



Farmworker Hub to close this Sunday
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Gary Zalepa, NOTL's next lord mayor, and Erwin Wiens, next deputy lord mayor, met at the Sandtrap after learning Monday's election results. (Dorothy Wiens)

Erwin Wiens chosen deputy lord mayor

Penny Coles
The Local

Erwin Wiens says the thought of being deputy mayor is "really overwhelming."

Wiens said all through his first term on council he would not seek a second term, but was convinced by supporters to run again.

And apparently he has a lot of supporters who have given him the largest number of votes of the eight people chosen to be municipal councillors.

Wiens didn't even knock on doors to get those votes.

"I got a terrific response everywhere I went," he said of candidates' meetings, "and at the end of the day I never made promises I couldn't keep. Residents want stability. They want to know the town is moving forward in a collective manner, and yesterday (Monday) the votes showed that, in my

opinion."

"I didn't knock on a single door for a simple reason," he continued. "My entire campaign team was me and Dorothy. And I also thought it was more important to do my job as a councillor right up to election day and let my record stand for what it is."

Wiens and his wife Dorothy are both open and available, he says, if anyone wants to speak to either of them.

"Also they tell you if you go door to door you can only talk for two or three minutes, but that's not me. I'd knock on my first door and be there for an hour and a half."

Wiens says half of the votes he received were votes for Dorothy.

"Even today she's quilting this morning and then going to Tai Chi. She's involved with everything, everywhere. The

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Zalepa excited to 'work collaboratively for the community'

Penny Coles
The Local

When Gary Zalepa woke up Tuesday morning realizing he will be the next lord mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake, he says it seemed "really kind of surreal."

He didn't get a lot of sleep, unable to turn his mind off after learning he had won the right to take the seat at the head of the council table for the next four years.

"It's very exciting, and also

very humbling," he says.

Zalepa was raised in Niagara-on-the-Lake, has known and looked up to many of the mayors of the past, and has appreciated all they have done for the community, he says.

Taking on that level of responsibility is not something he takes lightly, and is "a little nerve-racking," he admits, but at the same time, he is looking forward to what he views it as a great opportunity to bring those on the next council together to work col-

laboratively for the community, and he is excited to lead that charge.

"This community is very blessed for a number of reasons," says Zalepa. "This is an amazing opportunity for us to come together to work on the issues that are really important to people. It's great to have the chance to do that."

He's also hopeful the next four years will be a time to move forward in a positive manner.

"I definitely want to help

find that collective path forward. It's going to have to start with council and with leadership setting the tone for the community, and that starts by working respectfully for everybody."

Zalepa says he has great respect for the previous council and lord mayor, and all they've done for the community, working tirelessly at a job that isn't easy.

"Elections are about options and choices, not necessarily who was right or

wrong. We need to find a way as a council to listen to all the different voices, to listen effectively and hear where they're coming from, with empathy and understanding. And then we need to make the decision that council feels is best for the community in an open and transparent manner. That's how you move forward to raise the community dialogue."

Asked about the negativity often seen on social media throughout the campaign, he

says, "councillors and leadership need to set the tone and lead by example, and hopefully it will start to spill over and improve the level of discourse."

Social media is complicated, he adds, and people "tend to forget how we publicly engage with people face to face. I'm not sure that can be fixed."

The way to overcome it is to continue to talk and listen to others with respect. "We

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Councillors need to make list of priorities together



Tammy and Gary Zalepa stop by briefly at the community centre before heading to the Sandtrap to celebrate his win, but first he chats with his son Ben, attending university in Waterloo, who called his dad to congratulate him. (Penny Coles)

Continued from page 1

have a special community of people who are very caring and very supportive, and even when talking to those who have different opinions, we can say ‘we appreciate what you’re doing, and thank you for listening.’”

Zalepa has already started to think about and talk to staff about bringing first-time councillors up to speed, and to him that includes consulting with them about how they would like to proceed, and what they think they need.

He would like part of the orientation process to include a strategic planning meeting with councillors to talk about their priorities, “so as a council we can rally and set goals and priorities essential for us to focus our energy on. We don’t have the luxury to do absolutely everything — we need to focus as a group on three or four issues . Their priorities will likely have a common thread — I heard that at candidates’ meetings — but we need to come to-

gether to use that as a guiding star for the next four years.”

If councillors chat and debate their priorities as a group, he says, “then we have a plan we’ve created together, and that’s gong to be important.”

As delighted as he was with the election results, and impressed that NOTL ranks high against other municipalities in the province on voter turn-out, Zalepa said he was surprised to see it was less than 50 per cent, lower than the 58 per cent of 2018.

“We’ll have to take a look at that and see how we can improve,” he says.

When walking on Queen Street Monday, Zalepa ran into a young boy with his mother. In Grade 4 at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, he boy said his class had held a mock election, “and he said he had really enjoyed it. He also said he had voted for me,” Zalepa laughed. “I applaud the teachers for doing that, planting the seeds for their students when they’re young.”

He said he hopes to look

at ways the town can encourage schools and students to become more engaged with the municipality, so kids will be more likely to vote when they’re old enough.

“We see other places in the world where people have their right to vote commandeered by force and threats of violence. It’s a wake-up call here for us to engage as a democracy and be grateful we do have this transitional ability, and not take it for granted.”

On that note, Zalepa said he is grateful for all those who volunteered to help run the election, along with town staff, and for all the work they did at polling stations, making sure votes were tabulated.

“We have a stable process here, and I’m grateful for that.”

To residents, he says, “regardless of who you voted for or who you’ve chosen, there is a common value, and that’s the passion we have in caring for this community. That’s the common thread, that’s our starting point for building the future of this community for our children.”

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Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake 2022 Municipal Election Results		
Name of Candidate	Office	Votes
Gary ZALEPA	Lord Mayor	3,724
Betty DISERO	Lord Mayor	2,586
Vaughn GOETTLER	Lord Mayor	1,268
Name of Candidate	Office	Votes
Andrea KAISER	Regional Councillor	3,100
Paolo MIELE	Regional Councillor	1,709
William A. ROBERTS	Regional Councillor	1,134
Pat DARTE	Regional Councillor	910
Barbara WORTHY	Regional Councillor	187
Name of Candidate	Office	Votes
Erwin WIENS	Councillor	4,978
Gary BURROUGHS	Councillor	4,273
Wendy CHEROPITA	Councillor	3,774
Tim BALASIUK	Councillor	3,742
Sandra O'CONNOR	Councillor	3,391
Nick RULLER	Councillor	3,318
Adriana CATER(VIZZARI)	Councillor	3,152
Maria MAVRIDIS	Councillor	2,897
Allan BISBACK	Councillor	2,831
John William MCCALLUM	Councillor	2,481
Richard MELL	Councillor	2,079
Alistair (AJ) HARLOND	Councillor	1,979
Katherine REID	Councillor	1,645

District School Board of Niagara	
Name of Candidate	Total
Lora CAMPBELL	10,602
Kate BAGGOTT	9,977
Jonathan FAST	7,836
Alex BRADNAM	7,469
Mike BROUSSEAU	6,045
Donald MACDOUGALL	4,741
Rhona LINDO-KELLY	4,308
Kris VRCEK	3,917

Niagara Catholic Distric School Board	
Name of Candidate	Total
Natalia BENOIT	2,948
Larry HUIBERS	2,398
Jolanta PAWLAK	1,991

Deputy lord mayor says he has to up his game

Continued from page 1

reality is if you vote for me you get both of us.”

Wiens says they talk all the time about town issues, and “we’re on the same page. I know what she’s thinking and she knows what I’m thinking. We both want the same thing

for the town. We do things together, working together collaboratively.”

And that is something he is good at. “When you go to the region or province, it’s not all about me, it’s collaborative. I’m just the conduit for information. And if people are upset, they can be upset with me.”

It doesn’t seem like too many people are upset though — two out of three votes cast were for Wiens.

Those votes making him deputy lord mayor changes the nature of his job over the next four years, he says. “I feel 100 per cent that this is a leadership role. The job of the deputy is to

step in when the mayor can’t do something. I’m willing to take whatever direction the mayor gives me. I’ve already spoken to Gary Zalepa and told him I will be there to help him lead. Under his leadership I’ll do what he asks me to do. I’m going to have to step up my game.”

To Wiens, that means

“looking at the job more at the macro level than micro level. I can’t speak for Gary, but we want to work with the region, the province and the other municipalities to make NOTL the best it can be, to work collaboratively to make the region the best it can be.”

He also wants to move

ahead quickly on the tourism strategy, and on legislation that governs irrigation. The region has been working on it, he says, “and I want to strike while the iron is hot.”

But his main task, he adds, will be supporting the lord mayor, “and that’s what I’m going to do as we move forward.”

Voters elected ‘Timmy Bala’ to sit on council

Mike Balsom
The Local

Tim Balasiuk celebrated his election win privately with his wife, Michelle Reynolds, while also celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary Monday night.

The fact that he finished fourth in the race for a council seat with 9.23% of the vote, and led the four newcomers to council in votes, was extremely flattering to the owner and operator of Paddle Niagara.

“I was not expecting to get up that high,” he told The Local Tuesday morning. “But Niagara spoke, and they spoke for me. I am really excited to sit at council and to work with the people that are there.”

Balasiuk said it was about five years ago when both Pat Darte and Betty Disero, at the time Lord Mayor and town councillor respectively, approached him at the supper market to suggest he might have what it takes to contribute to council.

That set him on the path to Monday’s election result. He began to watch council meetings to get a feel for how it all worked. Then, his advocacy for improved access to the town’s dock area led to his appearance on the agenda a couple of times to speak at council.

“That was the first time I really put my heart into it,” Balasiuk said. “The reason why I’m doing this is I love this town. I love the dock area, the waterfront. I really want to be a part of the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake. I had to seize this opportunity to play a role in what happens down the road in the town. I feel somewhat obligated.”

As for his goals for the next four years, Balasiuk says it is important that the historical significance of NOTL is preserved while also making room for business.

“We have to work towards a tourism strategy that will be viable for both residents and business,” insisted Balasiuk. “We have to acknowledge that the historical and cultural significance of Niagara-on-the-Lake is a massive draw, along with the wineries and the restaurants.”

Looking at who will be sitting with him at the council table until 2026, Balasiuk sees a bit of a trend from Monday’s outcome.

“A lot of hometown favourites came out on top,” he said. “I feel a lot of people were voting for the change they wanted to see. I got a lot of great help and

guidance from both Gary (Zalepa) and Betty (Disero) throughout this process. I feel like the townspeople have spoken.”

“I made very clear from the beginning that I was running for Tim Balasiuk to have a seat at council,” he added. “And I’m more than willing and excited to work with whoever else is there.”

When it was suggested that some in town will have a difficult time repeatedly seeing him referred to by his full last name, not the shortened “Bala” version by which many have come to know him, he laughed and suggested no change is actually needed.

“Stick with ‘Bala,’” he said. “I want people to remember that they elected ‘Timmy Bala’ from town. I want people to understand that I’m not changing, I just want to play a part in the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake.”



Tim Balasiuk wants to work for the waterfront and the dock area, areas in town that mean a lot to him. (Photo supplied)

Burroughs still learns by knocking on doors

Penny Coles
The Local

Gary Burroughs loves knocking on doors.

“I go out by myself, and knock on as many doors as I can. I meet so many people I wouldn’t get to know otherwise. That’s the part of the campaign I love.”

And once again it has worked for him — he has run in a municipal election eight times, and eight times he’s won.

He was first elected to Niagara-on-the-Lake town council in 1989, then after a break to concentrate on running a business spent three terms as lord mayor, two terms on regional council — one as chair — and then was elected a town councillor in 2018. And he never stops learning about the community.

“Ten years ago, the issues in Glendale were not what they are now. The biggest issue I heard about is still parking, but it’s not students anymore.”

The problem now is that overnight parking on the street is not allowed on some streets, and many homes have more cars than they can fit in their driveway.

Some have resorted to turning their front lawn into spaces for parking, but the town is trying to put an end to that, he says. “I don’t know what the solution is, but there has to be an answer.”

He has also learned that although the ward issue has been discussed and dismissed ‘five or six times, we’re going to have to look at it again.’

Issues of traffic in St. Davids highlight the need for councillors to fight harder for every resident no matter where they

live, he says.

“We need to better represent every community. I’m not predicting the outcome of a ward discussion, I’m just saying council has to do better as a whole.”

He likes the idea of holding a meeting of council in each village, so councillors can listen as a group, “where we can say we’re here to listen and learn.” He plans to ask if that is a possibility, given legislation that dictates what constitutes a legal meeting of council.

He also wants the town to begin having discussions with the province, making it known that NOTL is not in favour of any amalgamation with neighbouring municipalities. “We’re very different from Niagara Falls and Fort Erie, we’re not even close. We need to be separate.”

Burroughs says he’s excited

about the new council, with a good mix of experienced people and some younger candidates who might not bring experience to the council table, but who are energetic and enthusiastic.

It will be a learning curve, “with the large amount of homework they give us,” he says, referring to staff reports. There is a lot to read and understand, but with CAO Marnie Cluckie at the helm, “she’ll bring everyone along. We have an exciting future for the town and I’m really looking forward to being part of it.”

He also hopes the town will hire more staff, such as at least one engineer, “so we don’t have to keep paying for consultants for everything. We need the best we can afford so we can start making our own decisions.”



Gary Burroughs was at the community centre Monday night with his daughters Josie and Alex, and his wife Sarah. (Penny Coles)

Cater-Vizzari will fight for pool, and against roundabout

Mike Balsom
The Local

Altogether, Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a mayor, eight councillors and a regional councillor, has 10 political positions. For the next term, half of those positions will be filled by women, and Adrian Cater-Vizzari is excited about that statistic.

“It’s big, it’s really big,” says Cater-Vizzari, “I feel so proud of our town for (those results). We need representation from all walks of life. We can’t have the same demographic representing the town all the time. We need change. A balance needs to

be had, and I know the benefits will outweigh the challenges.”

Going back to her days growing up in Thorold, when her father Tony served on council there, she remembers a watermark election in her mind 22 years ago.

“I remember being a kid, when Robin Davidson was elected,” she marvels. “It was massive. This woman was going to be the mayor of Thorold. I was just in awe that people voted in a woman.”

Carter-Vizzari was inspired by Davidson and even more so by her father to give back to the community. She remembers

growing up in Thorold, where the arenas were the place where the community often gathered. And she watched with interest as her father was a part of making the decisions that brought that community together.

Cater-Vizzari watched the results of Monday’s election at the St. Davids home she shares with her husband and their four children. They were joined by her five siblings and some close friends. In the top eight right from the start, she says she took nothing for granted,

“I had a lot of conversations with people who told me a lot of people don’t get in on their first

shot,” she says. “So I was a little shocked that I was up there.”

The potential future for St. Davids is what motivated her to put her name on the ballot. She is interested in preserving the village feel of her home district.

“I went with what my heart said, representing St. Davids,” she says. “Things were happening and we weren’t being consulted. It wasn’t what the residents wanted. I just hoped that all that resonated with enough people to motivate them to vote. I think people even outside of St. Davids understood that message.”

Like many, she is worried that the roundabout at the cor-

ner of York and Four Mile Creek Roads as proposed by the region will drastically alter the community spirit and feel of the village, and vows that she will fight to have its citizens’ voices heard.

Over the past month or so while running her campaign, she says she has really enjoyed getting to know the other candidates who were running for office.

“It’s been so humbling to see how much love all these people have for the community,” she says. “They were doing it because they wanted to contribute, they wanted to be a part of the future. Everyone who ran, the similarity between all of us is

that everyone loves NOTL and everyone wants to contribute.”

As she moves into her new role in town, she says she wants to see more resident engagement on issues.

“I am approachable,” she says. “I hope to figure out how we can have more face-to-face engagement and better engagement digitally, too. And I think we can do better on amenities for youth. I’m also a huge advocate for the St. Davids pool and I hope to get the town going on making the pool AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) compliant by 2025.”

Disero taking election loss in stride

Mike Balsom
The Local

With scrutineers manning each of the town's polling stations Monday night, Betty Disero knew what the results would be from her first communication with her team.

"All I kept thinking last night," Disero told The Local Tuesday, "is politics is an unsure thing. Nobody is guaranteed a re-election, and it is what it is, really. The town, I guess, decided that they wanted someone new. We've been through four very difficult years, and I think they just decided they wanted a change, a new fresh beginning."

At around 8:30 p.m., once she had met with her supporters to thank them for their help with her campaign, she went home, had a short sleep, then woke up at 3:30 a.m. to begin collecting her signs from lawns in the Old Town. Her team was continuing the task Tuesday morning.

The last 12 weeks marked

the ninth election campaign run by Disero. It also marked her very first election loss.

Her career in politics began with her winning a seat as a trustee for the Toronto Catholic District School Board in 1982. Three years later she was elected to Toronto city council and served there until she resigned from her position in March, 2003.

"I've always acknowledged that nothing is a sure thing," she said about finishing behind Gary Zalepa Monday. "You put your best foot forward. You try to tell people what you want to do, what you've done, why they should support you. You let them know how much you care for the community. But nothing is a sure thing. And after going through COVID, I can't blame people for wanting something new."

As some in the community may have demonstrated a lack of decorum during the final weeks of campaigning, the outgoing lord mayor feels the pandemic may have played a bit of

a role in the anger. But she also acknowledges some may not have agreed with some of the decisions she and council made in the past four years, positing the Randwood Estate conflict as an example.

And Disero spoke wistfully about not having the opportunity to see some of the work the current council started come to fruition.

"I'm sorry I am going to miss (being the mayor during) things like the reconstruction of Highway 55," she lamented. "Virgil will be so beautiful after that construction is done. And I'm going to miss the start of the hovercraft. Things that I worked on so hard to try to get for Niagara-on-the-Lake. Maybe I should have told more people what I had been working on."

She also takes pride, too, in a number of accomplishments made by council during her term.

"The biggest thing for me is being able to shift densities to preserve some of the heritage

areas," she claimed. "Another thing is putting an end to the debate about a man-made ditch versus a watershed for our agricultural community. And working with the region to maintain our Greenbelt, and not have to adjust or move any of those boundaries."

She continued, "The MAT (municipal accommodation tax) is on that list as well. We'll now have another revenue stream for bike lanes and things like that. Also, getting the budget to where we can now approve a zero-based budget, and we'd be one of the first municipalities in the province if the new council continues on that road. And I'm hopeful the new council will approve my motion to sell two pieces of benign land we own to use that money to help fund the St. Davids pool."

Disero believes the overwhelming majority of residents want NOTL to remain a quaint, historic town. The conflicts, she said, have arisen from people holding different ideas as to how

that will happen.

She added that she and Sandra O'Connor worked to get development charges dropped at the regional level so the farming community could free up more funds to build sufficient housing for their workers.

"But I guess the majority of the farming community decided that what I did over the past four years wasn't good enough," she lamented. "I don't know that I could have done more to assist them. I think people are just generally angry right now."

She continues to hold out hope the new council will be able to complete the official plan, and that such a plan will include policies such as contextual zoning to protect the town's heritage areas.

Though she won't be joining them in the council chamber, Disero said she is thrilled that newcomers Maria Mavridis, Nick Ruller, Adriana Cater-Vizzari and Tim Balasiuk will be having input on decisions.

And as that new council gets

set to take over, Disero promised she will not be hovering over their every move.

"Having gone through four years of the previous mayor and his supporters criticizing me every step of the way," she said, "I would not do that to the new lord mayor. While I will be watching, because I am a resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, it will not be productive for me to be criticizing. It's really important for the whole town to unite behind the Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa."

Disero says she moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake almost 14 years ago to retire. To that end, she doesn't currently have any plans to re-enter the political spectrum.

"I haven't even thought about that yet," she said. "I'm too busy getting out there collecting signs. But Niagara-on-the-Lake is my home. My mom lives here, Dan (Williams, her husband) has a business here. Dan's son lives here. I'm not going anywhere."

Cheropita thrilled with third place finish

Mike Balsom
The Local

In 2018, Wendy Cheropita earned 3,144 votes in her run for town council, placing her fifth among the 25 candidates. The 3,774 votes she captured in Monday's election put her in third place for her second run behind only Erwin Wiens and Gary Burroughs.

"I am beyond honoured and I'm humbled that the residents put their confidence in me to this degree," she told The Local Tuesday morning. "To think I am third behind

residents like Erwin and Gary, I am just thrilled. It gives me great pride and confidence in the residents that they wanted good, authentic governance."

Cheropita sees the overall makeup of Niagara-on-the-Lake's next council as a good combination of newcomers, younger people, entrepreneurs and experienced councillors.

"It's a really good cross-section of experiences and backgrounds," she said. "I think this is going to be a very dynamic four years."

Cheropita added that there was a lot of negativity, bullying

and misinformation aimed at her, Wiens and Burroughs in the recent past. She feels the mandate given to this next council is for better, responsible governance and responsible management of the town's finances. At the doors, she said, she heard from residents that they wanted council to tackle the "big things."

Top of the list is to get planning policies in place. "We've had an incredible number of legal disputes from various developers and individuals," Cheropita said. "Many of them could have been fixed by changing policies first and approving them, and then having an opportunity to look at the community and figure out what we need to have built and where."

She is concerned that the town doesn't have enough residences for seniors. She'd like to see more rental apartments and condominiums that will ac-

commodate NOTL's aging seniors as they move out of their larger homes. At the same time, she acknowledged the need for more housing for those raising their families.

"There's an opportunity to think bigger," she added, "and to maybe influence developers. If we have a vision we can talk to the developers about building the things the community needs. It's a different, more collaborative approach. A more positive approach."

With the pandemic hopefully in the rearview mirror, she is hoping to focus on getting things done that were pushed to the side since March, 2020.

"We have to make sure we get the master transportation plan done properly," she said. "We have to build a strong relationship with the region so the residents have a say in things. Let's get the tourism strategy done so that we actually have

a plan that will give us a balance of tourism and still have a wonderful place to live. And we need to look at the long-term financial stability of the town."

Cheropita suggested that the new council needs to build a stronger relationship with the province in order to tap into some of the larger infrastructure funding dollars that other municipalities have been able to access. She called for an economic impact study of NOTL's tourism on the province as a whole.

"That could show us how much our tourism benefits the

province," she said. "I'm sure it's somewhere in the range of \$1 or \$2 billion. Then we could use that to ask for support for investment in our aging infrastructure."

And Cheropita is looking forward to working with the next lord mayor.

"Gary will be a wonderful leader," she said. "He'll be great to work with because he's a team player, he's collaborative. He's talked about leadership in the way of empowering people, making sure every councillor has a voice. All those things that make people at their very best."



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WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

Niagara-on-the-Lake Calendar of Events



Erwin Wiens, Wendy Cheropita and Adriana Carter-Vizzari will all be at the council table. (Photo supplied)

General Nelles Branch 124 Poppy Trust Fund Report	
October 01 2021 to October 01 2022	
Balance in Branch Poppy Trust Funds as of October 01, 2021	\$ 41,584.15
Income from Campaign & all other Sources	\$ 24,165.25
Campaign Expenses & Youth Education Program	\$ 40.19
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Balance as of September 30 2022	\$34,280.22



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EDITORIAL

Let's hope for respectful collaboration moving forward

The election is over, we know who will be sitting on municipal and regional council, and who will represent the town at both school boards.

Not everyone will be happy with the choices the majority of voters made, but this is a democracy, which we should respect and cherish.

There were a couple of hiccups. We heard from unhappy residents that they had voted for candidates who had withdrawn, and they were wondering why the town couldn't do more to notify them.

Unfortunately when candidates withdraw after a certain deadline, ballots are printed and their names remain. The town says it can't post signs or do anything to notify voters at the polls that certain candidates have withdrawn.

However, MPP Wayne Gates' office did a bit of research for us that showed the City of Dryden said it would issue reminders of the status of a candidate withdrawing her nomination after the deadline throughout the campaign period, and at voting places up until 8 p.m. election day.

Not sure whether NOTL could have done that, but it seems maybe the province needs to have a look at current legislation. Nobody wants to think their vote has been wasted.

The good news is that although the two candidates who withdrew from the regional council contest did receive some votes, together they were not enough to impact the outcome of the election.

We also learned that although the town does its best to remove voters who have passed away or moved from the voters list, the province doesn't do a good job of keeping up with that information, and so they may remain registered voters. While it seems the numbers are high enough to skew some results, such as voter turnout percentage, CAO Marnie Cluckie says with the number of newcomers added to the list, it all evens out.

To the election itself, while some may be disappointed with certain outcomes, once the new council begins meeting Nov. 22, we hope everyone will get along, work collectively, as so many say they wish to, treat each other with respect, and make the next four years productive.

We're sorry there have to be great candidates who did not win a seat, but thanks to all of you for putting yourself out there for your community.

To Betty Disero and Allan Bisback who, despite putting their hearts and souls into doing what they thought was best for the town for the last four did not keep their seats, thank you for your passion and your commitment. We hope you will continue your involvement in the community in other ways.

Penny Coles
The Local

Teen hopes to play pickleball over the winter

Ben Foster
Special to The Local

Pickleball is a really popular sport for people living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, for all ages.

As most residents know by now, there were outside pickleball courts in the Virgil sports park, but since these courts were shut down due to a noise complaint the availability of playing pickleball, especially for people under 18 and outside of school and working hours, has become difficult.

Tracy Booth, the president of the NOTL Pickleball Club, said the club has 280 members. The cost is \$5 for a two-hour session, and the club is able to offer more than 20 drop-in sessions for various level players, including evening and weekend sessions.

There is a lot of interest in the club, so much so Booth intends to ask her pickleball club board members about accepting youth members.

Booth took the time to answer some questions put to her about the pickleball club at the former Virgil School, where members are playing this winter.

When asked about under 18s playing with a family club member, Booth said the board would need to determine what and who is covered under their existing insurance policy, and what more might need to be done if the club decides to allow for younger members.

Booth said she would also look into costs for under 18s. Presently, members pay about \$50 to join, half of which goes to PB Canada/Ontario, and the other half to the NOTL Pickleball Club.

Asked what can we do so that young people have a place to play, she said, "Very good question. Firstly, free public courts. I hope this is an important issue for the town. Additionally, as part of the town's parks and recreations department, perhaps they could offer youth pickleball (or partner with our club). It would then be covered under the town's insurance and they would be responsible for hiring supervisors that would be qualified.)"

Also, she added, "free public courts is an important issue for the town to consider."

Booth says there is also the community centre offering pickleball to their members, so questions about availability for the under 18s and families need to be asked separately.

Dan Maksenuk, recreation supervisor at the Community Centre, says courts can be booked for under 18s. Depending on the availability of lanes anyone can book up to three courts.

If you would like to book a court at the community centre then you can visit bookings@notl.com or call 905-468-4386.

Hopefully the sport of pickleball can be made more accessible to community members living in NOTL regardless of age, with more work- and school-friendly hours.

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View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Mrs. *'arris Goes to Paris* (Prime, 2022) is a fairy tale about a widowed cleaning lady who falls in love with a Dior gown and must have one for herself. All the elements of fantasy are there, including a Prince Charming, but then it is the creation of a master story teller, Paul Gallico. Please see it. I promise you will love it.

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.



The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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COMMENT

Local LETTERS Can't Queen St. be better managed?

In response to your article about the NOTL Chamber of Commerce (The Local, Oct. 7), while I agree with Ms. Ward that residents need tourism to help draw and sustain the winery experience, pointing to the residents' use of local businesses during the pandemic as a measure of their support is misleading.

First of all, the mix of stores on Queen Street cater mainly to the needs of tourists, not residents. How many ice cream, candy and souvenir stores do residents need? Residents have to drive out of the community to St. Catharines or Niagara Falls to shop for most of their needs.

Secondly, measuring

resident usage during the COVID lockdown is very misleading because everyone significantly reduced their discretionary shopping during that period to avoid exposure. Ms. Ward's statement does apply to restaurants. Locals used the restaurants for takeout, only if they were still open and reasonably good value, and

visitors are also needed to drive enough traffic.

I worry that the chamber thinks it's their mission to support all existing businesses just because they exist, but if they don't provide a net benefit to the community it doesn't mean we should support them, and therein lies the problem.

Why can't we manage

Queen Street the same way shopping centres are managed, with a target mix of retailers, one that appeals to residents as well as tourists? It's time to pass bylaws to ensure that we get the right mix, and then you would see residents gladly saving time by shopping locally. There is a huge amount of traffic that goes outside the communi-

ty that could be recaptured with the right type of retail.

Let's not forget that it is the chamber's mission to support and grow local businesses, so why do we now have a Dairy Queen on the main street? Another ice cream store. Just what we need.

Jackie Bonic
NOTL

Local LETTERS Resident objects to story about tree-cutting without a permit

I am astonished by the fact that two dead trees being cut down warrants one half-page of your paper's front page news (The Local, Oct 19). I can't help but

wonder if they had been on any other property other than any property owned by either Rainer Hummel or Benny Marotta if anyone would have cared. Would it

have even made the paper at all?

Surely a week before a municipal election there must have been something more newsworthy. There

is an article on page 21 announcing that the NOTL Museum is hosting Doors Open NOTL. I'm sure that promoting this event would have been more interesting

and a benefit to all those who have put the event together.

Shame on you for just stirring the pot of vitriol. There is enough polarizing in this town without

making a couple of dead trees being cut down a major town issue.

Michele Guglielmi
NOTL

Help grieve loss of pet with art program

Mike Balsom
The Local

The sense of grief one feels upon the loss of a beloved pet can be debilitating.

Our own family recently suffered the unexpected loss of Cocoa, our beloved Portuguese water dog. Just a month short of her 11th birthday, we had to make the extremely difficult decision to say farewell to our furry family member who gave the four of us so much joy for so many years.

Bonnie Bagnulo of Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service (CPCS) recognizes the importance our pets play in our lives.

"Pet loss is a whole other level," Bagnulo says. "And sometimes even more so, because they are with us 24/7. As everybody says, they are like our little fur babies. They are part of you, an extension of your family and your family members."

Bagnulo knows personally the pain of losing a pet. An image of her family cat, smuggled into the house by her daughter when she was 10 years old, appears on the flyers promoting the session posted around town, along with Rupert, who was a member of the family of one of CPCS' board members.

"We called her Secret Kitty, just Kitty for short," she says of the cat who lived with the family for 18 years. "We were

never supposed to have a cat. She brought her home and we kept her a secret from my husband until one day, about two months later, he spotted her and finally caved in."

It was a similar story in the Balsom household with Cocoa, minus the subterfuge.

My wife and two children, now 22 and 19 years old, worked on me for years trying to convince me that a dog was right for the family. I repeatedly resisted, standing my ground while my wife researched dog breeds to find the perfect fit.

She discovered Cocoa, already named, by the way, in a litter of 10 from a breeder in Orillia. We drove up to meet our potential sixth family member (we already had a cat named Kucha) and there was no turning back once the kids had picked her out.

It took a while for Cocoa to grow on me. Those sleepless nights during crate training didn't help. And at first I dreaded meeting other dog walkers who would stop and ask questions about her. I didn't want to be a part of this canine-loving cult that I suddenly realized was regularly lurking on the streets of the Old Town.

But Cocoa grew on me, and became a faithful companion. She greeted me each and every day at the door when I would return home from work, happy to see me. And she would greet

me with just as much enthusiasm when I would walk in after retrieving something from my car, having been gone for less than 10 seconds.

And I started enjoying those brief on-street interludes with other dog lovers.

We didn't know Cocoa had cancer until a week or so after she started limping. Our veterinarian at St. David's Veterinary Clinic showed us the X-ray, and we were devastated.

We took her home that day, prepared and served her one final "pup-uccino" and took her to Ball's Beach for her final swim. Then my wife and I took her back to the clinic for our final tearful moments with her.

There's a hole in my heart, in all of our hearts, that is still waiting to heal. And I still see her loving face in those spaces where she would often spend her time; in her dog bed upstairs, under the ginkgo tree in the backyard, on the couch that we all agreed almost 11 years ago she would never be allowed to sit on.

Understanding the hurt that many of us feel upon the loss of a dog, cat or other pet, CPCS is offering the first of many pet loss art workshops at their boardroom in the old NOTL hospital on Wellington Street next Thursday evening.

Participants will be supported by three facilitators, who will lead them through an art project that will leave them with something meaningful and tangible that they can take home as a memorial to their pet.

"There's a lot of open-ended questions, so the group can talk and share stories about the pets they have lost," Bagnulo explains. "We're hoping that it will bring a lot of peer support to them, helping them to validate and witness their grief and bereavement."

She adds that the art projects will be chosen by the participants, who will be presented with supplies including clay, paint, papier-mâché, and markers. What they produce and how they produce it will be up to each individual participant. "They are asked to select whatever speaks to them," Bagnulo adds. "Then, they go through the art program with the facilitators who lead them toward building the project."

The program was developed with the help of a university student who worked with CPCS' volunteer coordinator over eight weeks. "Our facilitators have all been trained to deliver the program," Bagnulo says. "Though this is the first time we've offered it to the public. They did do it once with our volunteers. Everybody that went through it thought it was just amazing."

Bagnulo remembers that group being very engaged. Sure, some of them shed a few

tears. But for the most part it turned out to be a celebration of the lives of the pets as people shared great stories about them and what they brought into their lives.

"They live in our hearts," she says. "No one can ever take away our memories."

Bagnulo adds that CPCS plans to offer the program about four times a year. "People lose their animals all the time,

not just once a year," she says. "We do bereavement with our clients all year, why not do this too? We want to have a program that helps people who lose their animals."

As with all services offered by palliative care, the pet loss art workshop is free of charge. The session is on Thursday, Nov. 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 905-468-4433 or email notlpc@bellnet.ca to register.



Mike Balsom with Cocoa during COVID, when he was preparing a funny video to inspire his students "to hang in there. I was showing them even though I wasn't able to teach my business class in person, I was still forcing my dog Cocoa to sit through some of my in-person lessons." (Photo supplied)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Information Centre Glendale Secondary Plan Update

Overview

Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake are working together to prepare an update to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Glendale Secondary Plan.

A Secondary Plan is a land use plan for a particular area, which includes detailed policies guiding future development. The Glendale Secondary Plan, which was originally approved by Town-of-Niagara-on-the-Lake Council in 2010, applies to the area surrounded by Queenston Road, Concession 7 Road, the Niagara Escarpment and Homer Road in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The purpose of the update to the Glendale Secondary Plan will be to review and revise the existing policies for this area so that they align with the Glendale District Plan, which was endorsed by Niagara Region and Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council in 2020. In support of this work, technical studies, including a natural heritage/subwatershed study, transportation assessment, infrastructure analysis, commercial/employment lands study, and financial impact assessment are currently being undertaken to assess and refine the concept plan for the Glendale area that was prepared through the District Plan process. The final outcome of the project will be an amendment to the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Official Plan that will contain detailed policies and guidelines for future development in the area.

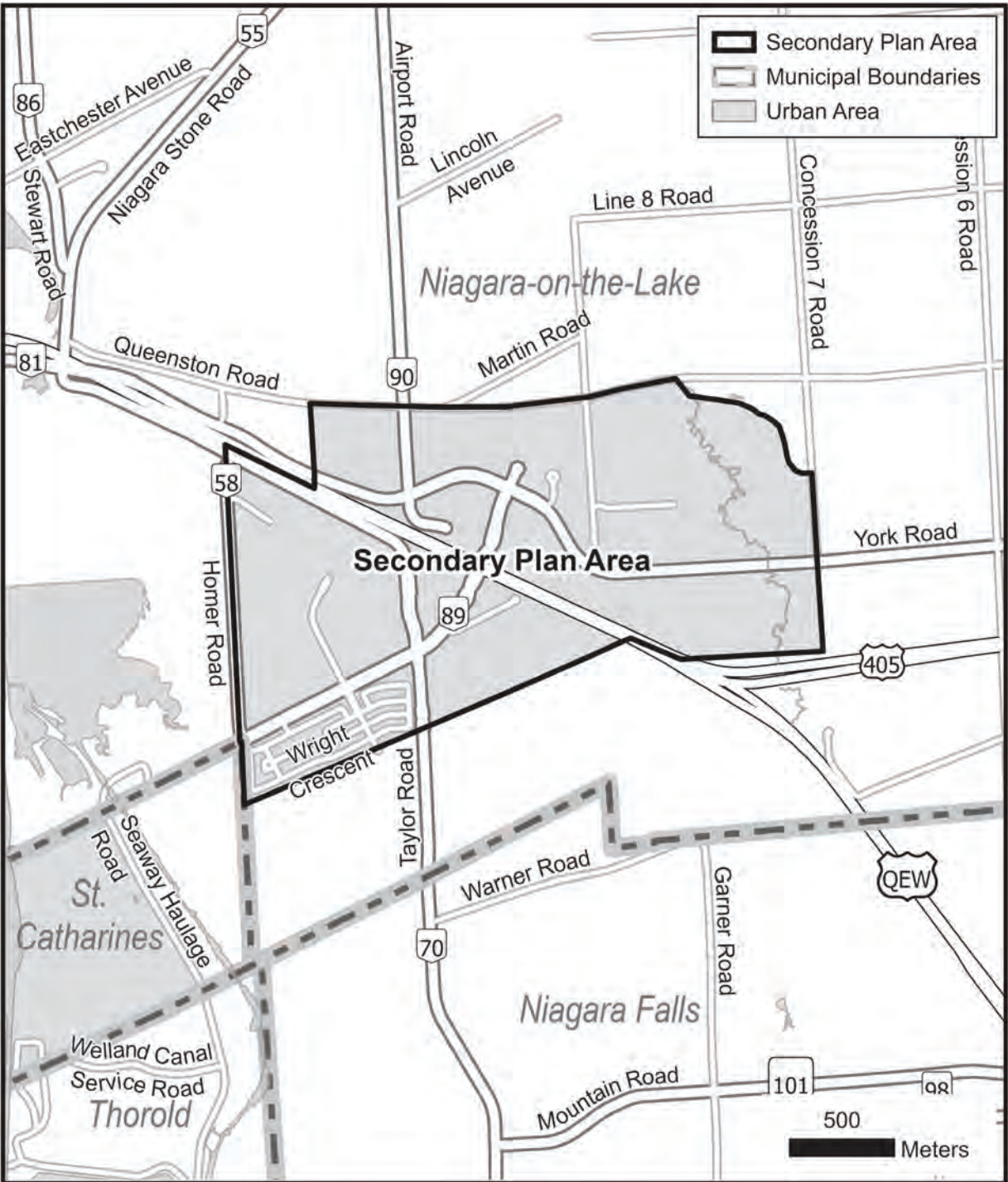
Purpose

The purpose of the Public Information Centre will be to introduce the Glendale Secondary Plan Update and share an overview of the work completed to date, as well as what the next steps in the project will be.

The Public Information Centre will be an opportunity to ask questions of the project team, and to identify opportunities or issues that should be considered as the project moves forward.

Public Information Centre Date and Location

Monday November 7, 2022
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Hilton Garden Inn, Garden View B
500 York Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake



More Information

For more information about the project, timeline and background, please visit niagararegion.ca/projects/glendale-secondary-plan-update, or contact:

Niagara Region
Amy Shanks
Senior Planner
905-980-6000 ext. 3532
amy.shanks@niagararegion.ca

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Kirsten McCauley
Director of Community and Development Services
905-468-3266 ext. 243
kirsten.mccauley@notl.com

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

Mavridis thrilled to be one of four women on council

Mike Balsom
The Local

Newly elected Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor Maria Mavridis is looking forward to getting down to brass tacks with the new session of council next month. “I am so happy with everyone that got in,” she says. “I’ve had great relationships with all of them. I think we have a great team moving forward.” A bit exhausted after campaigning for the position, she gives her friends, family and supporters a lot of credit for their help. “I couldn’t have done it

without them,” she says of her campaign team. “You can’t get anywhere on your own. And we have an amazing community. People were reaching out to me offering to help. It was an amazing experience getting to know all the residents, too.” She began Monday night at Corks, the Queen Street restaurant she runs with her family. As results were coming in, she popped over to the NOTL Community Centre. But when the town website crashed, she headed back to the restaurant to calm herself down. “I just needed to be with my

family,” she says. “About 10 minutes after Betty (Disero) arrived to announce that she had lost, we got the final results. That’s when I saw that I had slid right in there for the win.” She admits it was disheartening to discover Disero would not be returning as lord mayor. “I’ve seen her put so much into this community,” says Mavridis. “I’ve witnessed her late at night answering her phone, responding to emails. She put a lot of heart into her four years. It was hard to see, but that’s democracy, I guess.” Mavridis doesn’t agree with those who say the current council

has been divided. “I watched every meeting,” she tells The Local. “It wasn’t just council that was divided. I think it was mostly frustration for two years during COVID. Everyone was trying to deal with it in their own personal life, and they had an entire community to worry about. I’ve seen them all get along outside of the chamber.” She’s also thrilled to be among the four women who make up half of the councillors elected or re-elected Monday. “Isn’t that amazing,” Mavridis marvels. “I’ve worked with Wendy (Cheropita) on all sorts of

stuff. I’ve gotten to know Sandra (O’Connor) through the campaign process. She was great at explaining things and guid-

ing me on stuff. And Adriana (Carter-Vizzari) is a rock star. It’s going to a nice level of representation on council.”



Maria Mavridis and Nick Ruller, both elected to the next term of council, relax at Cork’s Monday night. (Penny Coles)

Ruller accustomed to taking team approach

Mike Balsom
The Local

Nick Ruller, who captured 8.18% of the votes for councillor to finish sixth in the race Monday, believes he brings a unique perspective to his new role when compared with the other seven Niagara-on-the-Lake councillors. The town’s former fire chief, who resigned on Feb. 28 to become platoon chief in the city of Brampton, says his experience as a former town staff member will

be an advantage as a councillor. “I’ve been on that side of the council chambers,” he told The Local. “It gives you that understanding of where the staff side is coming from and what their objective is. It should serve to make me that much more effective.” It also arms Ruller with a deeper understanding of how the town works division by division. “When I was in senior management as chief,” explained Ruller, “I always took a real team

approach to the issues at hand regardless of whether they were fire-related or not. There’s definitely an opportunity to grow and develop on that knowledge, but I’m pretty comfortable about how things work.” Though there have been some concerns about high staff turnover in town in recent years, Ruller doesn’t feel there is cause for alarm on that front. “A lot of people re-evaluated their employment during COVID,” he said. “Some that

were eligible to retire were ready to go after a couple of years slugging through the pandemic from a work perspective. I’ve heard people discuss the turnover, and of course we want to retain high performers. But I don’t think it paints a dire picture of the overall climate there.” Like others who were elected, Ruller feels the makeup of the new council provides a good balance of incumbents and new councillors. With four returning to their seats ready to mentor the

newcomers, he thinks they will be able to get to work on things quite quickly. Ruller knows, too, that the first little while the new council will be implementing items left behind by the current cohort, including the new short-term rental recommendations. “We have the recommendations,” he said, “and really, my desire for this term of council is to take action on them and other items. I like having plans and I like having a clear direction.”

Of campaigning for council, he says he thought long and hard about running, and didn’t realize how vulnerable he would feel while fighting to get elected. “You throw yourself out there,” Ruller says. “You say to your entire municipality ‘here’s who I am, this is what I bring to the table.’ Then they essentially make a decision as to whether or not you are worthwhile to invest in. And in a real public forum. It’s a really vulnerable position to be in.”

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Ravine steeped in historical, architectural, cultural significance

Penny Coles
The Local

Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery is on land that now goes back six generations, to current winery CEO Paul Harber's great-great grandfather, David Jackson Lowrey, who established a family farm on the property in 1867.

Ravine and the significant role it plays not only as a winery in St. Davids but the family history in farming, the canning factory and other local businesses, was part of Niagara's Doors Open event, one of a dozen sites that share historical, architectural, or cultural significant qualities.

Ravine has all three, in abundance, and drew a good crowd of people interested in its heritage and its hourly tours Saturday, held outside between two historic buildings that make up the streetscape of the winery, used for tastings, retail sales, and a small restaurant overlooking the rolling hills of vineyards.

The heritage tourism initiative is led by the Ontario Heritage Trust, each year attracting visitors to communities across Ontario by opening local sites of interest for free public tours.

Tour guide Rita Krasovec-Mines, who typically works in retail sales, led the tours, pointing out the two historic buildings to the 20 or so people who joined most of the tours.

A resident of St. Davids herself, Krasovec-Mines is enthusiastic about the winery and its history. "We're so lucky to have this here, an oasis in the middle of St Davids," she says, noting that it could have instead been a subdivision if it weren't for the Harber family's interest in preserving it as farmland.

"This is a family affair here," she says of the generations on the property.

She tells the story about the House of Nations, the white storey and a half building now used for retail sales and tastings. It was built by

David Secord "yes, a relative of Laura Secord," she tells visitors, in 1802 on the corner of what is now Four Mile Creek and Warner Road, burned by the Americans as they fled St. Davids after the War of 1812, and rebuilt by the Woodruff family, in 1817, with an addition to the front of the house that included a kitchen and parlour, incorporating an original fireplace — surrounded by cannonballs found on the property — and the chimney.

Although it's officially called the Woodruff House, it became known locally as the House of Nations when it was converted to apartments, and people who came to town to settle stayed there.

In 1969, the house "was in a little bit of disarray," she said, and was sold to a man who took it apart piece by piece, numbering them so he could rebuild in the Caledon area. However he passed away before that could happen, it was sold, and although it was moved around a bit, Norma and Blair Harber tracked it down in Port Hope, and were eventually able to convince its then-owner to sell it, promising it would be restored back where it belonged, in St. Davids.

"It's one of the 50 most historic homes in Canada," said the tour guide, "because of its Georgian/Loyalist architecture."

The owner who sold it to the Harbers came to St. Davids to help assemble it, she said.

"It was meant to be. After travelling around Ontario, it was meant to be back in St. Davids."

She also mentioned the Woodburne Inn, although not a part of Ravine, still an interesting historic building to be viewed on Four Mile Creek Road, "related to the other Woodruff houses because they stayed in the family for five generations."

The small restaurant is located in The Packing Shed, the original built in 1920 and

located on York Road. It was moved to the winery property to be part of the Harbers' plans for the site, but was torched by an arsonist in 2007. The shed was reconstructed, with a small restaurant in the front, overlooking the vineyards.

While many of the visitors to Ravine enjoyed a cider or a glass of wine, the visitors to Clare's Harley-Davidson Niagara, another historic building on Doors Open tour, were presented with a tour that was more of a mixed bag, with tour guide Lisa Tach welcoming people at what is now the front door — but wasn't always.

Of course before visitors reach the parking lot, they will see the large water tower in Harley-Davidson orange and black. When Randy Clare bought the York Road property, he wanted a location close to Toronto, the border and to Niagara Falls, where it would be visible from the highway.

That's what they got when in 2008 Clare, known to be interested in preserving history, turned the former warehouse distribution centre of Christian music into a motorcycle dealership.

As Tache pointed out, what is now the front of the building, with large glass doors, was once a brick wall. Clare brought the brick and wood inside to create a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. "Some people might find a Harley-Davidson outlet a little intimidating," she said. "They've done everything they can to make this a warm and welcoming place for everyone. And they've brought the outside to the inside, making for a real wow factor."

As she leads visitors along the length of the building, on the office side she points out what used to be the front door, now used by staff, and the walls of the hallway now repurposed with original wood, salvaged vintage doors and windows, and a marble counter in the ladies' washroom that was once a fixture in the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara on the Lake.

But the pride of Randy Clare is the reconstruction of the Diana Sweets Diner, a landmark in downtown St. Catharines for 75 years before it closed in 1996, explained Tache.

"This is where the magic is," at the back of the motorcycle showroom where Diana Sweets has been recreated. still a working coffee shop with the original numbered booths, decor, and even graffiti from customers of years ago.

Step up to the counter for a cup of coffee, take a seat in an rich wood booth, and enjoy the surroundings — whether you intend to buy a motorcycle or any one of the other products available, including gifts for dogs, from collars to carriers for the back of a bike — or just to enjoy the preservation of an iconic building, they are both available in one place on York Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Clare's tour guide Lisa Tache shows off reclaimed doors from the York Road building when it was a Christian music distributor. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Clare's tour guide Lisa Tache shows off reclaimed doors from the York Road building when it was a Christian music distributor. (Penny Coles)



The 75-year-old iconic Diana Sweets in St. Catharines has been rebuilt as a coffee shop at the back of Clare's Harley-Davidson.



Motorcycle mechanic Dylan Hinton grabs a coffee at the historic Diana Sweets rebuilt inside Clare's Harley-Davidson on York Road.

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REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS

O'Connor confident work on council earned her second term

Mike Balsom
The Local

When Stuart McCormack resigned from Niagara-on-the-Lake council on July 1, 2020, Sandra O'Connor hesitated just a bit before accepting the offer to fill his position as the ninth-place finisher in the 2018 municipal election.

"It came out of the blue," she told The Local Tuesday night after attending a climate change seminar at the NOTL Public Library. "The actual approval had to go through council, and they had to check with me first. I thought, 'this is what I always wanted to do, to give back to the community as a councillor.' So I went for it."

It was a natural progression for the Laura Secord Secondary School graduate, who had

strongly advocated to council previously for the addition of a nurse practitioner and extended health care facilities. She also sat as a citizen on the town's finance committee and contributed to the agriculture committee.

The first thing she did once she indeed decided to fill McCormack's vacated seat was to watch the prior six months of committee of the whole and council meetings. She also read all the meeting minutes in an effort to prepare for her role in the chamber.

Her two-plus years on council have given her a chance to prove what she could do on a number of issues. That was important for O'Connor, who suspects she is often mistaken for a one-issue person, that issue being the environment.

"We can have growth while

also considering the environment," said O'Connor. "The governor of the Bank of Canada said the economy and the environment are indivisible. They have to be considered together. I think there is a place for both."

O'Connor admits that she looks through an environmental lens at everything that comes up at council. Sometimes that takes a little bit of finesse.

"What I have to do is lay out my logic," she said, "and explain where I'm coming from and what my objective is to the rest of council. They're not always as familiar with environmental considerations as I am. Having to present my case is important to do and can be a bit of a challenge."

O'Connor was also instrumental before her appointment in pushing for the town's tree by-

law, which covers trees on private as well as municipal property. She's proud that NOTL is the first community in Niagara to have such a bylaw on the books.

She finished fifth in the voting this year, a bump of four places, and is quite confident that her work since July, 2020 is what earned her the confidence of the voters Monday. She's ready to transition to begin working with the new council the next four years.

"It's going to take a while to gel as a team," she said of the new group of eight and the new lord mayor, Gary Zalepa. "There will be some workshops to get the new people up to speed on the planning act, and zoning, the process for development, and what you can and can't do as a councillor as well."

And with the experience she



Norm Arsenault, who did not run for a second term, congratulates Sandra O'Connor on her election win. (Penny Coles)

has gained since her appointment in 2020, she's no longer one of the new kids on the block. That makes her ready to provide guidance and advice to new councillors Tim Balasiuk, Adriana Carter-Vizzari, Maria Mavridis and Nick Ruller.

"It is a bit of twist, isn't it?" laughed O'Connor. "But many

years ago I was a teacher. I like to mentor and tutor. That is a great role for me, and I don't mind that at all."

Coming next week:

The Local will sit down with Andrea Kaiser, the next regional councillor for NOTL, for a story next week about the importance of the region and her plans to represent NOTL.

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Hub says goodbye as workers head home

Penny Coles
The Local

This Sunday will be the final day of the season for The Farmworker Hub, giving volunteers some much-needed time to catch their breath and prepare for next spring. It's been a busy season, says organizer Julia Buxton-Cox, with an average of about 150 farmworkers visiting the hub every Sunday, for food, cloth-

ing, personal hygiene supplies and small household items, all at no charge. This past Sunday, there was a line-up of about 20 people waiting at Cornerstone Community Church on Niagara Stone Road for the 2 p.m. opening — in mid-summer, there might be 80 workers waiting. As Buxton-Cox shouted out “hola, bienvenidos,” to her friends from local farms,

greeting them by name with a warm welcome and cheerful smile, it was easy to see why it's such a popular spot. It's not just that it's a central location for farmworkers' services, within a 15-minute bike ride from the majority of farms, with the grocery store across the street and Bikes for Farmworkers up the road — it's the friendly, positive vibe created by volunteers that is very evident on this Sunday. Barry Newcombe is signing in those who arrive at the door to keep records used as planning tools for the hub, Zena Samuels and Janet Guy check out the workers when they're done, and on this last visit to the hub for many of them, they chat with each other and Buxton-Cox about when they're leaving and where they're headed. “What I'm most proud of,” she says, “is the friendships that have developed here.” She was first introduced to farmworkers who come to Niagara-on-the-Lake for up to 10 months a year when she accompanied Jane Andres, a local volunteer immersed in helping farmworkers, deliver welcome bags. The bags provide necessities such as food and toiletries as the agricultural workers arrive from Mexico and the Caribbean until they can get out to do some shopping. The

welcome bags were especially important the two years the men arrived during COVID, and shopping was difficult. Buxton-Cox then began searching for a way to do more, and the hub was created in March, 2021, to fill the void still caused by the pandemic, when farmworkers were facing their second season of limited access to retail outlets or charity shops to purchase food, warm clothing, and other supplies. She used the NOTL Buy Nothing group on Facebook, which she administers, to gather warm clothes, which were sorted and delivered

to local farms, until provincial restrictions were lifted and the doors of a portable in the church parking lot opened in July 2021. This season, the hub is located in a room inside the church which had been used for youth group meetings — the young people were given a larger, comfortable space upstairs, where church services used to be held, and which is now part of the NOTL Youth Campus. In the four and a half months the hub operated last season, 1,900 farmworkers dropped in, says Buxton-Cox. This year, with just a week

left to go, they're up to 2,800, from 78 farms, and 96 bunkhouses — mostly men. There is one area with women's clothes, for the 40 or so women who drop by regularly. The rest of the space is used for men's clothing, household items, and in separate rooms, work boots and shoes, and some toiletries — with the season winding down, stock is low, shelves waiting to be filled again next year. There is also a desk with a laptop and printer for anyone who needs forms printed

Continued on page 13



Andrew Niven and Julia Buxton-Cox with Barry Newcombe greet agricultural workers, wishing some of them well until they return next season. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Lebert Dawson is well-known for the work he does at Thwaites Farms. He is called Iron Boss by farmworkers, “but we call him Smiley,” says Julia Buxton-Cox. He is the supervisor of the barn where asparagus is packed, and he has met many locals as they come to pick up the much-loved asparagus — he says he loves it too. He is heading home Oct. 28, and is happy to be arriving just in time to celebrate his birthday.



I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported me throughout my campaign. I am looking forward to serving the community alongside our newly elected Lord Mayor and Council.

- Nick Ruller



Two of the men from Meyers Farms check out with volunteers Zena Samuels and Janet Guy.



Hezakiah picks up some toiletries as he finishes up his season at Reimers Farms.

Funds needed to pay rent and alleviate food insecurity

Continued from page 12

and filled out, and information is given to workers about how to access legal services if needed, and how to use Niagara Region transit.

Upstairs, the former church offices have been converted into offices for doctors and nurses associated with Quest Community Health Care, which offers services to farmworkers across the region.

"Some workers come because they can't get to doctors' offices during their working week," says Buxton-Cox. "Others just like the privacy of seeking medical care here."

The word most often heard this Sunday, though, is from those searching for "maletas." Buxton-Cox pointed to another small storage area where several suitcases were tucked away in a corner, most reserved, with labels on them indicating the farmworkers who would be picking them up as they prepared to head home this week. For some who have arrived on bicycles, she makes sure she knows their addresses, planning to drop off their suitcases when the hub closes — it's too dangerous to cart them home on bikes, she tells them.

Andrew Niven, director of marketing for Konzelmann Estate Winery, has dropped by to take a tour of the operation, and can't get over how impressive it is, not only in its efficiency, but because it is so much more than a place to pick up clothes or other items — it is a hub that meets all kinds of needs, including a place to connect with friends.

And it's impossible, Niven says, to imagine anyone other than Buxton-Cox could have created and maintained such an amazing space. Her passion and dedication to the work of the hub as she chats with such an upbeat, positive attitude is key to the welcoming atmosphere. And by the reaction of all who walk through the door, it is clearly appreciated.

That she speaks Spanish is a definite bonus, if not a necessity — that has to be an important part of putting her Mexican friends from the farm at ease and feeling appreciated and respected for all they do for the community.

"This is not about charity," stresses Buxton-Cox. "Our goal is to envelop the

community, the farmers and the workers, and to make the workers feel part of the community. This is about friends helping friends."

Niven was at the hub to see first-hand what it offers. He recognizes farmworkers are essential to grape growers — without them there would be no wine industry, and he wants to help.

"As a wine industry we want to support our agricultural workers," he says.

And as a member of Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake, an association of local wineries, he has developed an initiative that is a step in that direction.

Since April, the wineries have been offering a Wine-makers' Selection Tasting Pass for \$35 per person, which allows one tasting of a Winemaker's Selection wine at each winery any Monday through Friday for the rest of the year.

Niven says for the month of November, all proceeds from the \$35 pass will go to the Farmworker Hub, to help put it in a better financial situation to get through the winter and open when farmworkers return. As well, it will raise awareness for residents of the importance of farmworkers to the finished product, "while they're enjoying what's in our own backyard."

The two main financial concerns, says Buxton-Cox, "are rent and food insecurity." The hub has been paying about \$1,000 a week to purchase food, and even then has to limit each worker to three items.

She is very grateful for the space made available in the church building, for which they gladly pay \$1,000 a month toward the upkeep of the building. "Cornerstone has been very good to us. We couldn't do this without their support," she says.

The hub has been managing with funds received from a grant that came about through a partnership with Gateway Community Church, she says, and of any money left over after the rent is paid, "100 per cent of it goes to food."

But the grant money is gone, and the hub needs to secure funds for the future. In addition to donations, such as the generous offer by Niven, she is looking for a church or other charitable organization

to partner with that can write grants to benefit the hub.

When asked by Niven what more she would like to be able to accomplish, she describes her vision of the grassroots, non-profit organization as one that can do more to address issues of food insecurity and poverty. Food costs have almost doubled, and food that is culturally appropriate is hard to find, and expensive, she says.

She would love to see farmers donate any unsaleable produce, such as peaches and peppers, to give to workers. Those who pick peaches

would love the peppers, and those who help to grow peppers would appreciate the peaches, she explains.

"If we can help our workers save even \$5 on food, that's \$5 more they can send home to their families for education for their kids."

Also important to her is expanding on education in the community to further an understanding of deeply-rooted racism, and she would like to be able to offer learning experiences for workers, improving their literacy skills — she hears from some that they would

like to be better at reading and writing.

For more information on the fundraiser go to wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com and look for the Winemakers Selections Tasting Pass details.

For those interested in helping the hub, Buxton-Cox asks that they call her at 905-483-9717, or even better email thehubnotl@bell.net.

Although the hub is closing Sunday for the winter season, "we will still need to have warm winter coats, pots and pans and men's jeans/work pants, size 32-36 for next season," she says.

Anyone interested in helping with a new dedicated volunteer driving team next season, picking up donations, delivering them to farms and bringing workers to The Farmworker Hub, can apply at <https://www.thehubnotl.ca/get-involved>

"We do need financial support to keep the doors open next season," she adds. "Donations can be made through our website <https://www.thehubnotl.ca/donate>. However, I'd love to meet with new donors in person and can arrange tours during the off-season."



GARY ZALEPA

On behalf of Team Elect Gary Zalepa, thank you to all of our supporters, volunteers and most importantly residents that we met at the door(s) when canvassing and engaged throughout the campaign period. It was a wonderful experience. Thank you to all of the candidates who put their name forward, it is a huge commitment and to see all the enthusiasm was exciting! Congratulations to those elected, and we look forward to forming the new Council. We feel the responsibility of leadership, look forward to getting started, and appreciate the opportunity to better our community, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.



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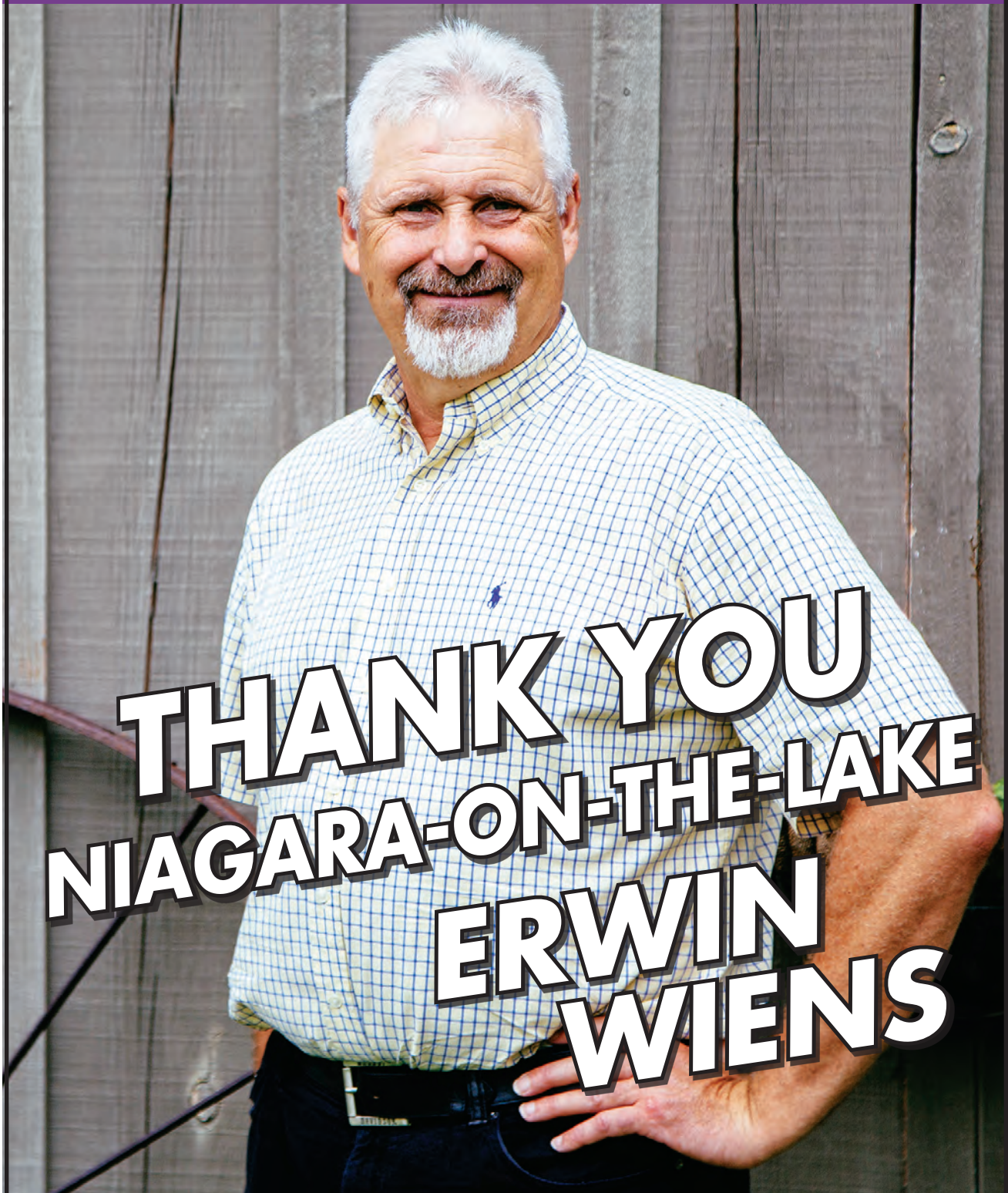
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Poppy project almost ready for installation



A group of 20 women at the museum Friday were working to finish up the task of attaching poppies to netting. (Photos by Penny Coles)

I am grateful and humbled by the support the Town has shown me. As your deputy mayor, I will continue to advocate for our community and all of our residents.



Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum volunteers created a stunning display of poppies on their Castlereigh Street building for last year's Remembrance Day, and this year are going far beyond that with a project to decorate the historic Queen Street Court House as well.

The display from last year will be recreated at the museum next Tuesday, Nov. 1, and with direction from museum community engagement co-ordinator Barbara Worthy, volunteers are now in the final stages of preparing netting to drape the Court House building with 4,000 poppies, from the speakers balcony above, down around its majestic doors and pillars.

About 40 volunteers have either knitted or crocheted poppies out of bright red yarn, with black centres, and more than 9,000 zip ties are attaching them onto large rolls of bird netting, a task volunteers were hurrying to complete last week and this.

In addition, some purple poppies have been made to attach to the Sentineal Carriage's horses' harnesses, to recognize the large number of horses that were injured and died in the First World War.

Some of the poppy netting will go around lamp-posts — 12 on King Street — and some on wreaths for the doors of the museum, as well as 30 wreaths for Old Town businesses, but the bulk will adorn the

front of the Court House on Queen Street, which promises to be a stunning display.

There will also be a poppy garden at the museum, recognizing those who died in the First and Second Worlds Wars.

Research for the project, including details for the design and rounding up all the necessary supplies — including the volunteers — began in August, and will come to fruition soon.

In September, volunteers were knitting and crocheting in earnest, mostly at home, with bags of completed poppies arriving at the museum regularly.

It's been a little easier this year, even with so much more to do — volunteers having learned the process, what needs to be done and how best to do it, last year, especially how to attach the poppies safely to the netting, and ensuring there are enough poppies on each, without any blank spaces, says Worthy.

She estimates it has taken about 1,000 hours for women to get the poppies made and the netting ready to lift into place, but that goes along with "days of laughter and remembrance."

"It's incredibly hard work," says Worthy. "It is fun, and the women enjoy it, but it's tiring. They work very hard, standing, bent over a table for long periods of time, and it's hard on your back. It really reminds us of all of the women who worked in

Continued on page 15



Janet Guy, Barbara Worthy, Dee Steele and Nancy Macri try out poppies around a pole outside the museum to see how they look.

Hoping for good weather on installation day

Continued from page 14

factories during the war effort.”

Tuesday morning’s

plan is for a group of men from Davey Tree Service, who looked after the installation at the museum last year, to begin at the Court House.

“Fingers crossed for the weather,” says Worthy, and if all goes well they’ll finish at the museum the same day.

Last year, the weath-

er was a problem when it was time to take down the display — it stayed up about a week longer than expected.

The other challenge

is having a space to dry the poppies, which takes about three days, before putting them away until next year — Worthy is hoping there will be

space for drying inside the Court House.

They will then be stored at the museum, ready for Remembrance Day 2023.

Judy Thornton rolls up netting as the women at the table behind her finish attaching the poppies to more netting. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Marg Teare and Peggy Bell show off one of the wreaths made for the museum door and some Queen Street businesses.

Message from Vaughn



I would like to thank all of you who took your civic duty seriously enough to exercise your right and obligation to vote in this election.

Voting is the most precious gift that we all have from those who paved the way for us to have a free and democratic society.

I also thank my family and the friends, who became my campaign team, for always putting our best foot forward and doing a terrific job, regardless of how the odds looked. That really is the true test of commitment.

Let us all celebrate our accomplishments as engaged citizens and begin working together with the new council to build the best NOTL that we can.

Again, my sincere thanks to all of you.
Vaughn Goettler

THANK YOU!
I sincerely want to thank all of you for your votes and support. I look forward to working with the new council and serving you for another term.



GARY BURROUGHS

NOTL Youth Campus hosts Halloween movie night



Kaitlyn Polgrabia, and brothers Saxon and Skielor Reese play Foosball at the NOTL Youth Campus open house. (Ben Foster)



Hope Mavridis and Loretta Cater go to two different schools, and had never met before the youth campus open house, but enjoyed chatting, both saying they would come back again. (Penny Coles)



The pool table is likely to be a popular attraction at the youth hub. (Penny Coles)

Penny Coles The Local

Caroline Polgrabia and her volunteer organizers are a step closer to operating a youth campus, with their first event for kids coming up Saturday evening.

Last Wednesday, volunteers of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Youth Campus held an open house in their space at the Cornerstone Community Church for families and kids, which was well-attended, and has encouraged the organizers to move forward.

While the drop-in centre isn't planned to open until January, the time between now and then is an opportunity to get more feedback from kids, and the next opportunity for that is the up-

coming double-feature Halloween movie night, which will be for all ages.

At the open house there was a list of movies kids could vote for, and as a result, doors will open at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, with Hotel Transylvania 2 beginning at 6:15 and Hocus Pocus 2 at 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$10, for an adult and group of up to four kids, to help cover the cost of pizza, drinks and snacks, says Polgrabia, "and come in your best costume."

Adults must stay for the entire event.

"We had our first family event with kids, but this is a chance to watch kids use the space. It's a bit of a litmus test," she added, "and a fun-filled night they will love."

Along with a "great group of volunteers who did an amazing job," she was very happy with the open house turnout.

"We got some great feedback from families and kids, and we were blown away by the number of people who showed up and engaged with volunteers."

There will be a planning committee meeting this week to discuss the ideas that were received and share conversations from the open house, but she feels the overall message from kids is "we want a little bit of structure, but also time for networking and being with our friends."

Those who tried out the teen lounge upstairs actually suggested more structure, she says, such as career nights and instruction on resume writing, ideas Polgrabia had already thought of and was pleased to hear the teens mention themselves.

Some other suggestions were for a TV in the teen room, carpeting to make it little warmer, and ideas about hands-on workshops or a tinker room, with some

electronics to take apart and put back together.

A virtual reality room and golf simulator were also mentioned, and might be a little more challenging to achieve, but are something to look at for the future, said Polgrabia.

She was also impressed with the number of ideas not about technology — one request was for a Foosball hockey table. "Kids just want to play with their friends," she says.

There will be an announcement made soon about another upcoming event — hold the date of Dec. 18, she says, with more details to be presented soon.

In the meantime, Polgrabia is looking for 400 community-minded people to donate \$250 each.

"That's our goal so we can open with a fund sitting there, ready to use for whatever kids throw at us," she says.

She is also looking for community contributions — they have a painter ready to go to work, paint donated, and another generous donation from someone willing to purchase furnishings "to create a fabulous space for kids," says Polgrabia.

"It's their space, and we want to make sure they have whatever they need. We'll figure that out as we go along."

They may also hold another open house before the end of the year, to do a presentation "of where we're headed, and get some feedback in relation to what we learned the first time round."

For tickets to Halloween movie night at the town campus of Cornerstone Community Church, 1570 Niagara Stone Road, go to: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/movie-night-at-notl-youth-campus-tickets-446090628077>



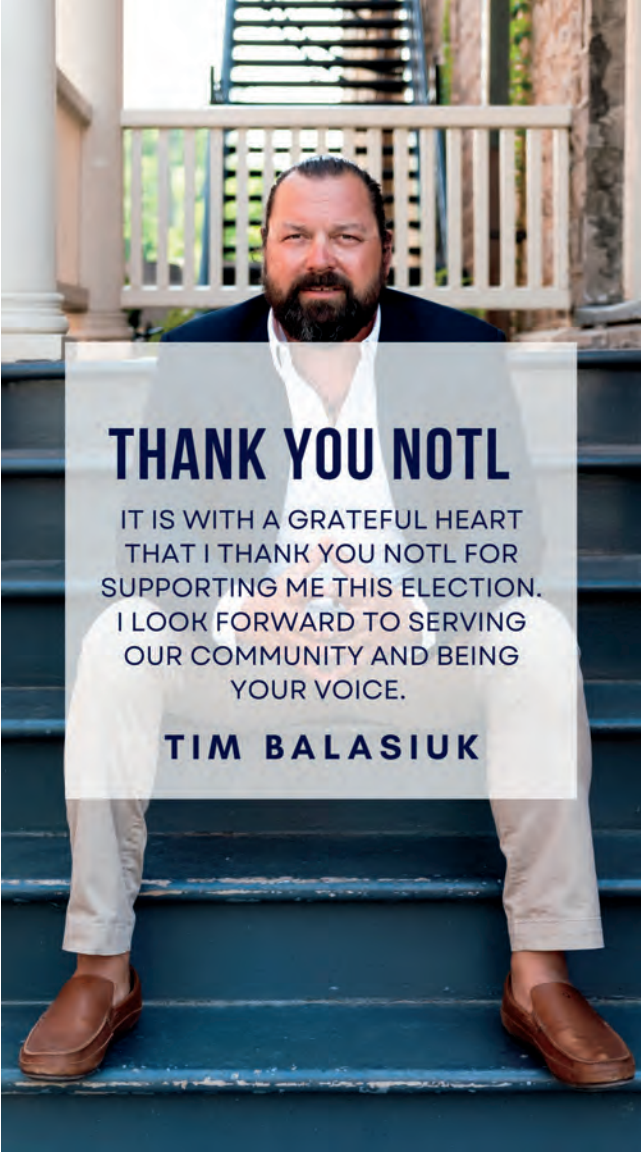
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Thank You Everyone...

who worked so hard on my election campaign, and who gave me their support!

I look forward to serving as councillor in the coming term, and will do my best for the Town, its environment, residents, businesses, and visitors.





THANK YOU NOTL

IT IS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART THAT I THANK YOU NOTL FOR SUPPORTING ME THIS ELECTION. I LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING OUR COMMUNITY AND BEING YOUR VOICE.

TIM BALASIUK



Halloween events for kids



Local Staff

On Saturday, Oct. 29, the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada are holding their special Halloween program, inviting little goblins and ghouls in their Halloween costumes to the parking lot at Fort George.

Volunteers will be handing out free treat bags at a table set up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Don't forget Saturday Oct. 29, beginning at 5 p.m., the NOTL Youth Campus will be hosting a Halloween double feature at Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil, with Hotel

Transylvania 2 beginning at 6:15 p.m. and Hocus Pocus 2 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for an adult and up to four kids, with pizza, drinks and snacks included — costumes please, organizers ask.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is inviting parents and kids to partic-

ipate in a fun, kid-friendly Halloween experience at the community centre (14 Anderson Lane) on Monday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Activities will include a scavenger hunt, seasonal books to read, and of course, candy.

After two years off,

the Queenston Volunteer Firefighters Association is excited to invite the community back to the fire station for the annual Halloween Parade.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided, and the costume parades start at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome

to attend, and costumes are encouraged.

The St. Davids firefighters are hosting a Halloween Party at their firehall, on the corner of Warner and Tanbark Roads, beginning at 7 p.m. Costume judging will begin at 7:15 p.m., with prizes, and refreshments will be served.

Actual Kid-Friendly News

Kids

GAZETTE

Halloween is just 5 days away! Send us photos of you and your friends in your costumes so we can publish them in the next issue of the Kids Gazette!



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PRESENTED BY







David Gilchrist has found some Halloween decorations to photograph on Centre Street in the Old Town, and in Glendale.



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MONDAY, OCTOBER 31st

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ST. DAVIDS FIREHALL
corner of Warner & Tanbark Rd
7:00 PM

Costume Judging

starts at 7:15 sharp!

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St. Davids fish fry returns for the winter

Penny Coles
The Local

The St. Davids Lions Fish Fry is back, and will continue throughout the winter, the first and third Friday of each month. While one group of Lions volunteers works outside, battering and frying

fish, Leo club members take orders and money inside the club house, and another group of Lions is in the kitchen, completing the orders and getting them out to those eating in or waiting for take-out—a well-ordered routine they have perfected, and made easier by the lack of pan-

demie restrictions. They've kept their prices the same as other years, says volunteer Janet Guy, even though some prices for supplies have increased significantly. Oil, purchased in 16-litre jugs, has gone to almost \$53, up from \$19. And the haddock they have always

used, sold in cases of 30 to 40 pieces, is now \$75 a case, up from \$43. Fortunately the fries and coleslaw prices have not risen significantly, she says. Regular patrons will notice the batter has

changed, but judging by the reaction last Friday, they're finding the new recipe delicious. It's a lighter tempura batter, replacing the recipe used by a Lion member who was in charge of the batter and has moved out

of the area. For those who plan to try out the fish fry, the Leos are also collecting cans and bottles, raising money to help finance another dog guide. The next fish fry is Nov. 4.

Legion activities lead up to Remembrance Day

Penny Coles
The Local

The Royal Canadian Legion is holding a series of events during the first two weeks of November to remember the sacrifice of Canada's military, "and to honour the ongoing devotion to protecting our way

of life, and us from those who would do us harm," says Al Howse, legion president. Beginning this Friday, Oct. 28, Branch 124 will embark on its annual poppy campaign. "We don't sell poppies, but distribute them over the next two weeks, asking folks to re-

member our fellow soldiers, sailors and airmen and women," says Howse. "We accept donations to our poppy trust fund at that time, which will go to support our veterans and families throughout the year." The beginning of the campaign will be marked by raising a poppy flag at the town offices.

Saturday Nov. 5 the legion will hold a free dinner for all veterans, legion members or not, at the legion hall, starting at 5.30 p.m. Guests will be charged \$20. The branch office is distributing tickets, and would like to hear from attendees by Nov. 1.

On Nov. 3, services will be held at each of the long-term care homes for seniors.

On Remembrance Day, the branch will hold services at both cenotaphs. The Queen Street cenotaph service will start at 10.45 a.m., this year with the traditional format, including placing all wreaths after Last Post And Reveille.

There will be a second service at the cenotaph in Queenston starting at 1 p.m.

Over the two-week period, legion members will visit with Girl Guides, Brownies and Sparks.

For more information about any of these events, contact the branch office at 905-468-2353 or email legion124@gmail.com.



Outside, Kylie Typer, Bonnie Pfab, Jerry Cyopeck, Ed Pittman (the batter expert) and Joe Typer prepare and fry the fish before it's taken inside to be served. Kylie was helping out inside but came out to check up on Joe, her grandfather. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Inside the Lions Hall kitchen Rick Wills, Janet Guy, Hal Barlow, Sue Pittman and Debbie Chagnon help with fries and putting the dinners together.



Leos Andrew Christie, David Nickel and Evan Dueck take orders, including one from Eric Teichgraf, with his son Liam.

LocalHAPPENINGS

**ST. DAVIDS & DISTRICT
LIONS & LIONESS LIONS**

Harvest Breakfast

St. Davids Lions Hall,
1462 York Rd.

October 30, 2022
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Side Bacon – Back Bacon – Sausage
Home Fries – Pancakes – Tea Biscuits
Sausage Gravy – Eggs (Scrambled or Fried)
Fruit – Tea – Coffee – Juices

Adults - \$10.00
Children (5 yrs to 10 yrs) - \$5.00
Under 5 years - FREE

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Include your Logo! Prices starting at \$20.
Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335
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LocalWORSHIP

**CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Sunday, October 30th
9:45 a.m.
Kids Ministry Sign In
(Nursery - Kindergarten)

10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering
Online & In-Person

Message: Kevin Bayne
The Welcome Home Project
Planting a Long Term Gospel
Presence Psalm 90

www.ccchurch.ca

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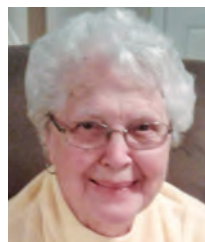
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OBITUARY



ANDREWS, JOYCE DOREEN (COLES)—It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Joyce on October 23, 2022 at the age of 86.

Loving wife for 64 years to the late Henry Andrews, and dearest mother of Rhonda (Joe) Rutkowski, Cindy (Horst) Friesen, Robert (Maura) Andrews, Darlene (Bill) Caughell.

Also survived by her grandchildren, Beth, Greg, Rob (Catherine), Ashleigh (Darren), Joshua (Shelby), Caitlyn (Chadd), Amy (Andrew), Jacob (Hannah), Nathaniel and Christopher. As well as great-grandchildren Rhyann, Evan, Rowan, Natalie, Bryson, Gavin and Spencer.

Joyce is predeceased by her parents Raymond and Ina Coles and brother Harold Coles and survived by her brothers Neil (Geri) Coles, Brian (Theresa) Coles, Warren (Joan) Coles and sisters-in-law Eleanor Coles and Mary (Art) Berg.

Joyce was born in Jordan, Ontario and spent her childhood in St. Catharines where she fell in love and married her neighbour Henry Andrews. After remaining in St. Catharines for a few years they eventually moved to Virgil, Ontario, where she along with Henry began and owned Andrews Trucking Ltd. Joyce had many happy years, raising her children, and spent many years with Henry travelling to their subsidiary trucking companies in Florida and Rhode Island.

Joyce spent her final years at Maple Park Nursing Home in Fort Erie.

Joyce adored all her grandchildren and was a huge fan of all their sports games. She had many friends and acquaintances. She will be missed by all.

RIP MOM!

Cremation has taken place. Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Joyce are welcome to do so to the Alzheimer Society of Canada. A Celebration of Life will be taking place on November 12, 2022 at 2:00 at the Fort Erie Legion. Online condolences may be shared at tallmanfuneralhomes.ca



CRIPPS, JANE CAROLINE—It is with the upmost sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Jane Caroline Cripps, on August 29th, 2022, in her hometown of Northampton, England. Jane was in England attending the funeral of her own mother, Margaret Durant, who passed away on July 17th, 2022, at the age of 98. Jane is survived by her daughter Nicole, son-in-law Mark and beloved grandchildren, Faith, Grace, and Isaac. She also

leaves behind her younger brother Nicolas, her niece Joanna (Matt) and nephew John (Tanasha), her greatest friend, Silvia Kaiser and her entire family. All of these she loved and touched deeply.

Jane moved to Winnipeg in 1968 but found it a touch chilly and decided to move to Ontario in 1971. It was here that she found her wonderful husband, Ronald Cripps. They married in 1973 and it was through this loving union, that the true love of her life was born; her only daughter, Nicole Charlotte. As with so many things in this world, Ronald was taken away too early in 1986, when he passed away.

In the early 1970's Jane started her career in early childhood education running the Rosalind Blauer Centre for Child Care at Brock University. She was fondly known as "Miss Jane" to many children over the next 25 years. It is also where she met her best friend of over 45 years Silvia Kaiser who will miss her dearly.

Jane then had a switch of careers when the Kaiser's purchased The Anchorage Restaurant and Motel in Niagara-on-the-Lake in the mid 1990's and asked Jane to come run the motel. Over the years, Jane became the general manager of the business and stayed there until it closed for good in 2010. During that time, she met so many of her dearest friends and was known as the best manager ever by many.

Jane then retired and became a full-time grandma to Faith and the twins Isaac and Grace. To say that Jane was the heart and soul of her family would be a massive understatement. Nothing brought more joy than to be an active part of helping raise her 3 grandchildren. She instilled a tremendous sense of pride and confidence in them that they carry proudly.

There will be a Celebration of Jane's life on Sunday, November 6th from 2:00 - 4:00 in the Ballroom of the Courthouse at 26 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. As this is a celebration of her life, we respectfully request that guests refrain from dressing in all black. We would encourage everyone to express their love through colour. It's the greatest way we could honour the vibrant life of our dear friend and mother, Jane Cripps.

OBITUARY

KALM, MICHAEL (MIHKEL) —It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Michael (Mihkel) Kalm, of Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday, October 16. Michael was born on June 8th, 1941, in Tallinn, Estonia, to Georg and Maimo Kalm during the Russian occupation. In 1943 his parents fled Estonia with Michael and his older sister Merike. Travelling via Finland and Sweden they arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax, Nova Scotia on May 22, 1950. After leaving Port Credit high school he served in the Canadian Navy for 5 years. This is where he fostered his love for sailing and the freedom of the open seas. A famous and often quoted 19th century naval order was, "Damn the torpedoes, full steam (speed) ahead". This is how Michael lived his life. He always persevered, and lived life to its fullest and let nothing stand in his way. He and his wife, partner, friend and sailing companion, Sheila spent countless happy years sailing their yacht on lakes and oceans. At one point they even chose to live aboard their yacht shunning the traditional brick and mortar home for the unconventional and challenging life of living on board which brought them adventure and happiness. In 1987 Michael started his own water treatment company called Glengarry Chemicals. Through perseverance, hard work and an uncanny business sense he grew it into a sizeable and successful business. He was in his 80's before he retired. Michael and Sheila lived life to the absolute fullest based from their beautiful home and gardens in Niagara-on-the-Lake. They loved good food and travel and ventured from the sands of the desert to tropical ocean paradises. Michael was a first-class chef and often went out to gather fine ingredients for his wonderful home cooked meals, sometimes on a daily basis. He also loved fine dining and ate at many restaurants both five star and just plain down-home cooking. In short, Michael was a larger-than-life character whose presence could not be ignored. His passing has left a hole in all of our lives and he will be sorely missed by all that knew him. He may not be present in the physical sense but he will live on in our memories. He is dearly missed by his longtime partner and wife Sheila and his step-children Keith (Dora) Hirsch, Mark (Irene) Hirsch and his step-grandchildren Joshua and Megan. His big sister Merike Kalm and his nieces and nephews Jeffrey (Dadanae) Himel, Susan (Tim) Himel, David (Nancy) Himel, Leigh (Peter) Himel and his grand-nieces and nephews Dionysos, Anastasia, Jazmyn, Elijah and Samuel. There will be a funeral service on Saturday, October 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent St. Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by a get together at Michael and Sheila's home. Sheila is requesting that instead of wearing all black attire that you dress in some happy colours. This coming spring there will be a true celebration of Michael's love for good food and wine in the garden at their home in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name for his well-loved feline friends OG and Jack to the Lincoln Humane Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



NOTICES

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Sudoku solution from October 19, 2022

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

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LocalSPORTS

Preds take one more loss before recording win

Mike Balsom
The Local

On the positive side, the Niagara Predators losing streak came to an end this weekend.

On the negative side, however, the streak reached five games Saturday before they could record their fourth win of the season Sunday at Thornhill's Paramount Ice Complex.

Another slow start to Saturday's game put the Predators down 3-0 in the first period to the Northumberland Stars in Colborne. As in other games this season, Niagara allowed their opponents to capitalize on mistakes made in their own zone for two of the goals. The Preds were sure Cole Ellis had scored a goal in that frame that would have tied the game 1-1, but it was disallowed by the referees.

"The referee said the puck didn't go over the goal line," Taylor explained Sunday night. "Looking at the game film, there's really no way they could have actually seen that. I think they assumed, based on where the puck was and where it should have been, that it didn't go in."

Niagara came storming back in the second period, with Jaroslav Dohnal, Nolan

Wyers and Riley Ellis all finding the net in the first ten minutes of play, tying the score 3-3.

Near the end of the second period, Riley Ellis gave Stars goalie Lukas Novy a push into the net with his stick. At the ensuing whistle, Aidan Robinson of the Stars dropped his gloves and started punching Ellis, who tried to defend himself. Both players were hit with five-minute majors for fighting and game misconducts, resulting in their ejection for the remainder of the contest. Northumberland's Justice Scheltgen was also thrown from the game.

At 10 minutes into the third period, with Northumberland's Kurt Gibbs in the penalty box for tripping, Guy Manco scored on the power play to give Niagara its first lead of the game. But five minutes later Sheldon Purchase notched his second of the game for the Stars to tie it up and force overtime.

With just three minutes left in the overtime period, Cole Ellis was called for tripping, giving the Stars a man advantage. Kurt Gibbs capitalized on the opportunity to give Northumberland the 5-4 victory.

"There was a face-off in their zone," Taylor said, "their

defenceman went behind the net, Ellis went after him to take the puck, their guy stepped on Cole's stick and they called him for tripping. It was a questionable call. To have it end like that was so disappointing."

Taylor said his young players knew they had let a game they should have won slip away from them Saturday.

"We outplayed them, but we're just not getting the bounces," he told The Local. "I don't think we're working hard enough all the time. If you don't work harder than the other team when it counts you're not going to get those bounces to go your way."

The Riley Ellis ejection Saturday meant he was unavailable for Sunday's game against the 0-and-10 Streetsville Flyers. Nevertheless, the Preds skated to a 5-4 victory, keeping the Flyers winless on the season.

Thomas McGrath got the scoring started 12 minutes into the game with his first of two power play goals in the opening period. Vasil Vasilev replied with one for the Flyers.

"He got his first goal (of the season)," Taylor said of McGrath, the 6'3" 18-year-old forward from Thunder Bay. "He just banged away, caus-

ing a bunch of havoc in front. He used his big body, and he played very, very well tonight."

Like they did the day before, Niagara exploded for three goals in the second period, two from their leading goal-scorer Anthony Tropea and one from Nick Savoie. Streetsville's Gabriel Mammoliti snuck one past Preds goalie Jordan Duquette, who was making his first start between the pipes for Niagara.

In the third, Flyers goals from Jordan Douglass and Jeremy Rottke made it a close game, but the Preds were able to shut them down for the remaining eight minutes to escape with the 5-4 win.

"Again, it shouldn't have been so close," Taylor said. "I think because of our youth, and our inexperience at this level, that our guys lose their focus very easily. These are long games, and the bus rides make it even longer. A lot of kids, especially coming out of COVID, have really short attention spans."

In addition to Cole Ellis, his brother Riley was scratched for the game. And injuries to defenceman Dawson Walker and forward Will Krogman forced them to miss much of Sunday's game.



Thomas McGrath, seen in a recent home game, scored his first two GMHL goals Sunday in an away game against the Streetsville Flyers, a 5-4 win for the Preds. (Mike Balsom)

After a weekend without a home game, the Preds will be back at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena against the undefeated Bradford Bulls. At 9-and-0, the Bulls are tied with North York atop the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's South Division. Unlike North York, though, Bradford has thus far played most of its nine games against teams in the bottom half of the standings.

"It will be interesting," Taylor predicted. "It's a lot easier

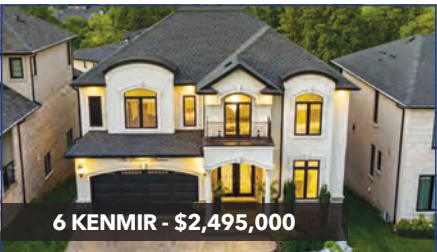
to get up for a first place team than it is for a last place team. We'll change up some things this week, work a little more on our systems and things like that, and see how it goes Friday."

The 4-and-6 Predators, in fifth place in the nine-team South Division, will close out the month of October Sunday with a trip to Windsor to take on the 1-and-11 Aces at the Adie Knox Herman Arena.

Game time Friday is 7:30 p.m.

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