Volunteer firefighters learn how to fight flashover

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Neighbours in the area of Anderson Lane may have detected a slight odour of smoke this weekend, but it wasn’t a cause for concern. On the contrary, it was actually a reason to be reassured.

About 40 volunteer firefighters were trained at the Old Town station on the recognition and prevention of flashover. The Sveds Survival System trailer, designed and delivered by Dräger Safety Canada, was parked outside and hoses were run into the trailer for use in the event of an emergency. Two fire trucks were parked outside and hoses were run into the trailer for use by the trainees.

In an actual fire situation there isn’t so much time for analysis of the situation, so Ruller explained that in order to respond in the event of an emergency, two fire trucks were parked outside and hoses were run into the trailer for use by the trainees. In turn, they are given strategies to counteract it, he added. “There’s a lot of discussion in there on the effects of ventilation by opening the door, the effects of applying water and cooling gases even while you’re advancing toward the fire.”

Two instructors from Trident Fire Training and Consultancy led five or six volunteer firefighters at a time into the trailer. It was designed to be a growth phase, into rollover, and ultimately that canister (the top level) goes into flashover.

“Nobody was forcing them to do this,” Ruller explained. “They were all in. I was impressed with their willingness to learn, their willingness to take this for training are crucial.”

Volunteers from all five Niagara-on-the-Lake stations were involved in the weekend-long training. Ruller was impressed with the willingness of the firefighters to give up their weekend for the valuable session.

Continued on page 12

Volunteer group hoping for three outdoor skating rinks

Penny Coles
The Local

Former town councillor Paolo Miele has an ambitious ask of the town, one with not a lot of time for a response.

He was at council Monday with a proposal for a community initiative involving three outdoor skating rinks on town property, backed by many residents, some who have volunteered to help, he said.

He suggested one somewhere in St. Davids, one at the community centre and the third in the Virgil Sports Park.

The reason for asking the town’s support and locations, he explained, is the need to be covered by their insurance.

The total cost would be $8,250, $2,750 each, funded privately, said Miele, who has already raised $2,000. He doesn’t anticipate any difficulty raising the remaining amount, he added.

“There’s nothing to be asked from the town or taxpayers,” at least not in the funding of the project. A local contractor has provided the quote to supply materials and install the rinks. “The only thing we need to do as a community is fill them, and flood them when needed.”

“We just need council support so we can move forward.”

Continued on page 12
Penny Coles  The Local

A recent brief comment during a town council meeting highlighted the confusion over the spelling of Mississauga, which may have some residents confused as well.

It had been spelled correctly, at least according to the town,
in a motion made by Lord Mayor Betty Durn. But one of the town councillors asked for it to be changed to Mississauga Street, a much more common spelling, but not the one the town uses.

Residents may remember a time when both spellings could be found on street signs, but it seems those spelled Mississauga have been replaced.

Town street spelling

WELCOME OUR NEW CHIROPRACTOR

DR. LAURYN FRIESEN
CHIROPRACTOR

Dr. Lauryn Friesen was born and raised in Virgil, Ontario. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Life Sciences at Queen’s University. Lauryn then obtained her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College. Dr. Lauryn Friesen has also obtained certification in Instrument Assisted Soft Tissue Therapy, Post Natal Assessment and Rehabilitation, and is currently enrolled in the Contemporary Medical Acupuncture program through McMaster University. Lauryn has experience with neck and back pain, extremity injuries, athletic injuries and rehabilitation. With a very active upbringing playing several sports and experience in university varsity-level basketball, Dr. Lauryn Friesen has developed a special interest in women’s health and athlete care. Dr. Lauryn will always strive to provide an environment where her patients feel heard, understand the root of their pain, and tailor treatment to patients’ individual health and wellness goals.

Penny Coles  The Local

notllocal.com

A 39-year-old man and elementary school teacher from Niagara-on-the-Lake has been arrested and charged on three counts involving pornography.
The Niagara Regional Police say they started an investigation earlier this month that included uniformed patrol officers and the internet child exploitation unit looking into the sexual exploitation of a child.
The Grade 7 teacher at Forestview Public School in Niagara Falls has been removed from his duties, says the District School Board of Niagara.

On Oct. 23, Western Thomas Neibitt was arrested and charged with one count of possession of child pornography, one count of making child pornography and one count of making child pornography available.

In a letter to Forestview families, Darren Vanhooydonk, superintendent of education with the DSBN, told parents that as soon as the board learned this information from the Niagara Regional Police, he was removed from his duties, and will not be returning to any DSBN school.

As part of their ongoing investigation, the Niagara Regional Police are asking anyone with information about this case or the suspect to contact them.

“If you or your children have any information that you would like to share with police, please contact them at 905-688-4111,” the letter said.

Unanswered questions about bins for textile drop-offs

Penny Coles  The Local

If anyone has gently used items of clothing to donate, there are two legitimate organizations in town interested in taking them.

Newark Neighbours, and The Farmworker Hub.

There have also been some big green bins around town advertising for textile donations, but it’s hard to know who they are and where the donations end up.

Chew said in an email that there is no answer, and no return phone call, to answers about textile drop-off boxes.

There is no answer, and no return phone call, to provide answers about textile drop-off boxes. (Photo supplied)

The company did not ask permission to place their bin on the LCBO site in Virgil, he adds.

“I have the same questions and concerns that you and residents have raised regarding who they are and where the donations end up,” Chew said in an email to The Local.

“I don’t believe this bin design is safe, and I find it strange that there is no name on it,” Chew said.

The company says that this clothing is helping to create jobs in our town, but I highly question if that’s legit,” Chew says.

There are two main spellings of Mississauga, but not the one the town uses.

For this company, whoever they are and where the donations are going — there is nothing on the bin to indicate who is behind them.

Last week, Julia Buxton-Con noticed one of the bins by the LCBO in Virgil, and called the number on the box twice, trying to find out more about where the donations were going, as did The Local.

Messages left were not returned. The recording says textiles donations “are being diverted from landfill and supporting local jobs.”

“I’m interested to know who the company is, especially because Newark Neighbours and The Farmworker Hub are both working hard to collect clothing to stay in town,” says Buxton-Con.

The company says that this clothing is helping to create jobs in our town, but I highly question if that’s legit,” Chew says.

There are two legitimate organizations in town interested in taking them.

Newark Neighbours, and The Farmworker Hub.

As part of their ongoing investigation, the Niagara Regional Police are asking anyone with information about this case or the suspect to contact them.

“If you or your children have any information that you would like to share with police, please contact them at 905-688-4111,” the letter said.

“Additionally, the DSBN is conducting its own investigation into this matter.”

Nebitt was held in custody pending a bail hearing Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, by way of video at the Robert S.K. Welch Courthouse.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report crimes anonymously through CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

There are two main spellings of Mississauga, but not the one the town uses.

For this company, whoever they are and where the donations are going — there is nothing on the bin to indicate who is behind them.

Last week, Julia Buxton-Con noticed one of the bins by the LCBO in Virgil, and called the number on the box twice, trying to find out more about where the donations were going, as did The Local.

Messages left were not returned. The recording says textiles donations “are being diverted from landfill and supporting local jobs.”

“I’m interested to know who the company is, especially because Newark Neighbours and The Farmworker Hub are both working hard to collect clothing to stay in town,” says Buxton-Con.

The company says that this clothing is helping to create jobs in our town, but I highly question if that’s legit,” Chew says.

There are two legitimate organizations in town interested in taking them.

Newark Neighbours, and The Farmworker Hub.

As part of their ongoing investigation, the Niagara Regional Police are asking anyone with information about this case or the suspect to contact them.

“If you or your children have any information that you would like to share with police, please contact them at 905-688-4111,” the letter said.

“Additionally, the DSBN is conducting its own investigation into this matter.”

Nebitt was held in custody pending a bail hearing Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, by way of video at the Robert S.K. Welch Courthouse.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report crimes anonymously through CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.
Chief gets nod to take step toward station expansion

Penny Coles
The Local

Fire Chief Nick Ruller has been given the okay to take the next step toward an extension to the Old Town fire station.

Councillors have agreed to spend $99,000 for a consultant to design the addition, which will include offices for current full-time fire department staff now who work out of the operations centre in Virgil.

Ruller made a case for having six staff members, who are already available to respond to emergency calls, located in the Old Town, which is suffering from a decreasing number of volunteers. Having staff close by and ready to attend a fire will reduce response time, especially given the increasing traffic to the Queen Street area, he said.

His request was to help support the delivery of the volunteer model, acting the recruiting and retention of volunteer firefighters, as well as a 1.5 million growth in the town and leveraging existing staff, he said.

Although he ended up with unanimous support, it didn’t come easily.

When reminded about continuing requests that reflect Glendale and Virgil, but the Old Town is the area where it’s difficult to get volunteer firefighters and is also the area with the greatest risk, due to its density, heritage buildings and the transient population from tourism.

“I completely appreciate I’m before you once again looking for another initiative, but as you are aware my responsibility to bring these things forward to you,” he said. “It isn’t Nick Ruller asking. It’s the Old Town fire chief looking at it from the perspective of the community, and what I genuinely believe is in their best interest. I do take for granted all the support I’ve had from this council for the fire department.”

Councillor Cameron said she was “unquestioning” in her support. The current request is not one that has been placed on any other council-adopted plans and has a connection to strategy at the town.”

She supported the initiative without hesitation, she said, for the safety of the community, with NOTL firefighters the towns only first responders, attending not only to fire but other emergency calls, including vehicle collisions, medical calls and general assistance, most in the Old Town area.

“We’ve gone through 18 months and more of asking people to make individual sacrifices in the name of safety. Why would we not go forward unquestioning with an important investment in an area of safety and population from tourism. Buildings and the transient

Ruller explained that while the Old Town is the area with the greatest risk, to date, its heritage buildings and the transient population from tourism.

“When you’re dealing with the inter-

The agreement to move along the project in Virgil — a consultant was important to design the addition, which he said, is the third time this particular issue has come forward in third-party reports, and these recommendations have been highlighted again and again.”

“We put a ton of effort into ensuring every report is comprehensive, making a complete case, backed with strong data to support our position,” he said. “This is the third time this particular issue has come forward in third-party reports, and these recommendations have been highlighted again and again.”

“The chief accompanied the first group into the chamber and also joined the instructors and the technician staff for a debrief following the experience. “They talked about how it was interesting to see the ef- fect of ventilation,” Ruller said after the meeting. “They talked about the importance of door position and how it affects fire regrowth. And how little water is required to change conditions in that compartment, and the reduced fire steam in suppress- ing the fire. And how quickly fire regrowth occurs.”

Continued from page 1

and build that roster up from six to one having come in when they were going to do. We would have no impact on operating costs, other than utilities for the 3,280 square-foot addition, which would incur capital costs of about $1.5 million, which could be “100 per cent financed by development charge reserves,” and would have no direct impact on taxpayers.

“Proceeding with a design now with the aid of a consultant, for a build that could be a couple of years away, would allow the project to be shov- ed-ready so the town could po- tentially access infrastructure grants that we’re seeing come forward."

And although it’s an expense, Ruller said, “we have to consider the consequences if we do not take action to better support our volunteer firefighter service delivery model.”

In 2020, the current model of volunteer firefighters cost the town $470,000. To have four career firefighters available for daytime only would cost $1,200,000, he pointed out.

His proposal highlights the benefit of leveraging the six full-time firefighting staff, who are all also front line firefighter- ers who come through the ranks as volunteers, and are already part of the operational staff when they’re working at their administrative duties.

If they’re needed, “they can hop on a truck, and if they’re not, they can just walk back to their desk.”

He pointed out other Ni- agara municipalities with vol- unteer fire departments are all using a fire station for ad- ministration offices, “to better leverage the volunteer firefighters for operational purposes as well.”

The move would also improve the lives of the volun- teers he added. As a former volunteer firefighter, he said, “you don’t want to let your fellow firefighters down when a call comes in, but firefighters often have young kids at home in their care. Better supporting this station is a great opportunity to support volunteer firefighters, and that could come up from some of these decreases we’ve seen over the years.”

When volunteers are run- ning out on their fourth call of the day at dinner time, the first one having come in when they were getting kids off to school, he said, “it can be very demanding for our firefigh- ters.”

The move to the Old Town “is about helping them strike a balance.”

Lord Mayor Betty Deseo asked Ruller where the propos- al to amalgamate the Queen- ston and Virgil stations lies in priority relative to the Old Town station.

Ruller explained that while the consolidation has been sup- ported in principal, it would be considered until one of the sta- tions is reaching the end of its life, and action has to be taken. “That isn’t expected to occur in the next 10 years, and when it does, the demand for services in those two stations will be evaluated.”

Consolidation, he said, “didn’t present any improved level of service for the public until 2030 or beyond.”

“There’s a lot of kind of distinct urban areas,” said Ruller. “But we are very much one department. If we have a structure fire we’re getting trucks from all five stations. We have worked over the past five years to break down some of the silos and make sure we are one cohesive unit. A lot of standardization has occurred over the years.”

The weekend training was all providing about the level of best preparation to ensure, firefighters’ safety and sur- vival every time they respond to situations across NOTL.

“If we don’t provide these opportunities is leaves our firefighters vulnerable.”

Ruller concluded. “It’s about meeting the needs of the volunteers, but in turn, it’s of tremendous value to the public as a result.”
Continued from page 2

Nation in 1781,” she said, referencing the Niagara Treaty of 1781, “she said, referencing the Niagara Treaty of 1781, ‘the Dawn of the War of 1812 and it was, of course, named for the point on which it was built, ‘says Kaufman.

‘I think the pandemic has made us reflect on our lives in general,’ she says, ‘and all of us have experienced some difficulties, even me. I worry about those who have fallen through the cracks. I feel for these people, and I want to help. Dentistry is expensive, and is out of reach for some people, now more than ever. If we all intervene, just a little bit, we can cool the fire before it spreads to basic dental care. Everyone has a right to that.’

Her services and that of her dental clinic will be donated, and there are other dentists and hygienists from Toronto and other areas coming for the day, Nov. 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., to offer their help as well.

Services offered will include free teeth cleaning, tooth extraction, or fillings — the basics, she says.

Dr. Daniela Matijevic, dentist; Adrieanne Beasley and Aundrea Natale, dental assistants; Liney Henry, dental hygienist; Sandy Pekitzer, dental assistant, Melissa Marr, dental assistant, and Julie Dickson, receptionist, will be donating their time to help people in the community. (Photo supplied)

Gateway Community Church bicycle drop-off Saturday

The Gift from the Heart organization helps organize the day, and appointments must be made by emailing info@giftfromtheheart.com.

If it turns out to be a successful day, Matijevic says, she would like to make it an annual event.

Bikes For Farmworkers volunteers Mark Gaudet, Terry Weiner and Ken Eden are asking for bikes they can repair over the winter, to be ready for farmworkers when they return in the spring. (File photo)

Bikes For Farmworkers, a volunteer organization supplying safe, roadworthy bicycles for temporary farmworkers, is in need of used, repairable adult donated bicycles for their 2022 refurbishing program. All bicycles go through a 50-point rebuilding program, and are then supplied to temporary farmworkers at a modest cost. After sales service includes no cost repairs and a free loaner bike if needed during the repair process. During the past year Bikes For Farmworkers supplied 297 refurbished bicycles, while repairing 205, but currently extremely low.

Anyone who would like to donate a repairable bicycle is encouraged to drop it off at Gateway Community Church where the Bikes For Farmworkers team will gladly receive your donation.

Anyone with bikes to donate but can’t get to the church Saturday can call Mark Gaudet at 289-783-1684, or Terry Weiner at 905-321-8638.

The Local

A local dental clinic in Niagara-on-the-Lake is donating a day at her clinic, under the auspices of a national non-profit charity which provides vulnerable Canadians who encounter financial barriers to essential dental care. Matijevic says even pre-pandemic, she was aware of local residents who were not able to access dental care.

Matijevic says it is her way to give back to the community, and help those in need — the under-serviced, the neglected and those without dental insurance or on a fixed income.

‘I think the pandemic has made us reflect on our lives in general,’ she says, ‘and all of us have experienced some difficulties, even me. I worry about those who have fallen through the cracks. I feel for these people, and I want to help. Dentistry is expensive, and is out of reach for some people, now more than ever. If we all intervene, just a little bit, we can cool the fire before it spreads to basic dental care. Everyone has a right to that.’

Her services and that of her dental clinic will be donated, and there are other dentists and hygienists from Toronto and other areas coming for the day, Nov. 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., to offer their help as well.

Services offered will include free teeth cleaning, tooth extraction, or fillings — the basics, she says.

Dr. Daniela Matijevic, dentist; Adrieanne Beasley and Aundrea Natale, dental assistants; Liney Henry, dental hygienist; Sandy Pekitzer, dental assistant, Melissa Marr, dental assistant, and Julie Dickson, receptionist, will be donating their time to help people in the community. (Photo supplied)

Gateway Community Church bicycle drop-off Saturday

The Gift from the Heart organization helps organize the day, and appointments must be made by emailing info@giftfromtheheart.com.

If it turns out to be a successful day, Matijevic says, she would like to make it an annual event.

Bikes For Farmworkers volunteers Mark Gaudet, Terry Weiner and Ken Eden are asking for bikes they can repair over the winter, to be ready for farmworkers when they return in the spring. (File photo)

Bikes For Farmworkers, a volunteer organization supplying safe, roadworthy bicycles for temporary farmworkers, is in need of used, repairable adult donated bicycles for their 2022 refurbishing program. All bicycles go through a 50-point rebuilding program, and are then supplied to temporary farmworkers at a modest cost. After sales service includes no cost repairs and a free loaner bike if needed during the repair process. During the past year Bikes For Farmworkers supplied 297 refurbished bicycles, while repairing 205, but their supply of repairable bikes for next year is currently extremely low.

Gateway Community Church bicycle drop-off Saturday

The Gift from the Heart organization helps organize the day, and appointments must be made by emailing info@giftfromtheheart.com.

If it turns out to be a successful day, Matijevic says, she would like to make it an annual event.

Bikes For Farmworkers volunteers Mark Gaudet, Terry Weiner and Ken Eden are asking for bikes they can repair over the winter, to be ready for farmworkers when they return in the spring. (File photo)

Bikes For Farmworkers, a volunteer organization supplying safe, roadworthy bicycles for temporary farmworkers, is in need of used, repairable adult donated bicycles for their 2022 refurbishing program. All bicycles go through a 50-point rebuilding program, and are then supplied to temporary farmworkers at a modest cost. After sales service includes no cost repairs and a free loaner bike if needed during the repair process. During the past year Bikes For Farmworkers supplied 297 refurbished bicycles, while repairing 205, but their supply of repairable

A local dental clinic in Niagara-on-the-Lake is donating a day at her clinic, under the auspices of a national non-profit charity which provides vulnerable Canadians who encounter financial barriers to essential dental care. Matijevic says even pre-pandemic, she was aware of local residents who were not able to access dental care.

Matijevic says it is her way to give back to the community, and help those in need — the under-serviced, the neglected and those without dental insurance or on a fixed income.

‘I think the pandemic has made us reflect on our lives in general,’ she says, ‘and all of us have experienced some difficulties, even me. I worry about those who have fallen through the cracks. I feel for these people, and I want to help. Dentistry is expensive, and is out of reach for some people, now more than ever. If we all intervene, just a little bit, we can cool the fire before it spreads to basic dental care. Everyone has a right to that.’

Her services and that of her dental clinic will be donated, and there are other dentists and hygienists from Toronto and other areas coming for the day, Nov. 6, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., to offer their help as well.

Services offered will include free teeth cleaning, tooth extraction, or fillings — the basics, she says.

Dr. Daniela Matijevic, dentist; Adrieanne Beasley and Aundrea Natale, dental assistants; Liney Henry, dental hygienist; Sandy Pekitzer, dental assistant, Melissa Marr, dental assistant, and Julie Dickson, receptionist, will be donating their time to help people in the community. (Photo supplied)

Gateway Community Church bicycle drop-off Saturday

The Gift from the Heart organization helps organize the day, and appointments must be made by emailing info@giftfromtheheart.com.

If it turns out to be a successful day, Matijevic says, she would like to make it an annual event.

Bikes For Farmworkers volunteers Mark Gaudet, Terry Weiner and Ken Eden are asking for bikes they can repair over the winter, to be ready for farmworkers when they return in the spring. (File photo)
It is with tremendous excitement that we announce that two of Niagara’s oldest and most prestigious Law Firms are joining ranks to gain strength with combined talents and synergies to better position ourselves for important legal service to Niagara residents.

The partners of Lancaster Brooks & Welch LLP and Chown Cairns LLP have agreed to become Lancaster Chown & Welch LLP effective January 1, 2022, which starts our 140th year offering legal advice in Niagara.

Client focused and future driven, our goals include exploring and expanding our legal practice offerings and attracting talented young associate lawyers and legal staff, while responding to our clients’ needs in dynamic new ways.

“This merger enables exciting opportunities for us to expand our legal services that will benefit our clients for decades to come.”

Michael Mann — Senior Partner
Lancaster Brooks & Welch LLP

In the coming weeks there will be many more details to share as we move toward merging our two Firms. Until January 1st, 2022, we will operate as separate firms.

“Clients can expect from Lancaster Chown & Welch a meaningful experience with the knowledge and confidence that we put their needs first. Our track record of success includes service, experience, personal attention, advocacy, and trust.”

Roseanne Trivieri — Senior Partner
Chown Cairns LLP

We remain committed to serving this great region with sound legal advice. Merger inquiries may be directed to gadam@lblawyers.com or veronica@chownlaw.com.

Two of Niagara’s most prestigious firms join forces

Lancaster Brooks & Welch LLP has proudly served Niagara’s business community for over 139 years. Next year marks 140 years and the start of a new Firm.

We are delighted to announce that Chown Cairns LLP are joining Lancaster Brooks & Welch LLP, to become:

LANCASTER CHOWN & WELCH LLP

905-641-1551
LBWLAWYERS.COM
Harvest Barn in St. Catharines offering trip down memory lane

Penny Coles
The Local
Niagara-on-the-Lake residents who remember Doug Dineley with fondness, as both the former owner of Harvest Barn in Niagara-on-the-Lake and a local who felt giving back to the community was important, will have a chance to catch up with a special celebration at St. Catharines market this weekend.

He will be on-hand for a customer appreciation event, and would love to see some of his friends and customers come out for a visit. It would be great to see Doug, and say thanks for what he started here in NOTL.

Dineley will join Kevin Bauml, both NOTL residents, to greet customers. Bauml, the owner of the St. Catharines market, is also known for his strong, long-time connection to the Niagara-on-the-Lake market.

There will be apple cider, cookies and cupcakes, and lots of memorabilia, photos, and stories to share.

Outdoor seating will be available to allow for physical distancing. St. Catharines Harvest Barn is located at 1179 Fourth Ave.

Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to penny@notllocal.com.

We want letters!
Time to cut greenhouse gas emissions in NOTL, again

While I commend Niagara-on-the-Lake's environmental advisory committee and town council for their efforts to "protect the community's natural beauty, charm and heritage against the impacts of climate change," I wonder whether the focus on adapting to the impacts of climate change isn't a bit like putting the cart before the horse.

There are many things that our town and community could and should be doing to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, which would in turn help Canada meet its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2050, but they seem to have been lost in the buzz around adaptation.

For starters, town and community residents might want to look at changing current lawn-care practices. All too often, I've watched town staff, lawn-care company employees and residents using a gas-powered leaf blower to prop up what looks like a single blade of grass or leaf along a road or driveway. And both town staff and lawn-care companies seem to have a penchant for employing large ride-on mowers to cut grass, even on tiny properties, when using a much smaller machine would almost certainly produce a better result and reduce the need for gas-powered string trimmers to be used following mowing.

The impacts of this go well beyond the resulting noise pollution and waste of energy. According to Washington University in St. Louis, a 2011 study showed that a leaf blower emits nearly 300 times the amount of air pollutants as a pickup truck. Similarly, a 2001 study showed that one hour using a gas-powered lawn mower is equivalent to driving a car 100 miles. That amounts to a lot of greenhouse gas emissions, much of which could be reduced through the use of electric mowers, trimmers and leaf blowers, on brooms, rakes, hand trimmers and mechanical push mowers.

Then there is the issue of large pickup trucks and trailers that town staff and lawn-care companies use to transport their equipment and gas-powered lawn-care equipment across NOTL. Virtually all of the ones I've seen are gas or diesel powered: few, if any, appear to be hybrids or electric. That is unfortunate. The town in particular should look carefully at its fleet of vehicles and rationalize its use. Where possible and provided it's safe for the employees using them, trucks and SUVs should be replaced with smaller hybrids or electric vehicles, with an overall goal of reducing NOTL carbon footprint.

The users of lawn-care services could affect change as well. It's as simple as finding and employing a company that uses electric equipment, rakes and brooms as opposed to gas-powered machinery. If nothing else, we could at least use electric lawn blowers.

All this isn't to say that we won't have to adapt to climate change over time—we will. But we can still reduce the future negative impacts of climate change if we—and would-be leaders—act now. That makes a lot more sense to me than adopting a high-level vision statement and adaptation plan.

Owen Bjorjan
Special to The Local

Setting dangerous precedence for NOTL, again

In the day and age of news and information overload, did any of you miss the bit about the destruction of protected habitat at 524 York Road? I did, and found myself dis- turbed at yet another removal of natural heritage within our town's boundaries.

This is the wooded ravine adjacent to the Holiday Inn Express, located in an area that has been subject to explosive development over the past five to 10 years.

The cutting mysteriously took place sometime between 2017 and now. It's like a sudden, large-scale (100 acres) clear-cutting of a forested creek. We can do way better than that.

The most recent available imagery from Google Earth shows a roadway slicing through a forested creek.
Niagara Nursery School cuts ribbon on new space

Mike Balsom  
**The Local**

Taking a tour of the modern new 4,700 square-foot Niagara Nursery School (NNS) addition at the community centre during their grand opening Saturday, it was difficult not to reflect on the impact it had on my own family.

When our son Sebastian was born 21 years ago next month, my wife Mishka and I were first-time parents here in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Fairly new to the town, we had yet to make connections with others in the same early stages of raising a family.

When Sebastian was a toddler, we enrolled him in the Kinsmen Scout Nursery School, then being run as a cooperative out of the base-town Hall on King Street.

“I remember climbing down those narrow, rickety stairs to drop him off. It was a cozy space, but it was a true base-ment. And it certainly wasn’t purpose-built with the idea of accommodating a nursery school.”

As a cooperative at the time, parents were required to complete a number of duty days, which often meant taking a shift cleaning and sanitizing the toys and materials that children would be using. Mishka happily completed all of that required time.

Regional Coun. Gary Zalpea, whose son Nathan was there at the same time, remembers what those duty days were like.

“I cleaned the bathrooms,” Zalpea laugued. “It was all hands on deck. We were trying to keep the place together.”

It was really grassroots, said Zalpea, adding that, unlike many such large projects, the NNS had a staff and board of directors in getting the project off the ground. Directing the community centre was a part-time job for the executive director.

While the Kinsmen Scout Nursery School was only licensed for 69 children, including 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers and 20 school-aged kids, the new facility is purpose-built with the idea of accommodating a nursery school. The spacious addition to the community centre is licensed for 69 children, including 10 infants, 15 toddlers, 24 preschoolers and 20 school-aged kids.

There is a separate room for each group, each with high ceilings, bright-coloured walls, large windows, and its own washroom so the entire class isn’t disrupted when natures call.

“Just as important, especially in an updated Will and Corporate & Commercial

**NEW PATIENTS WELCOME**

**OPENING OFFER AVAILABLE**

**Dentists and their registered Dental Hygiene Team**

**Dr. Kevin Clark and Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark**

**369 MARY STREET**

**NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE**

**www.niagaradental.ca**

For more than 45 years now, the Niagara Nursery School has been providing that service, and more importantly, building the community together.

The social circle that my family developed through the NNS about 18 years ago is still a major part of our lives, even as our children enter adulthood. We made lasting friendships through shared experiences long after we outgrew the nursery school. As parents, our best friends in town are those we met 18 years ago through our children.

And it’s reassuring to know that with this new facility, it’s likely that over the next 45 years the Niagara Nursery School will continue to bring the community together through new friendships.

With Christmas just around the corner, the greatest gift you can give your family is the peace of mind of an updated Will

Wills & Estates, Real Estate and Corporate & Commercial

email: eblythe@msflawyers.com

phone: 905.354.1585

**notllocal.com**

**THE NOTL**

**VAN DE LAAR**

**ERICA A. BLYTHE**

**FRASER LLP**

**Martin Sheppard**

NEW rooms for different age groups allow plenty of space for little ones.

Nursery school board members and dignitaries cut the ribbon to officially open the expansion.

Before cutting the ribbon (Kulp reminding the group to save the ribbon for use in her classroom), a series of dignitaries stepped to the microphone. The speakers included Lord Mayor Betty Disero, MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates, Zalpea, Town CAO Marina Cluckie and Darlene Edgar, Niagara Region’s children’s services director.

Disero spoke of the initiative taken by NNS executive director Candice Penny and the board of directors in getting the ball rolling on the construction, including their successful application for an Ontario Early Years Capital Program Grant.

Cluckie marvelled at the fact that, unlike many such large projects, they were there to cut the ribbon for one that came in on time and on budget.

Saying “I promised I wouldn’t do this,” Penny choked up during her speech, becoming emotional as she mentioned Miss Wendy, soon to retire Edgar, and

It’s easy for many to think of NOTL as an aging community. But it is important to remember that for any municipality to thrive and grow, and to retain

ly with COVID still hovering over all gatherings, is the outdoor space. There are a number of enclosed spaces that have allowed educators such as Wendy Kulp, known to students as Miss Wendy, to spend most of the fall season outside with their students. As she looked out the window of the room where she teaches the school-aged children, Kulp told The Local that the kids have their own special names for each play area.

At the construction site every single day of the 10-month construction period.

And for more than 45 years now, the Niagara Nursery School has been providing that service, and more importantly, building the community together.

The social circle that my family developed through the NNS about 18 years ago is still a major part of our lives, even as our children enter adulthood. We made lasting friendships through shared experiences long after we outgrew the nursery school. As parents, our best friends in town are those we met 18 years ago through our children.

And it’s reassuring to know that with this new facility, it’s likely that over the next 45 years the Niagara Nursery School will continue to bring the community together through new friendships.

“Before cutting the ribbon (Kulp reminding the group to save the ribbon for use in her classroom), a series of dignitaries stepped to the microphone. The speakers included Lord Mayor Betty Disero, MP Tony Baldinelli, MPP Wayne Gates, Zalpea, Town CAO Marina Cluckie and Darlene Edgar, Niagara Region’s children’s services director.

Disero spoke of the initiative taken by NNS executive director Candice Penny and the board of directors in getting the ball rolling on the construction, including their successful application for an Ontario Early Years Capital Program Grant.

Cluckie marvelled at the fact that, unlike many such large projects, they were there to cut the ribbon for one that came in on time and on budget.

And for more than 45 years now, the Niagara Nursery School has been providing that service, and more importantly, building the community together.

The social circle that my family developed through the NNS about 18 years ago is still a major part of our lives, even as our children enter adulthood. We made lasting friendships through shared experiences long after we outgrew the nursery school. As parents, our best friends in town are those we met 18 years ago through our children.

And it’s reassuring to know that with this new facility, it’s likely that over the next 45 years the Niagara Nursery School will continue to bring the community together through new friendships.
The Highest Total Volume of Local Sales for the Past Decade.

Highest volume in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 01/01/2011 to 09/21/2021. Source MLS.

284 DORCHESTER STREET
$3,349,000
MLS 40109401 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

736 RYE STREET
$3,295,000
MLS 40108779 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

298 FOUR MILE CREEK
$1,450,000
MLS 40165174 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

402 JOHNSON STREET
$1,400,000
Exclusive • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

LOT 17 MAPLEVIEW CRESENT
$199,900
MLS 40117693 • Randall Armstrong

670 LINE 4 ROAD
$899,000
MLS 40156761 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

225 RICARDO STREET #103
$929,000
MLS 40170634 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

8 ABERDEEN LANE S
$997,000
MLS 40179686 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

14554 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY
$2,195,000
MLS 40127573 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

240 NASSAU STREET LOT
$2,395,000
MLS 40190628 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

94 PRIDEAUX STREET
$2,595,000
MLS 40160412 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

1361 LINE ONE ROAD
$1,795,000
MLS 40172745 • Nicole Vanderperk and Christopher Bowron

513 GATE STREET LOT
$1,100,000
MLS 40148611 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

223 JOHN STREET WEST
$1,325,000
MLS 40166600 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

615 SIMCOE STREET
$1,295,000
MLS 40157714 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

670 KING STREET
$1,950,000
MLS 40196796 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

736 RYE STREET
$3,295,000
MLS 40108779 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

228 FOUR MILE CREEK
$299,900
MLS 40197267 • Cheryl Carmichael and Randy Armstrong

5395 HURON STREET
$650,000
MLS 40164051 • Jane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

1433 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
$769,000
MLS 40163664 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

6A CIRCLE STREET – BUILDING LOT
$599,000
Exclusive • Caroline Polgrabia

5935 PETTIT AVE. #209 – NIAGARA FALLS
$719,900
MLS 40119289 • Randall Armstrong

177 KING STREET
$3,898,000
MLS 40142872 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

94 TAMBARK ROAD
$2,399,000
MLS 40161203 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

20 CIRCLE STREET
$850,000
MLS 40160191 • Cheryl Carmichael

615 SIMCOE STREET
$1,295,000
MLS 40157714 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

615 SIMCOE STREET
$1,295,000
MLS 40157714 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

4644 PETTIT AVE. #209 – NIAGARA FALLS
$719,900
MLS 40119289 • Randall Armstrong

14554 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY
$2,195,000
MLS 40127573 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

5395 HURON STREET
$650,000
MLS 40164051 • Jane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

1433 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
$769,000
MLS 40163664 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

6A CIRCLE STREET – BUILDING LOT
$599,000
Exclusive • Caroline Polgrabia

Christopher Bowron*** ............. 905-468-2269
Kim Elltoft** ............................... 905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong** ................. 905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc** ......................... 905-941-3726
Philip Bowron* ......................... 905-468-1256
Bonnie Grimm* ......................... 905-468-1256
Nicole Vanderperk* ................... 905-941-4585
Viviane Elltoft* ......................... 905-941-0276
Thomas Elltoft* ......................... 905-941-3726
Jane Elltoft* ............................... 905-941-3726
Cheryl Carmichael* ..................... 905-941-0276
Sarah Gledie* .............................. 905-685-2458
Christine Bruce* ......................... 905-528-9703
Linda Williams* ......................... 905-401-4240
Caroline Polgrabia* ..................... 905-933-4983
Patricia Atherton* ....................... 905-933-4983
Weston Miller* ............................. 289-213-8681
Giovanni Rodriguez Martinez* .... 905-328-2145

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996
Local businesswoman busy planning charitable events

Penny Coles

Maria Mavridis has been nominated for the 2021 Women in Business community impact award, which recognizes the leadership and success of women in the Niagara business community. Although the businesswoman is known locally as the operator of the Corks Wine Bar & Eatery on Queen Street, and Firehall tor of the Corks Wine Bar & Eat- an is known locally as the opera- tion from having to cancel their not-for-profits who were suffer- ing from COVID, but as re- corders are successful while support- ing events, to ensure fundrais- ers are not, and her goal is to entertain are donated. Of- fers such as food, venue and attend fundraisers assuming offsetting costs for fundraisers, festivals or other events. Mavridis says many people attend fundraisers assuming items such as food, venue and entertainment are donated. Of- fers, she says, are also made to partner with those who provide such services and people plan- ning events to ensure fundrais- ers are successful while support- ing local businesses.

Most events were put on hold during COVID, but as re- strictions loosened, Mavridis says she began hearing from not-for-profits who were suffer- ing from having to cancel their fundraising events, begging her to please help out. “How could I say no!” she asks. “I had to do something.” And she did — she has resumed organizing events. When she be- gan, however, it was with 50 per cent capacities for venues. She recently held one of her usually twice-annual Designer Purse Bingo events — the last one was held in the fall of 2019 — to benefit Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Cen- tre, and although she was con- cerned capacity restrictions of 50 per cent would limit its fundrais- ing success, the reality turned out to be just the opposite, she says. Those who attended the sold- out evening were so grateful to be there, and having so much fun, almost double the pre-pandemic amount was raised. Anchor Niagara is now sell- ing tickets for two big events, the next one coming up for the Pink Pearl Foundation, a regist- ered charitable organization that provides support, facilitates con- nections and empowers young women who are courageously overcoming the social and emo- tional challenges of a cancer di- agnosis. It was founded by ovarian cancer survivor Elise Gasbarri- no, who at the age of 21 received treatment at Juravinski Cancer Cen- tre in Hamilton for ovari- an cancer. She discovered there were few women her age to talk to about her situation, and decided to organize some pro- grams for the younger age group, including wellness retreat and social events, providing a means for them to conquer their issues together.

Mavridis, with this and other fundraisers she has organized or taken part in herself, is fulfilling a promise she made to her mother Vera, who died of breast cancer at the age of 45. Vera had lived with the cancer diagnosis and its pro- gression for 13 years, and during that time, she volunteered for several organizations that raised money to fight cancer, promoted awareness of the disease or of- fered support to those who were going through cancer treatment. She hoped her daughter would carry on those activities when she was gone. As Mavridis was putting some finishing touches on the Eat, Drink, Pink! event last year, she says, she had travelled to see her aunt, who was a lead doctor at an on- cology clinic, and was able to have a good visit with her. Ma- vridis’ father, Bob, left for Greece Friday to see his sister, and Maria says she spent the day hoping she would get there before her aunt passed, which thankfully she did.

It makes her even more committed to raising money to support women going through cancer treatment, and grateful to double the number of tickets she can sell, she says. Eat, Drink, Pink! is being held at the Ravine Vineyard conference centre, Thursday, Nov. 11, at 6 p.m., with a three- course dinner, music, a silent auction, a swag gift bag and a beautiful view of the vineyards. Proof of vaccinations is re- quired. Tickets are $89, and are available at https://alleventse- niagara-on-the-lake/eat-drink- pink/1000016230701840.15. The next Anchor Niagara event, an evening of comedy with local boys Joe Pillitteri and Jeff Paul at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa on Nov. 26, also has tickets available, since capacity limits were lifted last week. “That means we can sell more tickets and make more money,” says Mavridis.

The two comedians are plan- ning on roaming community leaders, although Mavridis is re- mains tight-lipped about who the subjects of the roast might be. The event is a fundraiser for the Niagara Community Foun- dation, at Pillitteri’s request, and also for Pathstone Mental Health as requested by Paul. It begins at 7 p.m., and fol- lowing the comedy evening, will include a Video Dance Party Proof of double vaccination must be shown.

Mavridis has one more event she’s working on — a Boys II Men concert, also at White Oaks, on Feb. 5. For more details, visit https://www. eventbrite.ca/e/boyz-men-live- Continued on page 9

JOIN COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

Through Restoration and Water Well Decommissioning Grant Programs

Private & public landowners, NGOs, nature clubs, and “friends of” groups are invited to apply.
Vaccinating those around children ‘an easy win’

Penny Coles
The Local

The next step in the battle against COVID is getting children, their parents and anyone who might come into contact with them vaccinated, says Dr Musafa Hirji.

Niagara acting medical officer of health says he doesn’t have any way of knowing when Canada will approve vaccinations for children aged five to 11, but he approves of children getting a COVID-19 vaccine once vaccinations are approved and he knows when Canada will approve vaccinations for children five and up.

Hirji said Monday the District School Board of Niagara had outbreaks in five schools, with seven cases, and the Catholic board had two school outbreaks for a total of five cases.

Forty-six per cent of the students were infected outside of school, at home, from family members or extended family, and then taking it to school, he said. Outbreaks originating in school were only 26 per cent of the cases.

He is not anticipating any problem with getting enough vaccine once vaccinations are approved, and public health staff are training and working to prepare themselves for that day.

“Almost nobody” who is vaccinated is being admitted to hospital or intensive care, he said. “If you get vaccinated, this is what is really going to keep you safe going forward.”

While the number of people out shopping in Niagara has declined, possibly due to the weather, “my concern is we’re getting to the premium shopping season,” as well as holiday parties, and the numbers may climb again.

Maintaining other mitigating factors, such as masks and vaccination proof, continues to be important. Citing other countries, such as Denmark and Finland, with high vaccination rates, Hirji said when mask requirements were dropped and there was no “broad use of vaccination certificates,” cases rose.

“We don’t want to lift public health measures, or we may see the same thing.”

And in addition, he suggested workplaces should be pushing staff vaccinations, “keeping employees and their customers safe.”

New medical centre build takes next step forward

Local Staff

Members of Niagara on-the-Lake town council were meeting, with representatives from the Niagara North Family Health Team and The Village Developments Wednesday afternoon to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new medical centre in The Village.

Located on Garrison Village Drive beside the CIBC, the new facility will be home to physicians Iram Ahmed, Tim Bastedo, Karen Berti, Sunreen Malik and Pratik Kani, as well as Mary Keith and other members of the Niagara North Family Health Team.

The site also includes a new medical centre for Life Labs.

“Almost nobody” who is vaccinated is being admitted to hospital or intensive care, he said. “If you get vaccinated, this is what is really going to keep you safe going forward.”

While the number of people out shopping in Niagara has declined, possibly due to the weather, “my concern is we’re getting to the premium shopping season,” as well as holiday parties, and the numbers may climb again.

Maintaining other mitigating factors, such as masks and vaccination proof, continues to be important. Citing other countries, such as Denmark and Finland, with high vaccination rates, Hirji said when mask requirements were dropped and there was no “broad use of vaccination certificates,” cases rose.

“We don’t want to lift public health measures, or we may see the same thing.”

And in addition, he suggested workplaces should be pushing staff vaccinations, “keeping employees and their customers safe.”

Comedy roast night, dance party coming in November

Continued from page 10

tickets-162111968261.

Although it “100 per cent” feels good to be nominated, she said, “it also feels a little awkward. That is not only a lot of work for public health staff, but it means a lot of disruption to learning for students,” he said.

Finding locations is also a challenge, with many of the sites used previously now un-available, those steps are being worked on, and when the time comes, public health will be ready, said Hirji.

While waiting for vaccinations for children five and up to be approved, vaccinating those who come in contact with children would be “an easy win” in slowing down the rate of infection — vaccinating family members could cut the number of infections in half.

“Almost nobody” who is vaccinated is being admitted to hospital or intensive care, he said. “If you get vaccinated, this is what is really going to keep you safe going forward.”

While the number of people out shopping in Niagara has declined, possibly due to the weather, “my concern is we’re getting to the premium shopping season,” as well as holiday parties, and the numbers may climb again.

Maintaining other mitigating factors, such as masks and vaccination proof, continues to be important. Citing other countries, such as Denmark and Finland, with high vaccination rates, Hirji said when mask requirements were dropped and there was no “broad use of vaccination certificates,” cases rose.

“We don’t want to lift public health measures, or we may see the same thing.”

And in addition, he suggested workplaces should be pushing staff vaccinations, “keeping employees and their customers safe.”

Call today for a free home evaluation

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

905.262.8080

905.262.8080
Fort George welcoming trick-or-treaters Sunday

Local Staff

Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George are once again holding their special Halloween at Fort George program.

They will be ready to welcome goblins and ghouls in their Halloween costumes to the parking lot at Fort George, where Friends of Fort George volunteers will be handing out Halloween treat bags. There will be a table set up from noon to 2 p.m. with decorations and Halloween treats to help local youth celebrate Halloween.

Oct. 31 is also the last day Fort George and the Friends of Fort George Gift Shop are open for the season, from noon to 5 p.m. Last admission tickets sold at 4:15 p.m. Be sure to leave time to explore the grounds, tour through the buildings, and witness a musket demonstration. There will be a special talk or demonstration happening every half an hour throughout the day.

Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George wish to say thank you to Hendriks’ valu-mart, Phil’s valu-mart, Corks Wine Bar & Eatery, Parks Canada, The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Friends of Fort George Gift Shop and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum for their generous donations of Halloween treats.

For more information, visit www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca or call 905-468-8621.

Insurance will be the clincher, says Miele

Continued from page 1

with fundraising for an installation date early in December,” he said.

Outdoor ice rinks have a short season, he said, “but these will provide long-lasting memories.”

He said he has lots of residents and local business people lined up to help spearhead the initiative, and he held like service organizations on board, but he is waiting for town support before moving forward.

“Being near a water source would be ideal, and volunteers would maintain the rinks, and shovel them, although it would be good to have volunteer fire-fighters helping with the flooding, as they have in the past when they made ice rinks for their communities.

He is also hoping for sites with washrooms, “and maybe food and beverages available.”

Councillors mentioned there are already outdoor rinks in town, such as those at the Gretzky Winery, Vintage Hotels in the Old Town and Ravine Vineyards, all of which are wonderful locations, Miele said, but their priority is for their guests first.

“This is strictly for our community, for our kids, moms, dads, grandparents, who don’t have to rely on an outside corporation.”

When Lord Mayor Betty Disera asked if he would consider one in Glendale, “if that’s where the need is, that’s where we should go,” he said.

She also suggested an all-season, artificial surface, which she said the St. Davids Lions have been discussing.

“I’m sure we’re all open to anything that gets kids active and outdoors,” Miele answered.

Director of operations Sheldon Randall said he likes the idea of outdoor rinks, but his concern is who will provide the water, the washrooms and who will restore the location when skating is finished.

The proposal needs longer-term planning, with expectations from the town, and time to plan for it appropriately, Randall said, adding staff could open the discussions to have an answer for next year.

While councillors liked the concept, they had problems with some of the details.

Coun. Clare Cameron and others suggested trying to get one rink done for this year.

She approve of the principal of outdoor skating, and has many fond memories of skating with family in Jordan, but “it might be ambitious to do three, and we can’t get something like this done without a staff report.”

Coun. Gary Burrows suggested they could approve up to three rinks, but look at getting one for this season. “We could have ice within a month.”

Councillors also spoke of the need for volunteers, and getting service clubs involved, without putting any extra pressure on town staff.

Councillors unanimously supported the skating rinks in principal, and approved a motion to ask Miele to provide a written proposal for staff, indicating responsibility for establishing and maintaining three rinks in locations acceptable to staff, and that staff provide the three locations and insurance, if there is an ability to do so, through the town’s insurance provider.

Halloween safety

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Brownies welcomed the vice-president of health and safety at Walker Industries, Brian Ferguson, for a safety talk last week. He discussed the dos and don’ts of Halloween safety, reminding the girls to always stay with an adult, be visible and never eat opened candy or enter an unknown house. At the end of the meeting, all the girls were gifted a bag full of goodies including a play hard hat, a colouring book, a glow bracelet and a Halloween safety checklist. The NOTL Brownies thank Brian Ferguson for the fun and informative meeting. (Photo supplied)
Let's plan a winter you can enjoy!

Looking for a new chapter, a vibrant lifestyle and worry-free living, then let’s plan for a winter you can enjoy. Are you thinking is it time for a more manageable space? If so, discover how you can downsize to the right size with a stylish, independent Rennie Seniors Apartment. This intimate new boutique-style rental building comprises 48 independent living suites, with a choice of one or two-bedroom floor plans including most with balconies. At The Rennie you will find a style sure to impress, with modern designer-look cabinets, quartz counter-tops, under mount sink and breakfast bar in many suites. Enjoy an exercise routine in The Rennie fitness center and make use of the common room for social times. The Rennie is designed for those who want to live stylishly, independently and enjoy life to the fullest.

The Rennie is located in the charming community of St. Catharines, near the lake, 25 minutes from NOTL and close to Port Dalhousie. The Rennie is in a great location, with nearby parks, walking trails, coffee shops, pharmacy and restaurants.

The Rennie has been designed with your well being in mind. Features like, step in showers with safety grab bars, optional check in button, laundry in your own suite and a full kitchen with all 5 appliances. Being adjacent to Royal Henley Retirement Community, you even have the option of meals if you do not feel like cooking. We welcome you to call us today to discover Independent Seniors Living. It’s a place where you’ll feel comfortable from the moment you move in!

ONLY 3 SUITES LEFT - CALL TODAY
WWW.RENNIEAPARTMENTS.COM
Kim Wade
Special to The Local

We have a new statutory holiday in Canada. Sept. 30 marked The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, commemorating the victims and survivors of residential schools in this country. This topic has been in the forefront of our minds and hearts as the death toll continues to rise on the sites of former residential schools.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has been dedicated to providing a sound narrative surrounding this topic, its nuances and its history. Amy Klassen, director of finance and marketing and its history. Amy Klassen, director of finance and marketing, and Laura Hedman, implementation coordinator and Daniel Lazer, research advisor for the province, who will be presenting Treaties and Land Claims, a virtual lecture. Their guests are expected to speak to various local treaties and their history in our community. The lecture will take place on Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Registration is required by contacting Amy Klassen at notlmuseum.ca or by calling 905-468-3912.

This year, the Treaties Recognition Week will run from Nov. 1 to 7. The week was formalized in provincial legislation in 2016, on the heels of Ontario’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action. Their mandate is to work “to ensure a better future for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.” According to the Indigenous Affairs website, the week “honours the importance of treaties and helps Ontarians understand the significance of treaties, treaty relationships and their relevance today.” Treaties Recognition Week also “represents one of many steps on Ontario’s journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.”

The ministry is offering events that centre on treaties and reconciliation that are meant to encourage learning and relationship building. This year the events will take place virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

For more information about the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Treaties week, visit: https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties-recognition-week

NOTL Museum commemorates Treaty Week

A new museum display has opened at the NOTL Museum this week, in acknowledgement of Treaty Recognition Week, the NOTL Museum welcomes treaties recognition coordinator and Daniel Laxer, research advisor for the province, who will be presenting Treaties and Land Claims, a virtual lecture. Their guests are expected to speak to various local treaties and their history in our community. The lecture will take place on Nov. 3 at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Registration is required by contacting Amy Klassen at notlmuseum.ca or by calling 905-468-3912.

This year, the Treaties Recognition Week will run from Nov. 1 to 7. The week was formalized in provincial legislation in 2016, on the heels of Ontario’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action. Their mandate is to work “to ensure a better future for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.” According to the Indigenous Affairs website, the week “honours the importance of treaties and helps Ontarians understand the significance of treaties, treaty relationships and their relevance today.” Treaties Recognition Week also “represents one of many steps on Ontario’s journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.”

The ministry is offering events that centre on treaties and reconciliation that are meant to encourage learning and relationship building. This year the events will take place virtually due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation.

For more information about the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and Treaties week, visit: https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties-recognition-week

Museum takes on Poppy Project to recognize veterans

Volunteers are busy at work on the poppy production line. (Photos by Barbara Worthy)

Women and children at a feast at Fort Metagami during the Treaty 9 payment ceremony in 1905. (Archives of Ontario)

Local Staff

Next week local arborists will be volunteering their specific skills to help install thousands of knitted and crocheted poppies on the exterior facade of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. The museum has joined a nation-wide Poppy Project after a donation of more than 1,500 poppies from the Niagara Falls Museum, left over poppies from their own poppy installation in 2020. About 40 volunteers in Niagara-on-the-Lake formed the poppy brigade, and during the past six weeks they have knitted, crocheted, glued, cut, and attached approximately 3,000 poppies to netting or bamboo sticks. The poppies will cascade down on the outside of the building, to form a path to the Canadian flag, as well as creating a garden of poppies. Hailing them is a job that can only be accomplished from a cherry picker, and Davey Tree Expert Company has volunteered its services. The netting will be hung on Nov. 1, weather permitting, from the bell tower at the top of the museum’s exterior facade. The tower is part of the original Niagara High School, circa 1875, which has been part of the museum complex since the 1940s.

“The poppy production line has been a place of great efficiency,” said organizer Barbara Worthy. “We’ve almost lost count of the number of red and black balls of yarn and the thousands of zips we’ve used. But mostly it’s been about the enormous fun and conviviality, the amazing ideas for design and installation, and the satisfaction of completion.”

The poppy brigade is reminiscent of the knitting and sewing groups formed during both World Wars, when packages of socks and woollens were sent overseas for the troops. “The same enthusiasm and community spirit is here with all these volunteers,” said Worthy. “Even the Niagara Girl Guide Rangers played a part, spending an entire evening attaching poppies.”

Niagara is not alone in this initiative. Poppy-makers worldwide have joined the campaign to honour veterans of all wars, and to pay special homage to the symbolism of the poppy. This year, 2021, is also the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the poppy by the Great War Veterans’ Association as a symbol of remembrance, and the annual poppy campaign allows the Royal Canadian Legion to offer advocacy and financial assistance to veterans and their families. This is yet another way to extend that remembrance. The resulting display can be viewed from Nov. 2 to 12. Visitors are encouraged to come and visit the display, especially on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11.

For more information, visit: www.NOTLMuseum.ca, call 905-468-3912, or email aklassen@nhsm.ca. The museum is located at 43 C琉璃gh St., in Niagara-on-the-Lake. 
Rotary members plant 600 tulips to end polio

Rotary members are set to begin planting 600 tulip bulbs, a task they completed Friday morning. (Photos by Penny Coles)

Penny Coles
The Local

Rotarians have been committed to preventing polio for more than 30 years. They’re close, but won’t stop any time soon.

Members of the NOTL Rotary Club gathered in their bright yellow vests at Simcoe Park early Friday morning to plant 600 tulip bulbs as part of their commitment to eradicate polio.

Working with town staff on the cool fall day — perfect for planting — they’ve chosen one of the most visible locations in Niagara-on-the-Lake to plant End Polio Now tulips, specifically bred for that cause. Their goal is for the red and yellow blooms to brighten up the corner and attract the attention of visitors and locals passing by next spring.

There will be a plaque in the tulip beds, says NOTL Rotary Club president Patricia Murenbeeld, to explain the presence of those particular bulbs and bring awareness to the reason for planting them.

Since 1988, Rotary clubs around the world have raised $1.2 billion, with more than 20 million volunteers contributing to the vaccination of almost three billion children. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 per cent since the first polio vaccinations were administered.

They are close to reaching the goal, but won’t stop until children in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where polio remains endemic, are also vaccinated. And even then, says Rotary member Jolanta Janny, they will continue their vaccination initiative to keep all countries polio-free.

The End Polio Now Tulips were developed in the Netherlands especially to raise money and awareness of the continuing need for polio eradication.

With town staff set to help out, Rotarians timed the planting close to World Polio Day, Oct. 24, which was established by Rotary International to raise awareness for polio vaccination and eradication of polio and commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop the vaccine.

For the first time, says Murenbeeld with pride, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, also a Rotarian member, has proclaimed Oct. 24 World Polio Day in NOTL.

Janny, one of the organizers of the planting, says of the town “graciously allows us to continue our goal next year,” she hopes to expand the fundraiser by selling tulips to NOTL residents. “My vision is to see these red and yellow tulips all around town, and to raise more money for polio eradication.”

The End Polio Now tulip was developed in 2013 by Dutch grower Jan Liebhart, and has spread worldwide since. For each $25 box Rotary International purchases, a donation of $13 is made to polio eradication, and with two-to-one matching funds by the Gates Foundation, the end result becomes triple the initial contribution.

Murenbeeld, of Dutch ancestry herself, recounts the story of her mother in the Netherlands who, with her two sisters, was brought to the Netherlands in the Second World War. To her, the powerful significance of tulips makes the planting in Simcoe Park a perfect way to raise awareness and funds for the Rotary cause, she says.

Dylan Muileboom, the town parks and recreation lead hand, was at Simcoe Park to continue on page 20
Music Niagara wrapping up Brahms Oktoberfest

The Music Niagara Festival is wrapping up its Brahms Oktoberfest celebration with four consecutive days of online concerts celebrating the German composer. Each is a perfect opportunity to pop open a German beer and enjoy the Oktoberfest celebration, with a soundtrack of course, in the comfort of your own home.

On Thursday, Oct. 28, the Oast House Hay Loft is the setting for a performance by Toronto’s Odin Quartet, a collection of four accomplished young chamber musicians. The following evening features Adamatti, the duo of Adam Didierich on violin and Matti Pulkki of Quartetto Gelato on accordion. The show, recorded just last week in front of an audience of about 30 people at the new Blackburn Brewhouse in Niagara Falls. The concert features a brass quintet composed of members of the Niagra Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances by pianist Victoria Kogan, soprano Inga Filipova, clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman, each of whom is familiar with clarinetist Stoll and cellist Crozman, each of whom is probably the best Canada has to offer on their instruments.

The weekend wraps up Sunday, Oct. 31 with a multi-faceted performance recorded just last week in front of an audience of about 30 people at the new Blackburn Brewhouse in Niagara Falls. The concert features a brass quintet composed of members of the Niagra Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances by pianist Victoria Kogan, soprano Inga Filipova, clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman, each of whom is familiar with clarinetist Stoll and cellist Crozman, each of whom is probably the best Canada has to offer on their instruments. The brewhery’s high ceilings, with the production facility sparkling in the background behind large windows, provides an impressive backdrop and great acoustics for their performances.

Clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman perform in the last of the Oktoberfest concerts. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The Music Niagara Festival is wrapping up its Brahms Oktoberfest celebration with four consecutive days of online concerts celebrating the German composer. Each is a perfect opportunity to pop open a German beer and enjoy the Oktoberfest celebration, with a soundtrack of course, in the comfort of your own home.

On Thursday, Oct. 28, the Oast House Hay Loft is the setting for a performance by Toronto’s Odin Quartet, a collection of four accomplished young chamber musicians. The following evening features Adamatti, the duo of Adam Didierich on violin and Matti Pulkki of Quartetto Gelato on accordion. The show, recorded just last week in front of an audience of about 30 people at the new Blackburn Brewhouse in Niagara Falls. The concert features a brass quintet composed of members of the Niagra Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances by pianist Victoria Kogan, soprano Inga Filipova, clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman, each of whom is familiar with clarinetist Stoll and cellist Crozman, each of whom is probably the best Canada has to offer on their instruments.

The weekend wraps up Sunday, Oct. 31 with a multi-faceted performance recorded just last week in front of an audience of about 30 people at the new Blackburn Brewhouse in Niagara Falls. The concert features a brass quintet composed of members of the Niagra Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances by pianist Victoria Kogan, soprano Inga Filipova, clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman, each of whom is familiar with clarinetist Stoll and cellist Crozman, each of whom is probably the best Canada has to offer on their instruments. The brewhery’s high ceilings, with the production facility sparkling in the background behind large windows, provides an impressive backdrop and great acoustics for their performances.

Clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman perform in the last of the Oktoberfest concerts. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The Music Niagara Festival is wrapping up its Brahms Oktoberfest celebration with four consecutive days of online concerts celebrating the German composer. Each is a perfect opportunity to pop open a German beer and enjoy the Oktoberfest celebration, with a soundtrack of course, in the comfort of your own home.

On Thursday, Oct. 28, the Oast House Hay Loft is the setting for a performance by Toronto’s Odin Quartet, a collection of four accomplished young chamber musicians. The following evening features Adamatti, the duo of Adam Didierich on violin and Matti Pulkki of Quartetto Gelato on accordion. The show, recorded just last week in front of an audience of about 30 people at the new Blackburn Brewhouse in Niagara Falls. The concert features a brass quintet composed of members of the Niagra Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances by pianist Victoria Kogan, soprano Inga Filipova, clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman, each of whom is familiar with clarinetist Stoll and cellist Crozman, each of whom is probably the best Canada has to offer on their instruments. The brewhery’s high ceilings, with the production facility sparkling in the background behind large windows, provides an impressive backdrop and great acoustics for their performances.

Clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman perform in the last of the Oktoberfest concerts. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
If you’ve ever visited lo-
cal farm stands in search of
the perfect peach you
would likely have met
Paul Bent at the colourful
Epp farm stand on the
Niagara River Parkway.
Some locals like to come
early to the T&R Jones
family stand at Conces-
sion 4 and Niagara Stone
Road to exchange a friend-
ly greeting with Donovan
Gordon, who would be
hustling to set up the mar-
et for the day.

Both of these men share
a lot in common. Paul has
been coming to Niaga-
ra for 34 years, working
for Epp Farms. Donovan
has been coming here for
26 years, working at Kai
Wien’s farm for his first 10
years and with Tom and
Rhonda Jones since.

In the 1960s, the Sea-
sonal Agricultural Work-
ers Program was heralded
as an innovative way to ad-
dress what was perceived
as a short-term labour
problem.

For men such as Paul
and Donovan, the farm
program wasn’t part of
their long-term plan ei-
er. They both had big
dreams but a shortage of
cash. Newly married with
young families, a few years
on the farm work program
in Canada seemed like just
the ticket to getting those
dreams up and running.

What Paul could never
imagine was that Anthony,
the young baby he cradled
in his arms, would also be
battling peach fuzz and
working 10 to 12 hours
during the open mic
seasons. His coworkers
continue to speak highly
of him. He was especially
appreciated for his gener-
ovity, his sense of humour
and encouragement that
motivated the crew when
the going got tough during
the harvest season.

In 1960, Josephine de-
veloped health concerns
and by February of this
year she was diagnosed
with stage 4 cancer. Dono-
van had to make the pain-
ful decision whether to
stay at home to care for her
or return to Niagara so that
he could pay for her exten-
sive medical bills and fur-
ther treatment. The deci-
sion was made that Jodane
would be the one to stay
home in order to provide
24-hour care for her.

It was an agonizing sea-
son for Donovan, hoping
she would make it until he
returned home. Early one
August morning Dono-
van received a call from
his sister, informing him
that his mother had passed
away. He called Jodane to
pass along the news and to
check on his wife’s wellbe-
ing only to have his son an-
swer, heavy with grief, and
inform him that Josephine
had passed away at home
only minutes earlier.

Being separated from
loved ones eight months
into the year is painful, but
as the men often say, “you
have to work with it,” and
find a way to adapt. There
is nothing, however, that
can prepare someone for
dealing with the intense
grief of losing loved ones
and being deprived of fam-
ily support during these
times.

Donovan was in shock.
His wife was only 51, and
they had been looking for-
ward to many plans for their
future. He went through
the motions of work, planning
services even farther away to
continue to speak highly
of the day.

In my conversations
with fathers such as Paul
and Donovan, I am re-
minded how precious time
is with their families in the
few short months they
have together every year.

A few of the colourful
farm stands are still open
on weekends, holding the
memories of a highly suc-
sessful season, despite
the challenges of carrying
on through a pandemic and
loyal commitments to
loved ones far away. They
are also a reminder of the
sacrifices made by two
generations to ensure that
Canadians have food on
tables.
Predators experiencing some major changes

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

After only six games, Andrew Whalen resigned last week as coach of the Niagara Predators. Team owner Robert Turnbull cited family reasons for the Brantford resident's decision.

"Andrew has another kid (his fourth) on the way," Turnbull told The Local after the team's 3-2 win over Plattville Friday night. "We practise at 3 or 3:30 in the afternoon. For him to drive from Brantford to here is really hard on the family. It was a difficult decision, a last-minute one, and I wish him the best of luck. He would have liked to have moved down here but the cost to come down would have given the Preds more room to breathe as the game progressed."

Zitella goal turned out to be the winner. With 1:30 left in the third period, Del Rizzo knuckled to the bench, providing the Lakers with an extra attacker. Some sloppy play with the puck in Niagara's own end resulted in a turnover. Kyle Struth narrowed the margin for the Lakers just before the buzzer sounded to end the game.

"One big mistake, we had the chance to move the puck out and we didn't," Turnbull lamented. "It's simple, it's the little things. The hardest thing to teach the players is where to teach the players is where to.

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A Blizzard from DQ

Brendan Gallagher

Jersey number: 7

Home town: Hamilton, Ont.

Nickname: Zitzy

Favourite hockey player: Brendan Gallagher

Your "hype" song: The Swedes have me hooked on the song TOMP!

by ADAM & VC Barre

Hockey highlight: Being named captain for the Predators

Other sports you play: Soccer

Favourite "cheat" meal: A Blizzard from DQ

Secret talent: I can juggle!

Meet the Predators

New defenceman Alexander Jarnikov in his first game with the Predators.

Defenceman Brett Lee. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
Continued from page 15

give a quick lesson on the ba-
sics of planting tulip bulbs. He
had already ensured the beds
were prepared for planting, and
in the next couple of weeks, he
and his crew will be doing the
same for the rest of the Queen
Street beds.

They will plant about
12,500 tulip bulbs this fall to
create a beautiful spring show
of colour, to be pulled up to
be replaced by annuals for the
summer.

Mike Marchesano, who designs
the beds for planting, says he
ensures those within eye sight
of Simcoe Park will be yellow;
red and maybe some orange, so
they complement the 600 bulbs
the Rotarians have planted.

While the loss, Preds goal-
der Eriksson said a new goalie
for the second straight game,
this one on a power play and as-
sisted by Insulander and Joshua
Davidson. LJ Beaupre evened
it up for the Ravens, and Lu-
cas Felicetti put St. George up
3-3 for the Ravens.

Munyankuge knotted it up at
905.329.3484

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

Continued from page 18

New coach expected soon
for the second straight game,
this one on a power play and as-
sisted by Insulander and Joshua
Davidson. LJ Beaupre evened
it up for the Ravens, and Lu-
cas Felicetti put St. George up
3-3 for the Ravens.

Munyankuge knotted it up at
905.329.3484

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

Continued from page 18

New coach expected soon
for the second straight game,
this one on a power play and as-
sisted by Insulander and Joshua
Davidson. LJ Beaupre evened
it up for the Ravens, and Lu-
cas Felicetti put St. George up
3-3 for the Ravens.

Munyankuge knotted it up at
905.329.3484

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION

6 Brown’s Point $3,995,000
6 bedroom, 8 bathrooms. Over 11,000 ft.

5 Sandalwood $3,250,000
5,500 square feet of finished living space

16 George Manor
SOLD OVER ASKING
Gorgeous end unit townhome

16 Henry Street, Virgil
SOLD OVER ASKING
$830,000

121 Loretta Drive
SOLD CONDITIONALLY
Beautiful Virgil, 2,174 square feet

831 Concession 6
$1,950,000
42 beautiful acres

GREG SYKES real estate TEAM
notllocal.com

October 27, 2021

Town will coordinate tulip beds with End Polio Now colours

“We’re using the beds as a starting point,” he says. “We’ll be starting to plant the rest in
about two weeks’ time.”

And when they bloom in
the spring, those colourful
flower beds at the entrance
will Simcoe Park will be a re-
minder that the Rotary com-
mitment to eradicating polio
is ongoing, through the gener-
osity of members and all who
support them.

Aiden O’Leary, the polio
eradication director for the
World Health Organization,
says he understands the differ-
ence Rotary can make in the
global fight against polio. Al-
though the goal is close, there
is no room for complacency,
he says. “What is really im-
portant is that we double down
on reaching the persistently
missed children who are a top
priority for our program.”

The message, he says, is
simple: “A polio-free world is
within reach. There is an op-
portunity, and now is the time
to stay the course.”

For more information or
to donate, visit niagaraon-
therelaterotaryca.

Rotary members get to work planting End Polio Now tulip bulbs.

Rotary president Patricia Murenbeeld is pleased to have
Lord Mayor Betty Disero proclaim Oct. 24 World Polio Day.

(Penny Coles)

The message, he says, is
simple: “A polio-free world is
within reach. There is an op-
portunity, and now is the time
to stay the course.”

For more information or
to donate, visit niagaraon-
therelaterotaryca.

Rotary members get to work planting End Polio Now tulip bulbs.

Rotary president Patricia Murenbeeld is pleased to have
Lord Mayor Betty Disero proclaim Oct. 24 World Polio Day.

(Penny Coles)

The message, he says, is
simple: “A polio-free world is
within reach. There is an op-
portunity, and now is the time
to stay the course.”

For more information or
to donate, visit niagaraon-
therelaterotaryca.

Rotary members get to work planting End Polio Now tulip bulbs.

Rotary president Patricia Murenbeeld is pleased to have
Lord Mayor Betty Disero proclaim Oct. 24 World Polio Day.

(Penny Coles)

The message, he says, is
simple: “A polio-free world is
within reach. There is an op-
portunity, and now is the time
to stay the course.”

For more information or
to donate, visit niagaraon-
therelaterotaryca.

Rotary members get to work planting End Polio Now tulip bulbs.