

Fall is the perfect time to make a move. You can settle in to worry-free winters. Leave the worries about shoveling or home maintenance behind. Enjoy large and spacious accommodations with full kitchens and all five appliances included. Some other great features include in-suite laundry and safety equipped washrooms with step-in showers.

The Rennie Seniors Apartments offers a relaxed and enjoyable lifestyle with the freedom and flexibility of living independently. If you need extra space to host an event or get together, reserve the bright and spacious multi purpose room. If you enjoy exercise, our fitness room is a great way to start your day.

The Rennie Seniors Apartments is located in The North end of St. Catharines. Close to Lakeside Park Beach, Wa-

terfront Trails, Port Dalhousie Pier Marina and Yacht Club. The area offers close highway access and a 20 minute drive to beautiful NOTL and wine country.


Enjoy the convenience of banking, dining or shopping at the plaza next door. You can meet a friend for coffee at the bistros close by or pick up essentials at the drug-store, you can even get your hair and nails done. Port Plaza next door has it all!

Enjoy boutique style living, with spacious two-bedroom suites. New from Signature Retirement Living, The Rennie is all about enjoying life to the fullest, independently!

If you are feeling it is time to make a move, then worry-free living might be the right option for you. Call today to discover more. 905 935 1800.

584 Ontario St., St. Catharines • 905.935.1800 • www.RennieApartments.com

PILATES Emporium



- Essential/Intermediate/Athletic Conditioning Classes
- Private and Physio-Pilates Sessions

Who is Pilates Emporium?
We are a Boutique Pilates Studio offering V2Max Reformer Pilates Programming in Mat, Reformer, Cadillac and Jumpboard for mature clientele ages 35-95. Rehabilitation to athletic conditioning. It all starts at the core.

Private, Physio and Group Classes Available
Private and Physio sessions allow the instructors to focus specifically on your needs and tailors the session for you. Group classes (5-7 clients) organize clients with common goals.

Email us today to book your complimentary postural analysis and consultation!
8 Hiscott Street, Unit 1, St. Catharines | (905) 682-3400
pilatesemporium.com | pilatesemporium@outlook.com

Royal Henley

Retirement Community *by Signature*



HOME Suite HOME

- GOURMET DINING
- WEEKLY HOUSEKEEPING AND FLAT LINEN SERVICES
- A DIVERSE SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES
- IN-SUITE KITCHENETTE WITH FRIDGE & MICROWAVE
- SAFETY-EQUIPPED BATHROOMS
- REGISTERED STAFF 24-HRS
- EMERGENCY CALL BELL SYSTEM
- AND MORE

CALL TODAY TO DISCOVER 905 935 1800
WWW.ROYALHENLEY.COM 582 ONTARIO STREET, ST. CATHARINES, ON