



Second generation working in NOTL
page 17



During a two-day training exercise at the Old Town station, about 40 volunteer firefighters were taught to recognize and prevent flashover. Once an enclosed space has been engulfed, temperatures inside would exceed 1,200 degrees F, said Fire Chief Nick Ruller. (Mike Balsom)

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

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 Swede Survival System trailer, designed and delivered by Dräger Safety Canada, was parked outside the station. Firefighters took turns stepping inside for vital

training on recognizing the dangerous signs that point to an enclosed area soon to become suddenly inflamed from floor to ceiling.

"It's essentially a canister that allows us to observe fire conditions," Fire Chief Nick Ruller explained. "We do live fire training at various occasions across the region, but a lot of our focus there is search and rescue and advancing hose lines. This allows us to see a fire go right through a growth phase, into rollover, and ultimately that canister (the top level) goes into flashover, which is not survivable."

Jonathan Wong, Dräger's

regional sales manager, explained the fire is stoked in a thermally-lined burn barrel in the upper chamber, which is lined on all sides, top and bottom, with plywood. The separation of the two chambers allows the trainees to be protected in the lower section while observing the progression of the fire above.

Ruller said once an enclosed space has been engulfed, temperatures inside would exceed 1,200 degrees F and the gear worn by firefighters would only protect them for about two seconds.

"What this does is allow our members to see the signs and conditions that lead up to flash-

over, and 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 structure, while a rapid intervention team remained in close but safe proximity, ready 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 an actual fire situation there isn't so much time for analysis of the situation, so Ruller explained that opportunities such as this for training are crucial.

"It's time-sensitive," Ruller said, "so we really push on intuitive decision-making, and that's drawn from experience and your training. We study line-of-duty deaths and near misses in the fire services. We hear that their life flashes before their eyes."

"That's part of the fight or flight response," Ruller continued. "Your mind is looking for something to draw from to get them out of the situation they're in. What we're doing

here is giving them a deposit into that bank, so if they get into that situation, they can make that withdrawal. Without that type of experience they won't be able to do that."

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.

"Nobody was forcing them to be here this weekend," marvelled the chief. "They were all in. I was impressed with their willingness to learn, their

Continued on page 3

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NOTL man arrested on porn charges

Penny Coles
The Local

A 39-year-old man and elementary school teacher from Niagara-on-the-Lake has been arrested, and charged on three different counts involving pornography.

The Niagara Regional Police say they started an investigation earlier this month that

included uniform 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, Weston Thomas Nesbitt 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. "This news is distressing to the principal and staff at Forestview, and we understand that it is upsetting for families as well. It is possible that your child may have feelings about this news that they would like support with. We are committed to providing for the needs of our students and have arranged for social workers to be

at our school all week if needed," the letter said. 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." Nesbitt 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.

Question arises over street name spelling

Penny Coles
The Local

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

It had been spelled correctly, at least according to the town,



Town street spelling

in a motion made by Lord Mayor Betty Disero. 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.

Museum curator Sarah Kaufman, when asked about historical references to the street name, says this: "It's funny you bring this up, as we had an inquiry about this a few years ago. There are two main spellings of the word that are out in the community: Mississauga or Mississagua. No one has delved into the research on this to my knowledge. However, while taking a quick look at early maps that

show street names or the point names (Mississauga Point is the name of the point on which the lighthouse used to exist, and now you see the tower of Fort Mississauga from the NOTL Golf Course), there are a number of spellings: Massassagua, Massissauga, Messessagua, etc."

Kaufman says early cartographers probably weren't sure of how the Indigenous word was spelled, so they used the phonetic spelling.

"I'm not sure who decided that the point would be called Mississauga Point. It could have been the Mississauga Nation, but I'm willing to bet that it was likely the British who purchased the long track of land along the Niagara River from the Mississauga

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.

However, there have also been some big green bins around town advertising for textile donations, but it's a mystery where donated items are going — there is nothing on the bin to indicate who is behind them.

Last week, Julia Buxton-Cox 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-Cox.

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

Greg Chew, sales representative for Colliers International, developer of the plaza, said he has seen the collection bins in other locations.

He too has left many messages when dealing with bins in Fort Erie and Virgil, and hasn't received a response, he says.

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 at best that there is no name on it"

Chew says he supports clothes being recycled and re-used, "however the behaviour of this company, whoever they are, I will not support. I had my maintenance team remove the bin earlier this week for all of those reasons."

Buxton-Cox encourages people to drop off clothing do-

nations at The Farmworker Hub, at 1570 Niagara Stone Rd., by the door at the side of Cornerstone Church. There is a donation bin for items that are distributed free to offshore farm workers.

She also suggests Newark Neighbours, which has a food barn and thrift store on John Street, off the driveway for Riverbend Inn. Newark has been looking after the needy in NOTL for 50 years, and donations of clothing, linens and small household items help local low-income families.

She warns against potential scams, especially, she says, "when two agencies in town are working so hard to provide for migrant workers and low-income families."



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

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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.



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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 a \$1.5 million extension to the Old Town fire station.

Councillors have agreed to spend \$90,000 for a consultant to design the addition, which will include offices for current full-time fire department staff who now 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 their 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, aiding the recruiting and retention of volunteer firefighters, while managing 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 involve large expenses for the fire department, including two new trucks and new equipment, and questioned whether there were other alternatives to consider, he was asked by Coun. Erwin Wiens, "If we don't give you the \$1.5 million, are there other things you can do?"

Ruller said he has considered alternatives, such as Glendale and Virgil, but the Old Town is the area where it's difficult to get volunteers, 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 it's my responsibility to bring these things forward to you. It's not Nick Ruller asking, it is very much your fire chief looking at it from the perspective of the community, and what I genuinely believe is in their best interest. I don't take for granted at all the support I've had from this council for the fire department."

Coun. Clare Cameron said she was "unquestioning" in her

support. The current request is not new, "has been in multiple aligned 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 town's only first responders, attending not only to fires 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 incredible sacrifices in the name of safety. Why would we not go forward unquestioning with an important investment in an opportunity to help support one of the operational bulwarks of safety in our community, which is through our fire department?"

Cameron added her thanks to Ruller, "for continuing to try to articulate how this issue of safety is connected with issues of affordability and economic opportunity in our town. People need to see how these big pieces fit together."

Ruller told The Local he is trying to act in the residents' best interest, and responding to the town's strategic plan, positioning the fire department for the future.

"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 agreement to move forward with the hiring of a consultant was important in getting the project shovel-ready, for the purpose of taking advantage of some of the grant opportunities he's seeing, he added.

Although the firefighting organization has responded to growing pressure throughout NOTL, the Old Town is experiencing unique challenges — from 25 volunteers and 160 responses to calls in 1996, when the majority of volunteers lived in the Old Town and worked in NOTL, there are now 14 volunteer firefighters assigned to the Old Town station, only eight of whom live in the station's catchment area, which is on pace to respond to 320 calls in 2021.

With the erosion of staff, Ruller said, his proposal presents a real opportunity to reduce response time by supplementing volunteers with daytime staff currently working out of operations building in Virgil — staff who are considered operational when needed.

He suggested that as well as the 3,280 square-foot addition, the fire station should be given a public entrance, which they're missing now, and an extended driveway to Niagara Stone Road, allowing for emergency exits while avoiding the intersection with Anderson Lane.

The addition would also include an accessible washroom, and two gender neutral showers — currently, he said, the station has one men's washroom with a shower.

To continue the town's existing volunteer delivery model, "we are going to have to look at creative solutions," he told councillors.

His proposal will have nominal impact on operating costs, other than utilities for the extra space, but the extension 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 shovel-ready so the town could "potentially access infrastructure grants that we're seeing come forward."

And although it's an expensive fix, "we have to consider the consequences if we do not take action to better support the volunteer service delivery model," he said.

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 firefighters who have 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 Niagara municipalities with volunteer fire departments are all using a fire station for administration offices, "to better leverage staff for operational purposes as well."

The move would also improve the lives of the volunteers, he added. As a former volunteer firefighter, he said, "you don't want to let your team 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 build that roster up from some of the decreases we've seen over the years."

When volunteers are running out to their fourth call of the day at dinner time, the first one having come in when they were getting their kids off to school, he said, "it can be very demanding for our firefighters." The move to the Old Town "is about helping them strike a balance."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked Ruller where the proposal 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 supported in principal, it won't be considered until one of the stations 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 areas will be reevaluated.

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

'In a fire there isn't much time for analysis'

Continued from page 1

interest, and their engagement with the questions."

The chief accompanied the first group into the canister and also joined the instructors and the volunteers inside the station for a debrief following the experience.

"They talked about how it was interesting to see the effects of ventilation," Ruller said after the meeting. "They talked about the importance of door control and how it impacts fire growth. And how little water is required to change conditions in that compartment, and the effects of the steam in suppressing the fire. And how quickly fire regrowth occurs."

For relatively new recruit Rebecca van der Zalm, it was her first time inside an enclosed space in a fire situation.

"I've never been in a burning building," van der Zalm explained. "When we walked in I kind of hung to the back to see what was going to happen. By the time I went to the front I was really comfortable in handling the hose and watching the flames and the smoke over top of us."

At the back of the trailer, van der Zalm said it was very dark inside, especially with smoke filling the lower chamber. She couldn't see much beyond two of her fellow firefighters in front of her. The controlled environment, though, made her at ease in the training situation.

"It was very interesting to see the changes," she said. "They (the instructors) were talking through it, explaining what they were going to do. We would

watch for the smoke change, we would shoot a little bit of water and put the flame out. They would shut the door and everything would calm down. As soon as they opened the door and the oxygen came back it would ignite the fire again."

For van der Zalm, it was also her first time handling the hose in a small confined area. Prior to stepping into the structure the volunteers had a crash course in handling the fire hose while laying flat on the ground.

"It was a sweet experience," she enthused while smiling broadly. "I'm really glad I'm here."

Ruller explained that through the weekend, each group would step into the canister twice.

"The next burn will be more focused on hose line advancement and backing out when conditions change. That's the other element. When you know you're in over your head, how do you safely back out from putting yourself at risk?"

Ruller reflected on his early career as a firefighter, when he found himself in some real-time situations where he

and his colleagues faced rapidly changing conditions and had to retreat. At the time he had undergone specific training on how and when to retreat.

He jumped at the chance to host the Dräger system so volunteers from all NOTL fire stations would have the opportunity to be better prepared.

"We're five 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 about providing the best level of preparation possible, to ensure firefighters' safety and survival every time they respond to situations across NOTL.

"If we don't provide these opportunities, it 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."



A Swede Survival System trailer parked outside Old Town station provided vital training for volunteer firefighters. (Mike Balsom)



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Free dental care appointments, one day only

Penny Coles
The Local

A local dental clinic in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be offering a Gift from the Heart, providing one full day of free dental care to those in need.

Dr. Daniela Matijevec, owner of Dental Care Niagara, 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.

Matijevec says even pre-pandemic, she was aware of local residents who were not

looking after their dental care due to financial struggles, especially seniors on fixed incomes. However, she says, the situation seems to have worsened during the pandemic.

Matijevec says it is her way to give back to the community, and help those in need — the under-served, 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, everyone could have access to basic dental care. Everyone has a right to that.”

Her services and that of her dental clinic staff 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.

The Gift from the Heart organization helps organize the day, and appointments

must be made by emailing info@giftfromtheheart.

If it turns out to be a suc-

cessful day, Matijevec says, she would like to make it an annual event.



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

Mississauga probably correct

Continued from page 2

Nation in 1781,” she said, referencing the Niagara Treaty of 1781, also known as the Niagara Purchase.

“I’m guessing at this only because the earliest map I saw with the name came from the 1790s. Fort Mississauga was built during the War of 1812 and it was, of course, named for the point on which it was built,” says Kaufman.

“I would lean towards the correct spelling as being Mississauga, since that is how the Indigenous Nation for which it was likely named spells it. I believe Mississauga Street is called that because it leads from Niagara Stone Road (formerly the Black Swamp Road) towards Mississauga Point. Last I checked, which was a long while ago, the town’s street signs spell it incorrectly.”

Interestingly, an online search for the origin of the spelling of Mississauga Street brought up a TripAdvisor comment. A

visitor from Windsor says, “I’ve been puzzled by this for years and I’m not sure if somebody already answered this before. Is the main road from the QEW to Niagara-on-the-Lake called Mississauga Street or Mississagua Street, once you enter the town? Bed and breakfasts, restaurants and hotels call the street Mississauga but Google maps and the town labels it as Mississagua (pronunciation difference?? I think there is).”

A response from someone who calls himself fallsdude says “the correct spelling is Mississagua, named after Fort Mississagua, which you see across the golf course at the north end of the street. I believe the story is that the Anglicized name of the Native Peoples of the area - “Missisakis” - was often spelled (or misspelled) both ways by the British and French, with both versions preserved in some places in Ontario.”

He correctly points out there is a Mississauga Lake in

the Kawarthas, but is incorrect about the fort: research shows it as always having been spelled Fort Mississauga.

Town staff did not reply to a request of any history of the street name, other than forwarding Kaufman’s response to an email to her from The Local, on which she copied the town. Town documents, planning and otherwise, seem equally split between the two spellings.

Donald Combe, an author of several books, including one on street names in town, provided information similar to Kaufman’s, that the earlier maps of Niagara identify Mississauga Point, the place where an early lighthouse was built to guide ships into the mouth of the river and harbour.

By the time Europeans had arrived, the people known as the Mississaugas had occupied a good part of what is now Ontario.

During the War of 1812, the rubble from buildings destroyed by fire was used to build Fort Mississauga. “This street was originally called Fifth Street,” says Combe’s research, going directly from Mississauga Point to the outskirts of town, where it becomes Niagara Stone Road.

Although the town list of street names spells it Mississauga, it seems Kaufman is likely correct when she says at some point, the town got it wrong, unless there is research that shows otherwise.

Gateway Community Church bicycle drop-off Saturday



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)

Ken Eden
Special to The Local

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 is continuing their support of Bikes For Farmworkers by having a bicycle drop-off between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30 at the church located at 1615 Niagara Stone Road in Virgil.

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.

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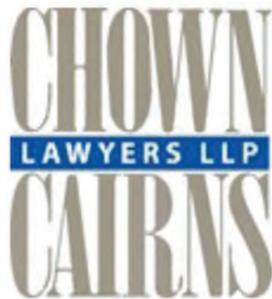
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EDITORIAL

No Christmas parade this winter, but maybe an outdoor rink

For the second year, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas Parade has been cancelled.

That's disappointing to many who look forward to what is widely billed — at least across this town — as the best parade around.

Certainly for a small town, NOTL has traditionally hosted a big parade of more than 100 entries, including some of the best floats and bands around.

It has always been one of my favourite events, not only for the great parade, but as an opportunity to bring family together. For many years, we've gathered at the NOTL Golf Club for breakfast pre-parade. It's always a scrumptious meal amongst good company, helps to avoid the traffic in and out of town, and there is no problem finding parking spots. After break-

fast, it's simple to walk to our usual spot, enjoy the parade — picture-taking also involved for me — and then spend the rest of the day together, since some family members travel from out of town.

Over the years, as more grandchildren have come along, our number has grown. For the 2019 parade, we had breakfast reservations for 18. I'll miss it again this year, for sure.

Although there won't be a traditional parade, there will be an opportunity to see Santa this Christmas season. The town is planning another Santa Around the Town event, "remaining diligent and mindful of COVID-19 restrictions and public health recommendations," said a recent press release.

Town staff and the NOTL Christmas Com-

mittee agreed the event "is a great alternative to our traditional and beloved Santa Parade."

It may not be that great an alternative — certainly many commenting on social media aren't impressed, especially with restrictions lifted across the province and other communities announcing they're going ahead with their parades.

But we can rest assured it will be a safe event, and given all we have been through, for the most part managing to keep each other safe, that is important.

And to give the town decision-makers a break, the decision couldn't be made at the last minute. A lot of planning goes into a parade, especially NOTL-style, and we can be sure when the debate took place about whether a parade or

a much-reduced, less traditional event would take its place, those responsible for keeping their community safe decided to do just that.

It is sounding like a smart move — with a slight rise in cases in Niagara, the age group that is now most likely to be unvaccinated, infected, and spreading infection, would be the age group most likely to attend the event, putting kids at risk. As much as we all enjoy a good parade, it's not worth it.

The event that will take place ensures Santa visits all five NOTL communities, on a festive float, and if nothing else, we can get outside and wave at Santa, since for those of us who aren't golfers probably only see him once a year.

Community skating rinks

On the better news front, one which might have people grateful for a decision council made this week, is the possibili-

ty of outdoor skating rinks around the community.

While former councillor Paolo Miele was the one to make a presentation at council, he's not on his own — he has a large number of community members behind him.

He was asking council to endorse the concept, agree to three locations on municipal property, and provide the insurance.

Insurance is key, he says, and not something a group of volunteers can handle on their own.

The discussion almost derailed when councillors began talking about doing what they always do — asking for a staff report, which would have meant a lot more talk this year, with maybe a skating rink next winter.

But Coun. Erwin Wiens intervened, explaining that would take up valuable staff time, when what was really needed was to ask Miele to provide a more

detailed plan.

Miele told The Local this morning he was grateful councillors agreed to that, and he hopes to be presenting a plan for the three rinks to staff soon. He has a lot of people wanting to participate, and hoping to have at least one rink this winter, even if only for a couple of months.

Many of us become nostalgic when we think about skating outdoors with friends and family — as cold as it gets outside, it's a warm and fuzzy feeling inside, leaving us with great memories.

Thank you Paolo for trying to turn a great idea into reality, and best of luck — with your fundraising, your volunteers, and most of all, the support from the town you'll need to have families skating outdoors at community rinks this winter.

Penny Coles
The Local

Havest Barn in St. Catharines offering trip down memory lane

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents who remember Doug Dineley with fondness, both as the former owner of Havest 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 at a special celebration in St. Catharines 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 Baum, both NOTL residents, to greet customers. Baum, 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 Havest Barn is located at 1179 Fourth Ave.

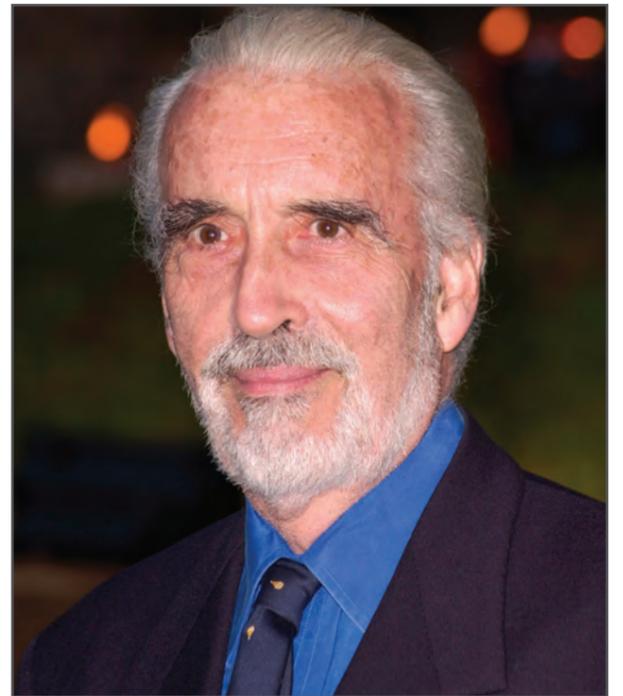


View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

King Edward VII requests Sherlock Holmes (Christopher Lee) to safeguard the passage of the Star of Africa to England, in *Incident at Victoria Falls* (Prime 1992). The fabled jewel is stolen and several murders ensue. The film is very dated and almost quaint, but remains interesting.

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*.



Christopher Lee

Letters! We want letters!

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



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

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

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

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

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

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
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COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Time to cut greenhouse gas emissions in NOTL

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 propel 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, or brooms, rakes, hand trimmers and mechanical push mowers. Then there is the fleet of large pickup trucks and trailers that town staff and lawn-care companies use to transport their employees 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's 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 machines. If nothing else, we could at least insist that service providers use rakes and brooms as opposed to gas-powered leaf 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 world leaders – act now. That makes a lot more sense to me than adopting a high-level vision statement and adaptation plan.

Terry Davis
NOTL

Setting dangerous precedence for NOTL, again



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

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 disturbed 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. If that seems like an oddly large timeline to bring up in late 2021, we should focus on the larger oddity that the town only began discussing the Vrancor Group's negligence a few weeks ago, well after the land had been severely altered. Interestingly, town representatives have said town staff are too busy to inspect every project regularly, and that the town generally trusts that developers will follow the rules. My challenge to this viewpoint is that this is simply not a credible excuse. I politely have to ask, who are we kidding when we say that we don't have enough staff? We live in a town where, per-capita, we are one of the wealthiest municipalities in Canada. We pay incredible tax rates, pay for parking, maintain showy gardens, and have

full, unfiltered access to those with environmental, legal, and planning expertise all around us. We live in a rare, one per cent jackpot to do things right. Maybe I am missing a point here, but how hard would it be for the town to hire professionals tasked to monitor the surge of development demand, which this town is certainly no stranger to? I can fully appreciate why NOTL would be an attractive, utopian hub for a grand development, and I should also clarify that I am not anti-development, as that would be an unrealistic stance on the issue. Rather, we dangerously transcend deeper into a theme of "cut first, ask or pay later," while seemingly playing a game with our less than 10 per cent of remaining original forest cover, slowly but surely becoming

NOTL's identity to developers, a place that is easy to infiltrate with little regard for the environment or fear of repercussions. It seems we are now left with options of either rezoning the affected area so that the road is no longer technically in a protected natural area, or to physically scrap the road entirely and have the developer replant trees in its wake. We all know developers can afford slaps on the wrist and the funds to replant a few meagre trees. Is this their green pass into NOTL? These sorts of events just seem to happen with unspecified dates and a "we didn't know" mentality. I've seen it many times within the past 10 years in this town, long before many of the current councillors and decision-makers were even present in NOTL. The

older I get, the more painful it gets to watch. Coun. Allan Bisback appears to be the only councillor who asked for responsible development accountability on this site in a previous public meeting, for which I applaud his efforts. To me, news like this sets a dangerous precedence of what developers can and can't get away with in our town. As a concerned local and biologist, I feel this is not a reputation we should be proud of. This a recurring theme that can be stopped with a change in attitude and perspective. Can our town grow a spine to developers and find ways to efficiently regulate how our natural heritage is used, or abused? Ecosystems like the one near the Glendale Ave./York Road hotels serve our quality of community life and provide shelter for southern

Ontario's inherent biodiversity. Will we see more of this? Will I have to continually tell my young students, and the town alike, that money talks, but only when it wants to be heard? Will I have to write more articles like this one, careful of my tone, but honestly just fed up with this ongoing issue? Is anyone else healthily fed up, or is it just me? By the time our town is done making ambitious and cuddly two, five and 10 year plans, we will nearly be out of natural heritage to protect at this rate. I say work with time, not against it. On that note, the area of wetland on the south of York Road, in the supplied 2018 photo, has also been filled in over the past few weeks. Another one bites the dust. We can do way better than that, NOTL.



The most recent available imagery from Google Earth shows a roadway slicing through a forested creek.



This Google Earth image shows the green, protected area near York Rd./Glendale Ave, when development was already underway.

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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 program at the Niagara Nursery School, then being run as a cooperative out of the basement of the Kinsmen Scout

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 basement. 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 Zalepa, whose son Nathan was there at the same time, remembers what those duty days were like.

"I cleaned the bathrooms," Zalepa laughed. "It was all hands on deck. We were try-

ing to keep the place together. It was really grassroots, organizing fundraising just to pay the bills. It was a family and community kind of thing. We walked our kids there. It was really important to the earlier part of our life."

Staff and board members, town officials, federal and provincial members of Parliament and community members gathered Saturday to celebrate the official opening of the new space. Those memories from nearly two decades ago made it difficult for me to reconcile the new facility as the same organization from back then.

The spacious addition to the community centre is now 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 nature calls.

It's a clean, spacious building with brand new furniture, an office space and staff room. Each classroom is outfitted with age-appropriate decor and materials. In the infant room there is a separate diaper changing area, complete with a window looking back into the classroom. They thought of everything in the design process.

Just as important, especial-



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

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.

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, Zalepa, Town CAO Marnie 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, the soon to retire Edgar, and



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

NOTL facilities supervisor Hans Paul, who could be spotted at the construction site every single day of the 10-month construction period.

And it was clear through everyone's address to the gathering that the new location came about because of the generosity of the NOTL community through donations, led by the NOTL Rotary Club. And the need for the additional child care spaces will go a long way toward making the community a better place.

"This will allow for a shorter waitlist," Penny said, "to ensure that anyone of any financial status can afford high-quality, safe care for their children. This is a pivotal moment for this community."

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

its youth, having good, affordable care for its children is absolutely necessary.

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



MPP Wayne Gates congratulates NNS executive director Candice Penny. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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MLS 40180491 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



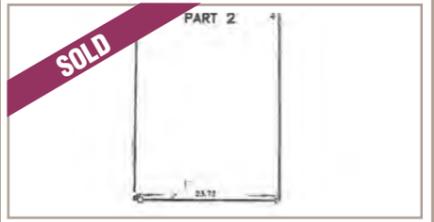
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670 LINE 4 ROAD
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1361 LINE ONE ROAD
\$1,795,000

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\$1,325,000

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\$1,295,000

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MLS 40160766 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



177 KING STREET
\$3,898,000

MLS 40142872 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



94 TANBARK ROAD
\$2,399,000

MLS 40161253 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



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\$850,000

MLS 40159131 • Cheryl Carmichael



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Local businesswoman busy planning charitable events

Penny Coles
The Local

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 Flame, across the road, she has become increasingly familiar in recent years for her dedication to helping organize fundraisers for important causes.

Her award nomination is for her work with Anchor Niagara, a local events planning company which she founded to partner with charities and other organizations looking for help with offsetting costs for fundraisers, festivals or other events.

Mavridis says many people attend fundraisers assuming items such as food, venue and entertainment are donated. Often they are not, and her goal is to partner with those who provide such services and people planning events, to ensure fundraisers are successful while supporting local businesses.

Most events were put on hold during COVID, but as restrictions loosened, Mavridis says she began hearing from not-for-profits who were suffering 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 began, 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 Centre, and although she was concerned capacity restrictions of 50 per cent would limit its fundraising success, the reality turned out to be just the opposite, she says. Those who attended the sold-out evening were so grateful to be out, and having so much fun, almost double the pre-pandemic amount was raised.

Anchor Niagara is now selling tickets for two big events, the next one coming up for the Pink Pearl Foundation, a registered charitable organization that provides support, facilitates connections and empowers young women who are courageously overcoming the social and emotional challenges of a cancer diagnosis.

It was founded by ovarian cancer survivor Elise Gasbarri-no, who at the age of 21 received treatment at Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton for ovarian cancer. She discovered there were few women her age to talk to about her situation, and

decided to organize some programs for the younger age group, including wellness retreats 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 progression for 13 years, and during that time, she volunteered for several organizations that raised money to fight cancer; promoted awareness of the disease or offered 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 this week, including responding to lifted restrictions that doubled the tickets that could be sold, and adjusting plans to accommodate the increased number of people, she learned her aunt had died of cancer. Mavridis had recently returned from Greece where she had travelled to see her aunt, who was a lead doctor at an oncology clinic, and was able to have a good visit with her. Maria's father, Bob, left for Greece Friday to see his sister, and Maria says she spent the day hoping he would get there before her aunt passed, which thankfully, he did.



Pink shirts Scott Epp, Dan Plomish, Paul Harber (there is pink in his plaid) and Julian Lustig pose with Maria Mavridis at the 2019 Eat, Drink, Pink! event to raise money for the Pink Pearl Foundation. All went to Niagara District Secondary School together, except for Lustig, who married a friend from District, said Mavridis. Harber said then he was looking forward to another fundraiser same as in 2020, in Ravine's new social and corporate conference centre. Due to COVID, he has waited until November, 2021. (File photo)

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 required. Tickets are \$89, and are available at <https://allevents.in/niagara-on-the-lake/eat-drink>

-pink/10000162307180145.

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 this week. "That means we can sell more tickets and make more money," says Mavridis.

The two comedians are planning on roasting community leaders, although Mavridis is remaining tight-lipped about who the subjects of the roast might be.

The event is a fundraiser for

the Niagara Community Foundation, at Pillitteri's request, and also for Pathstone Mental Health as requested by Paul.

It begins at 7 p.m., and following 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 Boyz 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



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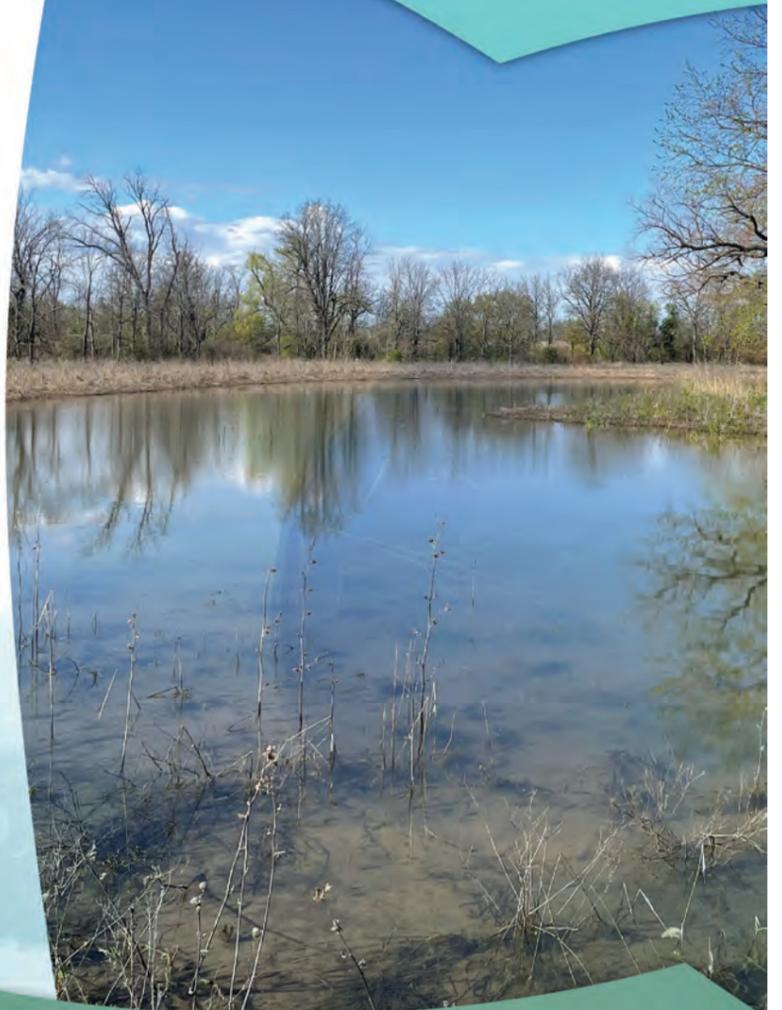
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Vaccinating those around children ‘an easy win’

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’s 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 suspects it will likely be before the end of the year.

Elementary school children represent the majority of

outbreaks in schools, he says, with just 20 new cases in that age group in the last two weeks.

There have been 171 reported cases in schools in recent weeks, leading to more than 2,687 individuals to be contacted, he said.

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. Once vaccinations are an option, they can be protected against infection and won’t see their education disrupted.

Hirji said Monday the District School Board of Ni-

agara 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.

Vaccinating an anxious or crying child is not the same as vaccinating an adult, he said — children have to be distracted.

Finding locations is also a challenge, with many of the sites used previously now unavailable, 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.

“Our priority now is getting those in the 12 to 29 age

group vaccinated.”

While the number of new cases of infections in Ontario remains flat, it is rising slightly in Niagara, likely as a result of family gatherings for Thanksgiving, and some weddings. “We’ll be paying attention to what happens this week, and seeing if there is a bit of a bump in other areas.”

The good news in Niagara is the number of people in hospital and intensive care has flattened, he added.

“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 recently has declined, possi-

bly 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.

With the work Mavridis does, partnering with charities and businesses to maximize fundraising efforts, it is not surprising she has been nominated for a community impact award, although she is uncomfortable talking about it.

Although it “100 per cent” feels good to be nominated, she says, “it also feels a little awkward. We were taught growing up you

do what you can do for your community, and for your soul. I try to do things on the down-low. This is humbling, and it’s nice, but you don’t do things for a pat on the back, you do them because you want to help. That’s how we were brought up.”

However, she is looking forward to the awards presentations, and being in a room surrounded by women who are leaders in the community. “We can look around and we all know each other,” she said. “It’s going to be great. And my dad’s going

too. I told him there will be some men there, but he would be there anyway. He’s the reason I have the confidence to do what I do. I couldn’t do it without him.”

For more information about the presentation of the Women in Business awards, Nov. 19, visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2021-women-in-business-awards-wiba-tickets-170215732839#tickets>

Janice Thomson was also nominated, but unavailable this week. Read about her nomination in next week’s Local.

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 Vil-

lage Drive beside the CIBC, the new facility will be home to physicians Iram Ahmed, Tim Bastedo, Karen Berti, Samreen Malik and Pratik Kalani, as well as Mary Keith and other members of the Niagara North Family Health Team. The site also includes a new facility for Life Labs.

Completion and occupancy of the building is expected

to be June, 2022.

“We’re honoured to be a part of the solution for the Doctors and Health Team, and be able to provide them with a fantastic new facility,” said Village developer John Hawley.

The day was a long time coming, said Lord Mayor Betty Disero, but “good things are worth the wait.”



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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 905-468-6621.



Volunteers will be set up in the Fort George parking lot to safely hand out treat bags. (File photo)

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)

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'd 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 Disero 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 ex-

pectations 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 approves 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 Burroughs 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.



Paolo Miele

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Website Survey - October 29 Deadline

Don't miss out on the opportunity to give input on the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's website redevelopment. Complete the online survey at www.jointheconversationnotl.org/town-website.

2022 Budget Survey - November 7 Deadline

Get engaged in the 2022 budget process and have your say! Complete the online survey at www.jointheconversationnotl.org/2022budget.

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NOTL Museum commemorates Treaty Week

**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 for the museum, invited representatives from the Ontario's

Ministry of Indigenous Affairs to present a lecture on treaties and land claims in our area, offering a comprehensive account on this subject.

"We are very interested to hear this talk," says Sarah Kaufman, the museum's managing director and curator. "Recently there have been a few lectures from Indigenous consultants or historians talking about treaties and land claims, but it's interesting to have an alternative when coming from the Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs and to see what they say."

In acknowledgement of Treaties Recognition Week, the NOTL Museum welcomes Jane Thomas, senior negotiator,

Laura Heidman, implementation 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 2015'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 Ontario students and residents understand the significance of treaty rights, 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



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

COVID-19 situation.

For more information about the Ministry of Indige-

nous 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)

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 Niag-

ara-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.

Hanging 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 zip ties 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 Castlereagh St, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Hanging poppies from the museum gallery are Terry Mactaggart, Pam Mundy, Dee Steele and Janet Guy.

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Rotary members plant 600 tulips to end polio

Penny Coles
The Local

Rotarians have been committed to preventing polio paralysis in children around the world 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 project to vaccinate children in the Philippines.

They are close to reaching their 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 Nether-



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



Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Greg Fedoryn plant tulips at the entrance to Simcoe Park.



Parks and recreation lead hand Dylan Muileboom gives Rotary members a quick lesson in planting bulbs.

lands 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 Rotary member, has proclaimed Oct. 24 World Polio Day in NOTL.

Janny, one of the organizers of the planting, says if the town "graciously allows us to continue next year," she hopes to ex-

pand 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 Lichthart, and has spread world-wide 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 lived near a tulip field, and was one of many who

survived what is referred to as the Winter of Hunger, shortly before the liberation of the country in 1945, by eating tulip bulbs. Murenbeeld is also a former resident of Ottawa, which holds an annual tulip festival featuring bulbs received by Queen Juliana as a gift to recognize the Canadian liberation of 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

Continued on page 20

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Music Niagara wrapping up Brahms Oktoberfest

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 Diderrich on violin and Matti Pulkki of Quartetto Gelato on accordion. The show, recorded in front of a live audience at The Exchange Brewery earlier this month, is a fun mix of classics, polkas and Oktoberfest-style sing-alongs.

Saturday evening's online event was recorded at Silver-smith Brewing Company. It

features Music Niagara's founder and artistic director Atis Bankas on violin with Victoria Kogan on piano. Also making a special appearance will be soprano Julie Nesrallah, who is well-known as the host of *Tempo* on CBC Music, Canada's national classical music program.

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 Niagara Symphony Orchestra, as well as performances by pianist Victoria Kogan, soprano Inga Filipova, clarinetist Peter Stoll, cellist Cameron Crozman and the ever popular Quartetto Gelato. As well, actor Joe Ringhofer returns to provide some background on the month's honoree, Johannes Brahms.

It's all tied together by another Joe, local comedian and business owner Joe Pillitteri, who shares some hilarious

personal stories (Joe makes a concussion he recently suffered sound funny), takes some light-hearted digs at show sponsors Richard and Nadine Osborn, and banters easily back and forth with Quartetto Gelato leader Colin Maier.

Oboist Maier tells The Local that Brahms is not usually on the program for a Quartetto Gelato performance. That could have much to do with Pulkki's accordion being a major part of the foursome.

"One thing with us is that nobody writes specifically for this group," Maier says. "There's so much music out there that when you want to play a song, you have to do all the arrangements yourself. The accordion, and the rearrangements just work. It's a living, breathing instrument. It gives us extra musical flexibility."

Indeed Pulkki, to whom Maier refers as Flying Fingers Finn, takes a masterful solo on Brahms' variation on a theme by Schumann, written as a tribute to fellow German composer Robert Shumann's wife Clara.

The accordion also plays a major role in a fun, light-hearted polka the quartet plays that ties together five famous Brahms themes in the Oktoberfest party style.

The quartet is rounded out by violinist Tino Popovic and cellist Kirk Starkey, who takes care of sound design for most Music Niagara performances. Together, Quartetto Gelato leaves the listener with a new appreciation for how versatile the composer's music actually can be.

Music Niagara fans will be familiar with Victoria Kogan on the Steinway that was brought to Blackburn for the event. They may not be as familiar with clarinetist Stoll and cellist Crozman, each of whom is probably the best Canada has to offer on their instruments. The brewery's high ceilings, with the production facility sparkling in the background behind large windows, provides an impressive backdrop and great acoustics for their performances.

Pillitteri's banter with Quartetto Gelato's Colin Mai-

er is becoming somewhat of a mainstay with Music Niagara, and the festival promises to bring more of it to the public with a new talk show they are calling *The Not-so-Late Show*, to debut this winter.

"We're going to highlight food, wine, facilities, the great parts of Niagara," Pillitteri explains, "along with musical and entertainment guests. And we'll switch locations. Colin and I have a great relationship where we're super-comfortable bantering with each other."

Maier agrees with Pillitteri's assessment of their work together. "When I met Joe last year it was just before a show, and it was instant with the back-and-forth. When this opportunity came up it was a perfect idea to have us work together again."

Music Niagara received a \$21,500 grant through the Ontario government's 2021 Reconnect Festival and Event Program to do the talk show. The plan is to begin with about four instalments held in front of live audiences and streamed

via the Music Niagara website. Besides the entertainment element, each show will also be a chance to highlight the local business hosts and the products and services they offer.

They hope to launch the series some time in December, and Pillitteri promises a lot of fun.

"There will be a little bit of comedy," he says, looking around at his late-morning surroundings at Blackburn Brewhouse. "It's always subjective, but it always helps when you give people beer at 11:30 in the morning. But that's exactly what we're going for, to celebrate music, have some fun, and to be normal again."

Pillitteri says he will be cracking open a hazy IPA to enjoy while watching this weekend's online program. The virtual presentations of Music Niagara's Brahms Oktoberfest are at 7 p.m. each night from Thursday, Oct. 28 to Sunday, Oct. 31. Visit the Music Niagara website at musicniagara.org or their YouTube channel to view each concert.



Local comedian Joe Pillitteri helps wrap up Music Niagara's weekend with a performance recorded before an audience of about 30 people at the new Blackburn Brewhouse in Niagara Falls. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Clarinetist Peter Stoll, pianist Victoria Kogan, and cellist Cameron Crozman perform in the last of the Oktoberfest concerts.



Pianist Victoria Kogan



Quartetto Gelato, with Tino Popovic on violin, Matti Pulkki, accordion, Kirk Starkey, cello and Colin Maier, oboe.

Tale of two generations on Niagara farms

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

If you've ever visited local 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 Concession 4 and Niagara Stone Road to exchange a friendly greeting with Donovan Gordon, who would be hustling to set up the market for the day.

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

In the 1960s, the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program was heralded as an innovative way to address 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 either. 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 hour days harvesting peaches on the same Niagara farm just 19 years later.

I met Paul's son Anthony and a few years after that, and Donovan's son Jodane through my involvement at the CWOP church services (Caribbean Workers Outreach Project).

Anthony was an enthusiastic and regular attendee at the services they held Sunday nights in May and June. When a large portion of the NOTL farm was sold he was transferred to a farm in Jordan. He was quick to get involved with the farm worker outreach activities at Southridge Vineland Church, which was in its early stages. As someone who keenly felt his father's absence for eight months of the year growing up, he missed the daily connection that he had with his father at the

Epp farm.

Karen Buller, one of his good friends and a volunteer at Southridge, took note. For a number of years she would drive him to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Father's Day, so they could enjoy some time and a meal together.

While Paul continues to work at the Epp farm until November, Anthony transfers even farther away to Meaford for the apple harvest. Trying to get a photo of them together this season proved futile, due to work schedules that simply couldn't accommodate a short visit.

There are similar threads woven into Donovan's story. His wife Josephine raised five children and managed a teaching career while Donovan worked to support the family in Niagara for eight months of the year. She was a passionate educator who loved tutoring her children, pursuing excellence in their schooling. Three of the children have completed university studies while Jodane shares Donovan's love of farming and animal husbandry, raising beef cattle in their home parish of St. Elizabeth.

Jodane was employed at Royalview farm in Niagara-on-the-Lake for five years and enjoyed time with his father on many occasions after work. He was a vibrant and enthusiastic member of the worship team at the CWOP services as well as an engaging speaker when contributing during the open mic sessions. His coworkers continue to speak highly of him. He was especially appreciated for his generosity, his sense of humour and encouragement that motivated the crew when the going got tough during harvest season.

In 2020, Josephine developed health concerns and by February of this year she was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Donovan had to make the painful decision whether to stay at home to care for her or return to Niagara so that he could pay for her extensive medical bills and further treatment. The decision was made that Jodane would be the one to provide 24-hour care for her.

It was an agonizing season 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 wellbeing only to have his son answer, heavy with grief, and inform him that Josephine had passed away at home only minutes earlier.

Being separated from loved ones eight months of 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 family support during these times.

Donovan was in shock. His wife was only 51, and they had been looking forward to many plans for their future. He went through the motions of work, planning funerals for his wife and his mother, and in the evenings attending to the legalities, which were much more complicated over the phone.

In September, he was able to travel home for the two funerals and with his employer's support returned to the farm three weeks later. This allows

him to finish his work contract, enabling him to earn more towards paying down medical bills and funeral expenses.

Donovan expressed his gratitude for the support he has received from so many neighbours and friends in Niagara during this difficult time.

He is hoping a local farmer will request Jodane come back to NOTL to work, now that he has been released from caring for his mother. Farmers must send in a request for employees in order for them to return on the farm work program.

In my conversations with fathers such as Paul and Donovan, I am reminded 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 successful 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 our tables.



Donovan Gordon and his son Jodane smiling in this photo from a previous season in NOTL, but they've had a difficult year. (Jane Andres)



Anthony Bent was a newborn when Paul, his dad, came to NOTL to work for the first time. Anthony's first year working on a NOTL farm was when he was 19. (Karen Buller)

Local SPORTS

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 Plattsville 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 here now is too high for him."

Turnbull got the call from Whalen Wednesday and said he told the 30-year-old he would always have a place with the Predators.

The owner took Whalen's spot behind the bench Friday

beside assistant general manager Connor Shipton as the team earned its sixth win this season in front of a home crowd of just over 100 fans.

Dawson Walker got the scoring started 14:40 into the first period with his first goal of the season, assisted by Jesper Eriksson and Alexander Insulander.

Plattsville's Malcolm Campbell tied it up early in the second, but just over a minute later Josh Piexoto's rebound off of Lakers goalie Luca Del Rizzo was knocked into the net by an opportunistic Insulander.

Defenceman Alexander Jarnikov of Brantford, a new addition to the Predators line-up as of Friday night, took a five-minute penalty for boarding late in the second period. Oskar Spinnars Nordin, named the first star of the game, turned away shot after shot by the Lakers as Niagara successfully killed off the shorthanded situation. Insulander had a breakaway during that time but

was stopped cold by Del Rizzo.

Predators captain Mario Zitella put the team up 3-1 early in the third off a pass by Emil Eriksson. Jesper Eriksson later hit the crossbar on a drive that would have given the Preds more room to breathe as the game progressed.

Zitella's goal turned out to be the winner. With 1:30 left in the third period, Del Rizzo skated 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.

Turnbull was happy with the team's performance, but not so much with the sloppiness at the end of 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 be without the puck. The next is when you have the puck, you need to get rid of it when their goalie is pulled."

In Turnbull's opinion, mistakes like that often come when a team is tired. Even with the addition of Jarnikov, the Predators were still overworked on the ice with Logan Baillie still out and Reese Bisci leaving the game with hip problems in the first period. Dante Massi was also a scratch Friday, needing time off to write his mid-terms at Brock.

Bisci and Massi were both

back on the ice Sunday afternoon in St. George, while Turnbull gave up his spot behind the bench to GM Johan Eriksson. As owner of both teams he felt it would be a conflict of interest to coach one of

them in a head-to-head contest.

The Ravens took a 2-1 season lead in the standings for what could be called the Turnbull Trophy with their 4-3 victory over the Predators. It was

a rough, hard-fought contest with a total of 35 penalty minutes and four lead changes.

Walker started the scoring

Continued on page 20



Dawson Walker causes trouble for Lakers goalie Luca Del Rizzo. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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

Meet the Predators

Name: **Mario Zitella**
Jersey number: 7
Age: 21
Birthdate: **June 24, 2000**
Hometown: **Hamilton, Ont.**
Nickname: **Zitzy**
Favourite hockey player: **Brendan Gallagher**
Your "hype" song: **The Swedes have me hooked on the song TOPP, by ADAAM & 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!**



Local HAPPENINGS

ST. DAVIDS FISH FRYS RETURN
Friday, November 5th 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Take-out!
1 piece \$10 2 piece \$15
Fish, our famous crispy fries and coleslaw!
Sorry no pan fried fish or baked potatoes available!
LET US COOK YOUR SUPPER!
1462 York Rd., St. Davids
stdavidslions.ca @stdavidslions on Facebook

HALLOWEEN AT FORT GEORGE

October 31 @ 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Bring your little goblins and ghouls for some trick or treating fun at Fort George National Historic Site! Explore Fort George and learn about the early history of Niagara while experiencing musket demonstrations and more! Children who come in their Halloween costumes will get some special treats! Regular admission rates apply. For more info, please visit: friendsoffortgeorge.ca or call 905-468-6621

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT HERE

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



Team owner Robert Turnbull acted as coach last weekend. He expects a permanent coach for this weekend's games..



Defenceman Brett Lee. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Local WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, October 31st

10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering - Online & In-Person (Registration Required)

Message: Jeff Martens - Made in the Image of God

Our services are also streamed online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our website for more information!

www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your *Worship Services* in this section, please contact: **karen@notllocal.com**

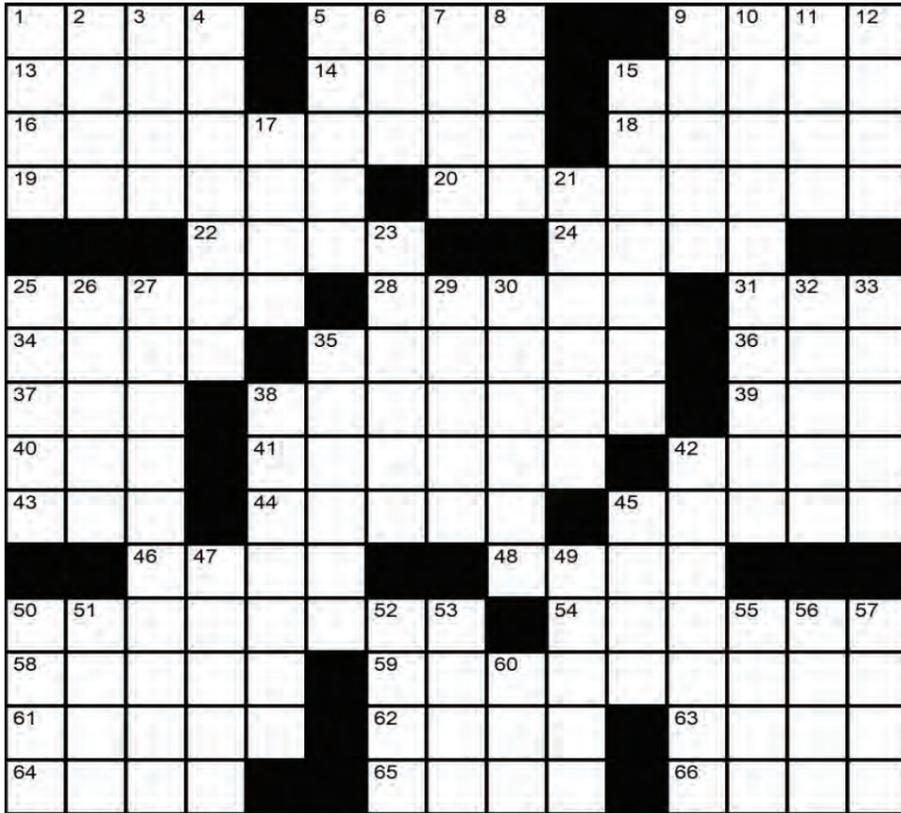
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CROSSWORD



- Across:**
- 1 The Beehive State
 - 5 PIN points?
 - 9 Bring aboard
 - 13 Beget
 - 14 Entreaty
 - 15 Nonchalantly unconcerned
 - 16 Bewitches
 - 18 American Idol winner --- Studdard
 - 19 Block
 - 20 Conjectures
 - 22 --- Dagleish, P.D. James protagonist
 - 24 Pole
 - 25 Biological duplicate
 - 28 Shun
 - 31 "A very high price to pay for maturity" (Tom Stoppard)
 - 34 Acquire through merit
 - 35 Bank link
 - 36 Strain
 - 37 Tote
 - 38 Speaking point?
 - 39 Little devil
 - 40 Pitcher's stat.
 - 41 Requested in exchange for a kingdom (Shakespeare)
 - 42 Locale of the Viminal Hill
 - 43 Prohibition
 - 44 Colombian cash
 - 45 Artificial waterway
 - 46 Matinee leaver
 - 48 "Chop-chop!"
 - 50 Magic
 - 54 Pickle
 - 58 Chemically inactive
 - 59 Obsolete
 - 61 Rocky debris at the base of a hill
 - 62 Fail to mention
 - 63 Bean capital of S America?
 - 64 Decline to bid
 - 65 Charts
 - 66 Everyone, down South
- Down:**
- 1 Employs
 - 2 Hue
 - 3 Heavy ordnance, briefly
 - 4 Author --- Hesse
 - 5 Sleeping problem
 - 6 Careful attention
 - 7 Encounter
 - 8 Obi, for example
 - 9 Insulting remarks
 - 10 Crookedly obtain Thai dwelling
 - 11 Now it makes sense!
 - 12 Pigs' digs?
 - 15 Diversify
 - 17 Trusted assistant
 - 21 Homeland leaver
 - 23 Imelda ---, who had a shoe surfeit
 - 25 Tabloid target
 - 26 Spanish saint martyred in boiling pitch
 - 27 Arrangers
 - 29 Synthetic meat can be created in this
 - 30 The Pearl of the Black Sea
 - 32 Third letter of the Greek alphabet
 - 33 Eject
 - 35 Gazed upon
 - 38 The door in Dordogne, or in Texas
 - 42 With celerity
 - 45 Found behind the shin
 - 47 Ventures
 - 49 Lends
 - 50 Small tuft
 - 51 Machu Picchu builder
 - 52 Chamber
 - 53 Where the 3:10 went
 - 55 Mother of Uranus
 - 56 Web code
 - 57 Small dabbling duck
 - 60 Apex

LODGING WANTED

**House sold -
Single man, 70
Looking for
lodging,
December
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For sale: the contents of a sold home.
5 desks, chairs, vanity, high boy, cabinets, sideboards, settees, side tables, art + decoration items, and more.
All actual and in excellent condition and sold cheaply from Forum Antique inventory:
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Private sale at 5928 Theresa Street, Niagara Falls (just off Mountain Road)
Any day before 10 am and after 6 pm
Call Leon Perel for appointment time 905.321.1918

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Required for grape & tender fruit farm. Must be available full time April to November 2022. Exp. with pruning and general farm labour preferred but not req'd. No education req'd. Must have own transportation, be fit and willing to work long hours as req'd. Duties to include pruning, thinning, hoeing and suckering. **\$14.39 per hour.**
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Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST KEYS
On **October 18, 2021**, around 12 noon, I picked up my mail at the Old Town Post Office and then walked across to Starbucks on Queen Street to check out the new shop before returning to my car. Somewhere between the Post Office and Starbucks, I must have dropped my keys which were in a **black leather key case with about 6 keys.**
If anyone finds them, please call me at the phone number below or drop them off at the Post Office. 905-468-4010

NOTICE

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from October 20, 2021

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	9	8	6	4	7	1	3

Across: 1 Utah, 5 A T Ms, 9 Ship, 13 Sire, 14 Plea, 15 Blase, 16 Entrances, 18 Ruben, 19 Stymlie, 20 Theories, 22 Adam, 24 Mast, 25 Clone, 28 Avoid, 31 Age, 34 Earn, 35 Bridge, 36 Tax, 37 Lug, 38 Lectem, 39 Imp, 40 E R A, 41 A horse, 42 Rome, 43 Bar, 44 Pesos, 45 Canal, 46 Idol, 48 A s a p, 50 Wizardry, 54 Plight, 58 Inert, 59 Out of date, 61 Scree, 62 Omit, 63 Lima, 64 Pass, 65 Maps, 66 Y'all.

Down: 1 Uses, 2 Tint, 3 Art, 4 Hermann, 5 Apea, 6 T L C, 7 Meet, 8 Sash, 9 Slurs, 10 Habitation, 11 I see, 12 Pens, 15 Broaden, 17 Aide, 21 Emigre, 23 Marcos, 25 Celeb, 26 Laura, 27 Organizers, 29 Vitro, 30 Odessa, 32 Gamma, 33 Expel, 35 Beheld, 38 La Porte, 42 Rapidly, 45 Call, 47 Dares, 49 Spots, 50 Wisp, 51 Inca, 52 Room, 53 Yuma, 55 Gala, 56 H T M L, 57 Teal, 60 Tip.

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

Town will coordinate tulip beds with End Polio Now colours

Continued from page 15

give a quick lesson on the basics 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.

Muileboom, 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 compliment the 600 bulbs the Rotarians have planted.

"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 reminder that the Rotary commitment to eradicating polio is ongoing, through the generosity of members and all who

support them.

Aiden O'Leary, the polio eradication director for the World Health Organization, says he understands the difference Rotary can make in the global fight against polio. Although the goal is close, there is no room for complacency, he says. "What is really important 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 opportunity, and now is the time to stay the course."

For more information or to donate, visit niagaraon-thelakerotary.ca.



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

New coach expected soon

Continued from page 18

for the second straight game, this one on a power play and assisted by Insulander and Joshua Davidson. LJ Beaupre evened it up for the Ravens, and Lucas Felicetti put St. George up 2-1 less than a minute into the second period. Insulander and Zitella scored 29 seconds apart to reclaim the lead midway through the second.

With Niagara's Emil Eriksson in the box for slashing midway through the third, Kyle Munyankuge knotted it up at 3-3 for the Ravens.

Later, with 1:35 left in the game, 6'5" Mike Marchesan, the Ravens' leading scorer, notched the game-winner. Zitella took a shot at the game-ending buzzer but was wide of the net.

Despite the loss, Preds goal-

ie Oskar Spinnars Nordin once again earned first star honours, stopping 58 of 62 shots by a relentless Ravens team. Spinnars Nordin leads all Greater Metro Hockey League teams in goals against average (1.60), total saves (236), and save percentage (0.967), giving credence to GM Eriksson's regular assertion that the 19-year-old is the best goaltender in the league.

And Spinnars Nordin won't be getting a chance to rest anytime soon. Fellow Swedish goalie, 17-year-old William Fagemo, was to head back to his home country following Sunday's game in St. George.

"He's one of our youngest guys," Eriksson said. "He loves the team, he enjoys our staff. It's just that he's missing home a lot, missing his younger brothers. I've already told him and his dad that I want him back next year."

Eriksson said a new goalie

will be arriving from Quebec this week and he may be signing a third shortly.

"By next week we should almost be a full team," he promised. "Logan will be back, and we'll have the new guys too."

Eriksson and Turnbull both promised to have Whalen's replacement lined up in time for this coming weekend.

"Johan is doing his due diligence," Turnbull said. "I have an abundance of people that I know from over the years."

They're already talking to a few people, he said, "and we'll select the one that hopefully will be here long term."

The 6-and-2 Predators play host to the 6-and-1 North York Renegades Friday night at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. Game time is 7:30 p.m. They'll be in Streetsville Sunday for a 12:30 p.m. start against the 1-and-7 Flyers.



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



6 Brown's Point \$3,995,000

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