Poppies made by local volunteers are draped along the front of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. One is part of a poppy garden (left), the other leading across the lawn, pointing to the Canadian flag. (Photos by Penny Coles)

NOTL Hydro COVID outbreak closes office

Penny Coles
The Local

After successfully keeping COVID-19 at bay for almost 18 months, Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro is experiencing its first outbreak, with two employees having tested positive. The Henegan Road office is closed until further notice, says president Tim Curtis, but customers can still access staff, who are working from home by phone.

The line crew continues to work outside, he added. All NOTL Hydro staff members are vaccinated, says Curtis, as are the two people who have tested positive for COVID. One is a dad whose two children became infected at a Niagara Falls school. He was tested by Public Health, as were his children, when they began showing symptoms, and although all three were sick, they’re recovering, Curtis said.

The second employee tested negative with a rapid test on Friday, but positive on Monday. He is suspected to have contracted COVID at work from the first person, who had been home quarantining with his family for a few days. Curtis says in addition to the vaccination policy, employees have been using the rapid antigen tests three times a week. The tests are supplied free by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce to small and medium-sized businesses, to help employers and employees protect each other at the workplace and those they may come in contact with.

Curtis says in addition to the vaccination policy, employees have been using the rapid antigen tests three times a week. The tests are supplied free by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce to small and medium-sized businesses, to help employers and employees protect each other at the workplace and those they may come in contact with. NOTL Hydro, which is owned by the Town of NOTL, has been using the tests to try to prevent infection spread. All staff members had been tested by Tuesday morning, with some still awaiting results. Curtis had already received news of his negative test.

“We made the decision to close,” said Curtis. “We’re working under the direction of Public Health, but it was our decision. We’ll be relying on their guidance for next steps, and will make decisions with our focus on keeping this contained.”

NOTL Museum Poppy Project a work of art

Penny Coles
The Local

The exterior of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum has been draped with poppies painstakingly made with love by volunteers. Cascading from the bell tower, thousands of poppies flow in a ribbon of red down the side of the museum by the main door, over some greenery and along the lawn to the Canadian flag. The installation art makes a stunning statement leading up to Nov. 11, with poppies that have been considered symbols of Remembrance Day for more than 100 years.

Churches, museums and other organizations across the province and the country have created similar Poppy Project displays to honour veterans of all wars, and last year the Niagara Falls History Museum had more than 11,000 bright red blossoms draped across the front of its building.

After a donation of about 1,500 crocheted and knitted poppies from the Niagara Falls museum, 40 NOTL volunteers formed a local poppy brigade to add to the collection. During the past six weeks they knitted, crocheted, glued, cut, and attached about 4,000 poppies to netting at an assembly line inside the Castlereigh Street museum.

Monday morning, under sunny skies on a beautiful fall day, the volunteers carried them carefully outside to be hung by men from Davy Tree Service, which also donated its services for the job, trimming tree branches where they were in the way. The men said although they’ve used their bucket truck to hang Christmas lights, hanging poppies was a new experience for them.

Continued on page 5
Canine control officer believes he’s out of a job

But nobody’s told him officially he’ll be replaced

Penny Coles
The Local

Ken Reid, the town’s animal control officer for more than 20 years, knows his days on the job are numbered.

And some members of the public are outraged.

A long-time friend, Anna Marie Warriner, called The Local, infuriated the town was not renewing Reid’s contract, and that nobody had the decency to tell him until he asked.

She went looking online for him and found a request for proposals that seems to indicate pretty clearly Reid is soon to be out a job.

He was also close enough to see kids’ faces, and even call them, she says. He was also close enough to see kids’ faces, and even call them, and have a little conversation. “It made for a more personal interaction.”

She knows him to be kind, compassionate, thoughtful, a gentle and respectful man who loves animals, and goes out of his way to help people.

He’s highly regarded by those who know him in the community, especially those who have required his services or had a beloved pet safely returned to them. Warriner was outraged that the town would want to eliminate the job he’s had for more than two decades, first with his wife, Kea, and since her passing in 2016, on his own.

Ken typically gets a call to stop the town hall and renew his contract, usually by Nov. 1, Reid says, but this year, when he didn’t hear anything, he went to the town and started asking questions.

“They haven’t told me anything officially yet. After 22 years, they haven’t even talked to me. Instead, a staff member said ‘we were going on a different route, and I should check out the town’s website’,” he says. He found the request for proposals he sees as directed at a humane society or some similar large, established organization, with staff and facilities to impound animals.

“There is no way Reid’s one-man operation, with a few kennels on his property, could handle what the town is asking. The proposal is for NOTL and Grimsby combined, and for services to begin Jan 1.

Other municipalities, including Thorold, Niagara Falls, Lincoln, West Lincoln, Port Colborne and Fort Erie, “may be interested in joining this joint proposal,” the town document states.

Reid is currently on duty from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week, to pick up dogs and cats, road kill, and feral other services, such as responding to complaints, enforcing town bylaws, and writing fines, if necessary. He has kennels to keep animals overnight, but more often than not is able to re-unite them with their owners before that becomes necessary. “I’ve been doing this for so long I know most of the dogs, and who they belong to,” he says.

At one time he and his late wife Kea were paid by the call, and took them all at hours, but they were eventually put on salary, at about $40,000 a year, he says.

From the time he and Kea began working with the town, they would look for bylaw compliance through mediation, not by writing fines. If a dog got loose and they picked it up, they would return it to its owner, and he still follows that practice.

He just replaced his truck with something newer, that gives a little better for the job he’s doing, he says, and already has the Animal Control sign on the side, “but now I’m not going to have a job.”

After hours, calls currently go to the Niagara Falls Humane Society. If it happens to submit a successful proposal — Reid is speculating, given they already do part of the job — residents would have to drive out to Chippawa to pick up their pet, and pay a fine in order to get it back.

He suggests the services the town is looking for would likely cost about $180,000 — the town did not get back to The Local with an estimate of what it’s expected to cost.

The document describes a contractor required to capture and hold on to cats and dogs, confirm licences, and pick up and dispose of road kill, employ sufficient, qualified and trained staff, and set traps to capture loose animals, including coyotes, on private property.

It also calls for emergency services seven days a week, 24 hours a day. That includes assistance to any public agency, or member of the public, regarding the safety of any animal or the safety of any person who is in risk of harm from an animal.

It requires, removing, impounding, euthanizing or otherwise disposing of animals which are found to be at large, injured, deceased, in immediate danger of injury or death, or pose a risk to the public.

The RFP says the contractor shall also provide expertise to the parties in the development of a new animal care and control bylaw.

About 10 years ago, Reid says, there was talk of putting the job of canine control officer out for proposals. Word got out, the community was outraged, and although the Reids had to apply for the job, they were hired. At that time they were taking calls at all times of day or night. But about five years ago, Ken was put on salary, and reduced to a 12-hour day.

What the town is looking for now is far outside the scope of what Reid would be able to do. When his contract ends Dec. 31, he’s not likely, at the age of 68, to be able to find employment doing something else, although years on the job have kept him fit and healthy, he says.

He acknowledges the job of a canine control officer is becoming a thing of the past, that smaller municipalities are contracting with larger organizations, or, as indicated in the RFP, partnering with other municipalities, “but more than anything, I find it pretty disrespectful that they didn’t tell me, or put a little courtesy to let me know.”

Santa’s ready and excited for trip through town

Santa in St. Davids last year, waving at boys and girls. (File photo)

Santa still isn’t sure of the date, but he’s keeping some time open to visit all five communities of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

In his down time this summer, he will be sitting in a sleigh, rather than on his backside from sitting so long on the route last year, although he added, he will get to once again admire the beautiful decorated homes along the route, in the daylight, rather than on his sleigh at night.

Seeing all the moms and dads to help Santa’s float, he says, there was talk of putting the job of canine control officer out for proposals. Word got out, the community was outraged, and although the Reids had to apply for the job, they were hired. At that time they were taking calls at all times of day or night. But about five years ago, Ken was put on salary, and reduced to a 12-hour day.

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Santa remembers the NOTL parade from the beginning, and recalls a local business, Simpson’s Pharmacy, sponsored Santa’s float and provided the truck to guide it through NOTL streets.

He enjoyed the change in route last year, although he admits to being a little sore on the backsides from sitting so long after the trip through Glendale, Virgil, St. Davids, Queenston and the Old Town, “but it was a lot of fun, and I’m really elated to do it again this year.”

Last year was perfect weather, but “I’d love a little bit of snow — that really makes it a great day!”

There won’t be the crowds he remembers from previous years when everyone gathered on Old Town streets, but he will get to once again admire the beautifully decorated homes along the route, in the daylight, rather than on his sleigh at night.

Seeing all the Christmas season in Niagara-on-the-Lake,” he adds. “I haven’t received an official date and route this year, so stay tuned to your local newspaper.”

Ken Reid is sure his job is coming to an end, to be replaced by a humane society or other large organization. (Penny Coles)
Harsh penalty for short-term rentals questioned by councillors

Penny Coles
The Local

A decision of council on the appropriate punishment for an owner who rented an illegal country inn for a short time does not sit well with one councillor, or with a resident who has lost her income.

When Jennifer Tilley found herself in a tight financial situation, she took the advice of a person who manages property rentals in Niagara-on-the-Lake and other towns, and advertised and then rented out the Davy House on Davy Street, after she had applied for the licence and submitted pay- ment, but before the process was completed.

The house had been a bed and breakfast for about 15 years — although it took the previous owners four years and a successful Ontario Municipal Board appeal to get their licence — but since it has been a successful B&B for so long, she wasn’t expecting any problems.

At last week’s council meeting, when Tilley and real estate agent Katie Aeby joined the virtual meeting to give Tilley’s side of the story, they were only able to sway one councillor.

When Aeby’s T&Tika was sympathetic to Tilley’s plight, and felt the penalty was harsh. Councillors didn’t know all the facts of the situation, Cheropita said. She told The Local that given the pandemic and all the issues Tilley faced, council could have decided to be kind, and given her the benefit of the doubt, rather than chasing such a harsh punishment.

Coun. Gary Burroughs, a member of the town’s short-term rental committee told The Local he felt the penalty was ‘overzealous’, because, there is no allowance for that severe a punishment included in the current bylaw, and no warning given. The bylaw is soon to be amended, and should detail possible penalties, but there is nothing in place to guide councillors now.

Burroughs said he didn’t support Cheropita’s motion to overturn the decision for Tilley because it applied to only one of three cases that were heard, and his objection was that there was no justification for the penalties for all three, especially when the three appeals to the licensing committee resulted in recommendations for much-reduced penalties.

Coun. Norm Arenasault, also on the short-term rental committee with Burroughs, strongly agreed with the year-long penalty, saying if someone rents without a licence, they should be penalized.

The beautiful sprawling historic home under question is in a commercialized area of the Old Town, surrounded by the Moffat Inn, the Prince of Wales Hotel, and another large B&B. It is not an area that looks like a residential neighbourhood, and there are no neighbours to disturb.

Although Tilley did not speak herself at council — she was nervous just being part of the virtual meeting, and felt Aeby was better able to speak for her.

Aeby acknowledges that Tilley might have been better to speak for herself at council, allowing councillors to hear her tell her own story, but Tilley said she was too nervous.

She stresses when she speaks of recent events that she knows she made a mistake by moving too quickly to rent the house. She owns that bad decision, and regrets making it, she said.

She applied for a licence in July, and it wasn’t until October that she received a letter from the town saying her licence had been denied. The only unresolved issue by then was that she was advertising and renting rooms.

Tilley had purchased the Davy House in 2020 and moved to NOTL to live in it with her family, which includes her two ailing parents and three sons.

She had been going through a difficult divorce, had been litigating in Superior Court for six years, and still struggles with serious emotional issues, some of which can’t be discussed in a public forum.

She is a “blessed single mom of three sweet young boys,” she said. She has heard there are some people in the community and on council who do not consider her single, but says, “I am 100 percent a single mother and I support my children in every way, including financially.”

She feels her finances seem to have turned people against her, that councillors and others believe if she could afford the Davy House, which she bought with her parents, then she shouldn’t need rental income to keep it.

She takes responsibility for the situation she is in, but says renting the house now is the only way out.

When she made the decision to buy the Davy House, she did so “in a flurry. My goal was to find a home, school, and get my boys settled before school started so I would not have to uproot them and interrupt any part of their school year.”

The house was the only one she found with enough rooms for the family. Her parents need to live with her, because she’s their caregiver.

Unfortunately her mother had a hardship of bad falls at Davy House, which has old, uneven floors that change levels from one room to the next. Falling contributed to serious health issues she was already suffering from before moving to NOTL, said Tilley. The decision was made to sell the house for her mother’s safety, and they found another home not too far away, with a closing of six months to give them time to sell the Davy Street house.

When Aeby tried to explain to council why the house wasn’t selling because the licence to rent the house was denied, councillors questioned her. A licence doesn’t transfer from one owner to another, she was told. But Aeby explained the house is too large and too costly for the current market. Anybody looking at it is thinking of it as a short-term rental. And once they hear a licence has been denied, they’re scared off, thinking they will have trouble being licensed.

Waiting for that licence to come through was “an awful time” for Tilley, with both she and her father dealing with health issues.

“I was trying to take care of everybody, and I was struggling,” she said.

They were also dealing with bridge financing, had a home they needed to sell, and a market that wasn’t supporting it.

That was when she was introduced to the rental agency, and overwhelmed and desperate, took the advice “that it was not a big issue to rent for a few weeks as the renewal should be imminent.” She turned it over to the agency, having no idea how serious an issue it was, she said.

I most certainly know now. And I know something was wrong and ultimately it was my poor choice that has contributed to all this.

With the penalty of not receiving the rental licence for a year, “I don’t know if we will ever bounce back from this financially.”

She is also very upset that she’s been accused publicly of failing a fire safety inspection, a serious issue, which was never the case. Town staff confirmed for The Local that there were no fire safety issues identified during the licensing process. Once council ratified the committee of the whole decision, it would be difficult, although not impossible, to overturn, said Burroughs.

The only avenue to reverse the decision would be for a two-thirds majority of council to agree to reopen the discussion and talk ing another vote, but with eight out of nine votes at council upholding the year-long penalty, that’s not likely to happen, he said.
June opening expected for new medical centre

Developer John Hawley, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Dr. Tim Bastedo, who will relocate to the medical centre when it’s completed, thanked all those involved in getting the project underway.

Standing on the open field behind the Garrison Village Plaza, local developer John Hawley reminisced about a time, 25 years ago, when most of the surrounding area was open field. The medical centre is an important addition, he said.

There were congratulations all around, with Hawley thanking “all who made this happen.” He expressed his gratitude for the town working with him to get to the point where the project is ready to move forward.

Hawley has been to council twice, first to ask for development charges to be deferred until the building is completed and rented, and more recently, for a conditional building permit so he could begin construction. On both occasions, councillors were enthusiastic about the project and willing to help get it moving.

Disero expressed her gratitude to the Hawley family, “for stepping up” and taking the initiative when health team doctors didn’t know where they were going to go.

She said she was thrilled to see the project move forward, as is her mother Lena, who was also on hand for the celebration, saying she will be happy to be able to walk to the health hub to see her doctor.

The doctors in the former hospital building and other health team members were given assurance by council that they could stay on Wellington Street until the new facility is ready for occupancy.

Patients of the Niagara North Family Health team doctors who will relocate to The Village look forward to the completion of the new building, including Village residents, said Hawley.

Located on Garrison Village Drive beside the CIBC, the 8,000-square-foot facility will be home to physicians Irham Ahmed, Tim Bastedo, Karen Berti, Samreen Malik and Prattak Kalani, as well as executive director 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, when members of the Niagara North Family Health Team now in the medical clinic in Virgil, including nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, dieticians, an occupational therapist, a pharmacist, and chiropodist, will relocate to the new facility. They will be moving out of the Virgil medical centre in January, when their lease will expire, until their new permanent home in The Village is ready for them.

Family health team doctors in the Virgil medical centre are expected to remain there, however, says Dr. Ronan O’Leary, “at this time we don’t have anything signed, so we have no firm plans as of yet.”

A large group of supporters gathered for the official ground-turning of the new medical hub.
Barbara Worthy, organizer of the local project, says while the volunteers have put a lot of time and effort into creating the display, it’s also been a lot of fun for them. “It’s been all about collegiality, teamwork, and camaraderie. Everyone worked together and made it memorable.” When the community comes together during a pandemic, “it shows what we can do, putting our ability together as a group.” Worthy says she is “beyond pleased” at how well the ambitious project worked out. “It’s what we envisioned and more. When we come together, the most amazing things can happen. At one point we were all singing First World War songs. There was some sadness at times, but also lots of fun. Everyone did a great job, and we’ll be back next year.”

The question will be where to store the poppy nets after Remembrance Day, she says, but the display will be back next year for sure, “bigger, better, and with more poppies.”
Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Fall Riding

In 2019, a distinguished expert named Dr. Paul De- mers was asked by the Min- istry of Labour to investigate Ontario’s system of providing coverage for workers who attempt to receive compensation for occupational dis- eases and workplace cancers. He found that workers were being denied compensation for illnesses they received from doing their work. In some cases, they barely received any information about their illnesses at all.

Unfortunately, having worked for most of my life in a manufacturing plant where I was all too aware of the chem- icals we were exposed to, I must concede that workplace safety measures have dra- matically improved from my early days on the shop floor, but it’s fair to say that many of us simply didn’t know enough about the materials we were dealing with back then. In some cases, we were dealing with chemicals and compounds before our sci- entists even really knew the long-term effects of that. Of course, we weren’t alone. In Northern Ontario, workers were subjected to a prevent- ive measure against the lung disease silicosis. Mcintyre Powder was a finely ground aluminum dust blown into the mine dry (change room) before every shift — you could be fired for not inhaling it. To give it scientific justi- fication, to “coat the lungs” of miners to prevent damage from silica dust. Many decades later it would be proven to cause Parkin- son’s Disease, and to con- tribute to the development of COPD. Further investiga- tions are ongoing regarding potential links to sarcoidosis, cardiovascular disease, and other health issues. After decades of fighting, some of those workers finally received compensation. Others are denied, due to their medical diagnosis. Many had to wait 25 years. 

We will get more rain and tropical moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. That has already clearly happened this fall. We are likely to ex- perience an unusual amount of lake effect snow as cold air whips over the relatively warmer Great Lakes.

As fall, and so soon to winter is likely to be snowy, we will experience more flooding. In previous articles for The Local, I discussed a more political and immediate con- version about flooding. A lot of our local flooding straight up happens because we have removed flood protection barriers such as wetlands and fringes of habitats along our ter- ritories, and paved over areas which once absorbed extreme amounts of water.

Let’s rewind to over 250 years ago. Floods, La Nina, and other extreme weather events would have happened then, too. So why do floods occur, and what is their role in the climate?

The Girl (La Nina) and the resulting floods

Owen Bjorn-Janson Special to The Local

Niagara Region has been inundated with rainfall over the past week and a bit. Many residents, farmers, and ditches, the creation of ponds and ditches, the creation of ponds and creeks turning into rivers. Many are inundated with rainfall over the past week and a bit. Many residents, farmers, and ditches, the creation of ponds and creeks turning into rivers. In the past week and a bit. Many residents, farmers, and ditches, the creation of ponds and creeks turning into rivers. In the past week and a bit. Many residents, farmers, and ditches, the creation of ponds and creeks turning into rivers. In the past week and a bit. Many residents, farmers, and ditches, the creation of ponds and creeks turning into rivers.

The Niagara on-the-Lake

The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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DISTRESS CENTRE
For depression, distress and panic attacks: 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711

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GAMBLER’S ANONYMOUS 905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE Service for youth and children, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day: 1-800-668-6868 (Crisis Line) kidshelpline.ca

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Meetings every Wednesday evening: 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark’s Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting 905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN’S PROGRAM 905-246-5878

Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233) 1-866-863-0511 (Toll Free)

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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 Girl (La Nina) and the resulting floods

View from the couch

Donald Combe Special to The Local

Love on the Spectrum (Netflix, 2019) is an Aus- tralian series that follows several autistic singles as they seek romance. And a manufacturing plant I am handled. I found myself total-

ly engaged.

Donald Combe is a re-

tired English teacher who

loves to go to movies. Until he

resumes going to theatres, he has gratefully agreed

that he has opinions, through (short and sweet) exclusive, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

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When the public meeting for the 325 King Street project (the former Parliament Oak School property) was delayed and I heard there would be revisions to the original proposal, I was so hopeful that the proponents had perhaps finally read the official plan and the zoning bylaw and/or spent some time in our town trying to discover what makes it special.

Sadly, after watching the proceedings of the Urban Design Committee meeting held on Oct. 26, it appears none of these things occurred. The height, density and total incompatibility of this proposed infill project are totally at odds with the official plan and zoning bylaw.

The Parliament Oak site is classified as open space and community facilities in the official plan and institutional in the zoning bylaw. So why is this high density residential development even being considered? I agree, the town would benefit from a diversity of housing types and there are sites identified for intensification in the official plan, but 325 King Street is not, nor should it be one of them. It is in the middle of an Established Residential neighbourhood of one, one-and-a-half and two-storey homes. Medium density residential is defined as a minimum of six and a maximum of 12 units per acre. Not the 20 units per acre proposed for the Parliament Oak site. There are some who hopefully see this as affordable housing just because it promises apartments. There are more than two underground parking spaces per unit, an indoor swimming pool and multiple entertaining rooms and terraces. This will not be affordable to most people.

The Great Wall of the proposed three-storeys plus a mechanical penthouse stretches the entire block along King Street. The latest proposal does drop down to two storeys for a short distance at either end, but this gesture, along with the heritage walk identified on the site plan and depicted in the artful renderings will do nothing to diminish the oppressive nature of the wall. The linear park already exists. The developers are simply adding some plant material and paving stones and claiming authorship. The surrounding streetscape and node is essentially preserved. If Regent Street, it appears to be a four-storey building. Who would want to sit in those rear yards, both looking at the building and being looked down upon? The road access to these 11 dwelling units seems inadequate. They are separated by roads. Why is there so much paving? Eliminating the mid-block road might allow the semi-detached and single homes to be set back further and have a more traditional access, rather than creating yet another unnecessary street system.

Raising the grade to allow the apartment units to have access to terraces on King, Gage and Gage Streets is a great idea for those suites, but this does not change the overall height of the building. 16.4m (53.8 feet) to the top of the mechanical penthouse. Even if the mechanical penthouse is excluded, the true building height is 13 metres, not 11 metres as noted on the drawings and in the application. (Ten metres is the maximum building height in the official plan and zoning bylaw.) Why is the true dimension never shown on the drawings? Belay definition of building height.

BUILDING HEIGHT when used in reference to a building or structure, means the vertical distance measured from the average finished grade around the structure to the peak, except: (a) In the case of a flat or shed roof, the highest point of the roof’s surface, (b) In the case of a structure not having a roof, the uppermost part of such structure, or (c) Where an exterior wall other than a required fire wall extends above the top of the roof of a building, the topmost part of such exterior wall.

Adding the singles into the mix has been done to mitigate the transition from the existing infill residential building. Maybe it is a radical idea, but why not have a proposal that does not require mitigation? A proposal that is inherently compatible with the town and the neighbourhood? One that achieves a harmonious design and integrate(s) with the surrounding area and does not negatively impact the lower density residential use!! (O.P. 2019 4.10.5.5 a)

‘Town planning director Craig Larmour has said “… the town does not have many options to influence infill or redevelopment areas such as the Parliament Oak development.” If the town has no control, who does? The developers? This is absurd. As my husband says, “it is time to put the NO BACK in NOTL.”

Connie Timolin
Gage Street

**Continued from page 6**

In wholesome and uninterupted ecosystems, we need to picture a river flowing for dozens of miles. In a flood, the very soil it rotes from the banks upstream may be different from that of the soil of another world down-stream. The soil is different in density, nutrients, and chemical compounds. These compounds become removed from their original location and moved to a new neck of the woods, where grand oaks and hickories benefit from their delivery, as such sediments become deposited on their exposed roots and the banks of the creek.

Let’s also consider which animals benefit from the rise of waters, even if our own species is self-righteously by-passed by such instances. In both spring and fall, multiple species of fish receive the environmental cues to head upstream to spawn. In personified sense, the salmon and trout and pike must think, “Wow, here is my chance to get as far up as possible and lay my eggs safely inland, where the creek will later wash the spawn out to the big lake again.” In this event, birds of prey and opportunis-

The concept of flooding existed ages before our estab-

Unusually high waters and streams of this fall are likely a result of La Nina, but floods are also a natural part of an ecosystem lifestyle. (Owen Bjornson)

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The full page is made up of a HALF PAGE AD and half PAGE ARTICLE. Article word count: 450-500 Ad size: 10.25”w x 7”h Publication Date Subject to Availability

**LOCAL BUSINESS ARTICLE**

**The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local**

notllocal.com

Karen at 905-641-5335
Julia at 905-934-1040
at julia@notllocal.com

**THE TRENDED VOICE OF OUR COMMUNITY**

**COMMENT**

**Local LETTERS**

Revised Parliament Oak proposal still incompatible

Flooding can actually benefit nature and humanity

Owen Bjornson investigates a wetland in Niagara Falls which is known for collecting and slowing excess precipitation. (Photo supplied)

*Continued on Page 7*
Janice Thomson, best-known locally for her years as the president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, has been nominated for a Women in Business award for innovations in hospitality and tourism industries.

Since the spring of 2019, Thomson has led Niagara Falls Tourism, a role she relishes, and was a good move for her to make, she says.

Thomson had taken her first real holiday in years, a trip to Barbados for two weeks, leaving on March 12. But that was 2020, and two days later, she was staying in a beautiful home, alone, with friends she was expecting to join her having decided to cancel their trip. She celebrated her birthday alone, and loved it. “It was paradise,” she said.

And then she got a call from a friend in Niagara Falls saying she better make arrangements to fly home as soon as possible, or she wouldn’t get home. That turned out to be good advice, and by the time she was back in Niagara-on-the-Lake and quarantining, Niagara Falls hotels were putting hearts of solidarity in their windows, as it quickly became apparent that this was a dire situation. The so-important international visitors were no longer able to visit, and even locals were being told to stay home.

Health crisis, one that could only be resolved by health experts. The health crisis “created a trickle-down effect on the economy, and on society,” an issue related to tourism.

Fortunately they received federal and provincial funding and, and then, the focus became one of survival. It had become obvious that they were no longer facing a tourism issue but a health crisis, one that could only be resolved by health experts.

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Recently announced are more than 75 live music performances taking place at 20 indoor venues across the city between Dec. 27 and Jan. 1, including Blue Rodeo, Serena Ryder and Crown Lands on New Year’s Eve.

There will be several events each night, with 13 options on New Year’s Eve.

When the plans were made, capacity limits were at 50 per cent. “Now, with those restrictions lifted, it feels especially good to be able to do this. We have strong activities going at a good time, when people are looking for good, live entertainment, and we have it for them. It’s creating a different kind of energy.”

Yet, despite that good feeling, not far from Thomson’s mind are those who have been sick and died during this pandemic, and all that has shifted in our lives. She sees people working harder than ever, working smarter, and working together for the benefit of the area to help it get back to normal.

In response to being nominated for an award for innovation, she says, “I’m only doing my job, trying to come up with ideas that are new, different and interesting, in response to a pandemic. What will give me the greatest pleasure is seeing people fulfilling their dreams, having less stress. Every single person is stretched in some way, and I’d like to see an end of that for them.”

The annual Women in Business Awards, sponsored by the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, are being held Friday, Nov. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For tickets visit https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2021-women-in-business-awards-tickets-170215732839#tickets
The Highest Total Volume of Local Sales for the Past Decade.

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

8 LUCIA COURT
$1,395,000
MLS 40179897 • Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie

736 RYE STREET
$3,295,000
MLS 40108725 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

4644 PETTIE AVENUE #209
$719,900
MLS 40153295 • Randall Armstrong

670 LINE 4 ROAD
$899,000
MLS 40156703 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

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

568 MISSIONSAGUA STREET
$2,350
MLS 40150964 • Nicole Vanderperk and Christopher Bowron

27 HARMONY DRIVE
$1,549,000
MLS 40163323 • Randall Armstrong

284 DORCHESTER STREET
$3,349,000
MLS 40180491 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

1361 LINE ONE ROAD
$1,695,000
MLS 40172434 • Nicole Vanderperk and Christopher Bowron

14554 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY
$2,195,000
MLS 40157583 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk

20 CIRCLE STREET
$850,000
MLS 40189313 • Cheryl Carmichael

8 ABERDEEN LANE S
$997,000
MLS 40170996 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

94 TANBARK ROAD
$2,395,000
MLS 40163193 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

5395 HURON STREET
$560,000
MLS 40164651 • Jane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

670 KING STREET
$1,950,000
MLS 40157906 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

513 GATE STREET LOT
$1,100,000
MLS 40140831 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

1433 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
$769,000
MLS 40163884 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

615 SIMCOE STREET
$1,295,000
MLS 40165771 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

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

55 PRIDEAUX STREET
$2,450,000
MLS 40161934 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

240 NASSAU STREET LOT
$2,395,000
MLS 40159830 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

223 JOHN STREET WEST
$1,325,000
MLS 40156879 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

23 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD UNIT #430
$299,900
MLS 40157357 • Cheryl Carmichael and Randy Armstrong

94 PRIDEAUX STREET
$2,695,000
MLS 40164413 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

NEW LISTING

NEW PRICE

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

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SOLD

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SOLD

SOLD

SOLD

SOLD
Artists recognized as three hydro boxes decorated

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

The voting is over, the committee has chosen, and the awards have been presented but everyone’s a winner.

For the third straight year, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre has partnered with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom in NOTL Hydro to make Old Town just a little more beautiful. Three more hydro boxes have been wrapped in winning art works.

“The program started in 2019, and has since wrapped nine boxes with works by established and emerging artists from the Region. The 2021 call for submissions kicked off in June and received an unprecedented number of entries,” explained Aimee Medina, Marketing Coordinator for the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

On Oct. 28th, the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre hosted a small COVID responsible presentation to celebrate the selected works. In attendance were two of the winning artists, Lynne Gaetz and Elaine Bryck, as well as members of the Hydro Box Beautification committee: Tim Curtis, president of NOTL Hydro, Vicky Downes, chair of Communities in Bloom, and NOTL Lord Mayor Betty Duroio. In addition to having their art selected, each artist received a $500 honourarium.

Gaetz was happy to have her mixed media piece, Entangled Lives, gracing the hydro box on Wellington Street. “I am thrilled that my work was chosen to appear on a hydro box near the Shaw Theatre, and I am grateful to the committee that chose my work. The team that wrapped the boxes did an amazing job,” she enthused.

This award-winning artist is a newcomer to the area. “My husband and I are recent arrivals in this town, so receiving this honour was a wonderful welcome. In addition to beautifying the town, Hydro’s initiative helps draw attention to our local artists. The paintings on the boxes are a reminder that in addition to wine and theatre, NOTL has a vibrant visual arts community.”

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Elaine Bryck, who also entered a mixed media piece. This self-taught artist uses “unconstructed improvisation” as her favoured technique. Her cleverly titled work, On With The Show, is performing on a hydro box on the corner of Petron and Wellington Street, near the Shaw Festival Theatre.

“T was thrilled to win the honour of being included in this project, along with the other two outstanding artists,” said Bryck. “The program called for bold and colourful entries and the response was tremendous. These three hydro boxes will certainly brighten the area and bring art to the forefront in NOTL. This type of outdoor art is catching on all over Ontario with many municipalities and cities joining in to beautify their streets and add aesthetic value to their communities. I hope that one day, an outdoor walking tour can be developed to showcase the many hydro boxes that have been completed,” she suggests.

Although not able to attend the ceremony, abstract artist Brittany Blyth-Williams expressed her appreciation to those involved in the project. “I was filled with immense joy and gratitude when I found out I was one of the winners of the hydro box competition. It is a true honour to be recognized in this way, especially as an emerging artist,” she said. “This initiative not only brightens up the already vibrant town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, but also enhances our community spirit and inspires all forms of artistic contribution. I did a happy dance in my kitchen when I found out and look forward to channeling that positivity into many more colourful pieces. Many thanks to the town’s Communities in Bloom Committee, NOTL Hydro, and the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.”

Blyth-Williams’ vi- brant work, Paint the Town, charms the hydro box on Queen’s Parade.

All of the entries for the Hydro Box Beautification Project are on display in the Walker Room Gallery of the Niagara Pumphouse. The show is open to the public and runs until Nov. 25, 2021. For more information, visit niagarapumphouse.ca or call 905 468-5455 for details.

Thank you!

TOP PRODUCER

SEPTEMBER 2021

WENDY MIDDLEY

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Regional dental assistance available

Niagara Region’s Mobile Dental Clinic visited the NOTL Community Centre Friday morning. Lisa V., a dental hygienist, and Lauren I., dental assistant, are ready to greet clients. The clinic is open to children under 18 years of age by appointment only. Assessments are offered for the Healthy Smiles Ontario program, and conduct preventive procedures (fluoride varnish, cleanings and sealants) are available. The Mobile Dental Clinic will return to NOTL Nov. 29, April 4 and May 20. For information or to book an appointment call 905-688-8248,7399, or visit niagararegion.ca.
On Friday, the first day for poppy donations, Lord Mayor Betty Disero joined Victor Packard, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 president, and Al Howse, poppy chairman, at town hall to accept the first poppy of the annual campaign and to raise the poppy flag (photo supplied). Later in the afternoon, Howse, an active Legion member for more than 40 years, was on Queen Street collecting donations from pedestrians. Howse comes from a family of veterans, including his maternal grandfather, who fought in the First World War, his father Percy and uncles, cousins and brothers. The military is such a part of his family history, he says he can’t imagine not being a member of the Legion and serving his community.
REMEMBRANCE DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH

Lest We Forget

On this day, and every day, we pledge never to forget.

Wayne Gates, MPP Niagara Falls
Representing Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie
Niagara Falls: 905-357-0681
Fort Erie: 905-677-8868
www.waynegates.com

We Will Remember Them • Remembrance Day • November 11
November 11 Old Town Cenotaph

6:00 am  Cadet vigil starts. Cadets will follow protocols as listed in their operations order.
9:30 am  Queen Street closed to vehicular traffic.
10:15 am Flag will be lowered to half mast.
10:15 am  Family and institution wreaths will be placed on the cenotaph. Presenters will be asked to limit participants to 2 people and wear a mask. Wreaths will be retrieved from in front of the liquor store as names are called. Wreaths will be laid two at a time by members of the branch. Flag raised for formal ceremony. (If necessary, some wreaths may be placed after the ceremony in order to meet the timings.)
10:50 am  Members will gather in front of the liquor store and file onto the road led by a colour party consisting of the Canadian flag and the Legion Branch banner, and at the direction of the parade marshall. The gathering will wear masks and maintain a safe distance.
10:55 am  Play O Canada, followed by a prayer.
11:00 am  Play Last Post, lower flag to half mast, Legion banner will step forward and dip flag. A silence, names of the fallen called.
11:02 am  Play Rouse, raise the flag, and the Legion banner will return to its original place.
11:04 am  Reading of In Flanders Fields.
11:15 am  Play God Save The Queen.
11:17 am  The gathering departs.

NOTE: The community is reminded to wear masks and please don’t attend if you are not vaccinated. By preplacing community wreaths, it is hoped to keep a large gathering to a short time period.

November 11, Queenston Cenotaph

1:00 pm  Members will gather on the lawn in front of the Cenotaph, official dignitaries will gather along Queenston Street.
1:05 pm  Play O Canada, followed by a prayer.
1:10 pm  Play Last Post, lower the flag to half mast, The legion banner will step forward and dip the flag. A silence; the names of the fallen are called.
1:12 pm  Play Rouse, the flag is raised, the Legion banner will return to its previous position.
1:14 pm  Place Official Wreaths one at a time, followed by family and institution wreaths, two at a time.
1:30 pm  The Act of Remembrance followed by a benediction
1:32 pm  Play God Save The Queen.
1:34 pm  The gathering departs.

Thank you

In memory of many, In honour of all.

Jo-Ann Cudmore
sales representative
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In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

REMEMBRANCE DAY WREATHS

Anyone wishing to purchase a wreath for Remembrance Day, please contact the Branch Secretary at 905-468-2353 between 10 am and 2 pm, Monday to Friday, or leave a message with the bar steward.

The NOTL Poppy Project

An outdoor installation of knitted, crocheted and fabric poppies at the
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

43 CASTLEBROOK STREET
NOTLMUSEUM.CA

NOVEMBER 1-12, 2021

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

“For the Fallen” by Laurence Binyon

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
Widely renowned Toronto-based world music ensemble Sultans of String will be debuting music from their two latest albums at a Nov. 13 Bravo Niagara! Festival concert at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines. Their 2020 album Sanctuary and their brand new follow-up Sanctuary are a one-two punch of musical synergy and collaboration, both focusing on the challenges and opportunities facing the world’s displaced peoples.

As producer and violinist Chris McKhool tells it, the entire project, including the gathering of a massive guest list of first-rate collaborators, has been a huge undertaking. “The project was a lot bigger and more complex than anything I’ve ever put together before,” McKhool laughs. “These songs were created in collaboration with the artists right from the ground up, with people from countries around the globe.”

Every one of the guests on both albums has a story to tell about their journey to freedom, whether it be via words or music. “The strength of these projects is really the artists,” McKhool continues. “Each of them has come to Canada as refugees or new immigrants. Each story is more compelling than the last.”

Taken together, the two albums form a powerful statement on the global refugee crisis. Over 24 songs, the overall mood is upbeat and positive. Some tracks do look back at the turmoil their guests fled. “There’s a kind of complexity and beauty in knowing that these works we’ve created together, says McKhool. “This will be the second concert in Bravo Niagara! Festival’s 2021–2022 season to be performed in front of a live audience. Last month, Bravo Niagara! founders Chris Mori and Alexis Spieldenner were ecstatic to welcome guests for the first time since early last year to the FirstOntario PAC for a performance from Canadian jazz pianist-singer Laila Biali. Biali herself said sharing concerts via livestream was important and beneficial during the pandemic, but there’s nothing like being in front of a live audience. “Getting back on stage with real-time feedback from a live in-person audience feels like an oasis in the desert,” she says. “The presence of listeners in the space impacts the experience for everyone present, shapes and elevates the music, and nourishes the live performer’s soul. We are very grateful to be able to do this again, and to do it as safely and responsibly as possible.”

Mori and Spieldenner are just as excited to present the Sultans of String as part of their Voices of Freedom Festival, an annual event dedicated to amplifying underrepresented voices and histories through the arts.

And, as diverse as the gathering on stage will be, it is likely that through the festival’s outreach, the audience will be equally so. “It’s important for us to make this concert as accessible as possible to all members of our community,” Spieldenner writes in an email. “Bravo Niagara! is thrilled to invite special guests to this concert, including Niagara Heath and Upper Canada Lodge frontline health heroes, Niagara farmworkers, and community members from the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre from many different countries such as Syria, Egypt, Colombia, Venezuela, China and the Philippines.”

Tickets for the Nov. 13 presentation are available through bravoniagara.org.

**Note:**
- The image contains an advertisement for a local law firm, **Martin Sheppard Fraser LLP**, offering services in Wills & Estates, Real Estate, and Corporate & Commercial law.
- The firm’s contact information is provided: email: eblythe@msflawyers.com, phone: 905.354.1585.
ON STAGE THIS FALL AND HOLIDAY SEASON

Desire Under the Elms
Rural New England provides the setting for Eugene O’Neill’s dramatic American classic.
ON STAGE TO DECEMBER 12

A Christmas Carol
See the beloved Dickens classic on stage in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the perfect setting to experience a Victorian winter wonderland.
NOVEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 23

Irving Berlin’s Holiday Inn
Kick start your holiday season with this fun-loving, tap-dancing, rib-tickling romantic comedy.
NOVEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 23

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BOOK YOUR TICKETS TODAY!
Halloween treats were given out at fire stations around town Saturday, where Megan Gilchrist took photos of her kids, and at Fort George Sunday, where David Gilchrist stopped by for photos. The Teddy Bear couple were snapped by Sandra Lawrence, who discovered they were her neighbours from adjacent households, Jim Sutherland and Kim Mustill. Town staff and community volunteers prepared about 600 treat bags for local kids, 500 of which were picked up by families at the town’s fire stations. The remaining treat bags were delivered to the Niagara Region Native Centre. The bags were filled with the help of generous donations from community members and local businesses.

A fine weekend for Halloween

November 3, 2021

THE NOTL Local

Halloween 2021
More physicality leads to win, loss for Predators

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

With this past weekend’s win over Streetsville and loss to the North York Renegades, the Niagara Predators played their two most physical games of the season.

“I explained to them that in order to finish where they want to, they have to show the other team what they’re made of,” said team owner Robert Turnbull.

“I’m not talking dirty hockey, I’m just saying you have to get to the puck and you have to be more physical, and that’s what they did.”

Turnbull was back behind the bench for both games while and GM Johan Eriksson continued their search for a permanent replacement for Andrew Whalen, who resigned for family reasons Oct. 20. It was clear from the opening faceoff that Turnbull’s squad took his words to heart, playing with a certain fire and throwing their weight around at every opportunity.

Despite it ending in a 0-0 tie and failing to capitalize on two power plays, Eriksson said the first period was perhaps the best played this year by the Predators. Niagara outshot the Flyers 15-10 but continued to be thwarted by goaltender Anthony Bredin.

“We had some chances to shoot and we didn’t. I do think we can beat them,” said team captain and forward Alexander Insulander.

A Predator takes flight on the ice. (Ann Shipton)

A Predator takes flight on the ice. (Ann Shipton)

Describing Carter Square as the team’s “energy guy,” Eriksson admitted some verbal back and forth throughout the game came to a head in his case.

“It built up, and after that he had a big hit on one of their players,” he said. “The shift after, they were looking for him and two guys came after him.”

Mike Balsom

Meet the Predators

Favourite hockey player: Mika Zibanejad

Age: 21

Hometown: Strängnäs, Sweden

Nickname: Sulan

Favourite hockey player: Mika Zibanejad

Your “type” song: Gangsta, by Childish Gambino

Hockey highlights: Playing my first pro game as a 16-year-old

Other sports you play: Played soccer when I was younger. I play paddle and golf when I have the time.

Favourite “cheat” meal: Burgers from Max (a chain in Sweden)

Secret talent: I play the drums

Defenceman Pontus Madsen (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Mike Balsom

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Defenceman Pontus Madsen (Photos by Mike Balsom)
It's Saturday night at Virgil's Centennial Arena, and the Ducks are facing the Bruins for the honour of hosting the GHL's Hallowe'en Cup.

Rumour had it the Bruins would be in disguise for the game, attaching floppy dog ears to their helmets and calling themselves the “Duck Hunt” team. To thwart them, the Ducks x-ed out the logos on their jersey fronts and donned disguises of their own on their helmets.

It was fun and games, par for the course in a league designed for just those two things.

The GHL has more than 400 participants this year, all appreciative to be back on the ice after a year off during the pandemic. Co-ed games are held at different skill levels three nights a week during the winter.

Friday's action at the Ridley Arena sees a mixed skills division, composed of players with different abilities, in action. The scene shifts to Virgil on Saturday, with the minor division focusing on true beginners to the game, and the major division allowing more experienced players to take the ice. The more skilled players skate Sundays in the GHL pro division, also at Virgil.

Kim Breakspeare of the Bruins got the bug to play hockey while managing her daughter Carley’s minor hockey team.

“As manager, I was allowed to go on the ice,” she explains. “I just fell in love with it.”

Before joining the GHL last year, Breakspeare had never actually played hockey. She joined for the first time when the league restarted last fall, and she and her teammates got about three games in before everything was shut down again.

On the ice Saturday, she showed some confidence in her skating, something she attributes to her experience rollerblading. There was one incident during the game when she wound up in an on-ice tussle with a Ducks player. She admits, though, the two had actually collided and were just trying to keep each other from falling down.

That tussle aside, she says her skating has improved. “I can stop a lot better, it’s becoming more natural. I’m trying to do my crossovers. I’m trying to work on all that stuff as I go.”

It's getting there.”

She sells herself a bit short here. Breakspeare actually scored the fourth Bruins goal, situating herself perfectly in front of the Ducks net to slip her shot past their goalie. Playing on the blue line, the mother of two girls had a number of other chances to score through the game.

The kitchen designer says her family is very supportive of her hockey endeavours, though they did have to adjust to having a second duffel bag full of smelly equipment stinking up their Niagara-on-the-Lake garage.

Her husband Mark, hailing originally from Jamaica, has never played the game.

“As he puts it, ice is for his drink,” she says, “not to be skated on.”

Breakspeare's teammate Diego Macias of St. Catharines grew up in Mexico, where hockey is certainly not a part of everyday life.

“I had never held a stick,” he confirms. “I've been on the ice maybe twice in my life, once on a pond when I first got to Canada when I was 19, and the second time on the Rideau Canal. I think I was on the ice for five minutes and then I found the beavertails stand and I stopped skating.”

The 38-year-old was convinced to sign up to play by a friend who was also relatively new to the game. He eagerly looks forward to Saturday nights this year.

“I love the league, I love that everybody is friendly,” Macias says. “They accepted me right away, everybody is encouraging. I didn’t know how to skate, I didn’t know how to stop. They never got frustrated with me. They gave me the puck, they helped me. It’s a welcoming environment.”

Indeed, during the game Saturday, Bruins manager Billy Matson pointed out a raw new recruit on the Ducks. He urged his teammates to give her space and help her out on the ice.

“That’s the GHL spirit,” Matson tells The Local. “You recognize some of the new players. She’s brand new to the league this year. We accept all skill levels. I remember what it was like my first year. It’s very special just to give some of those players some space.”

Macias has been playing in the GHL for eight years, following his wife Tina who began a year earlier.

He had never played organized hockey before pulling a GHL jersey over his head.

Referees for the games are also players in the league, volunteering their time to officiate. Statistics are compiled and players receive more points for an assist than they do a goal, in an attempt to promote passing the puck.

Standings are also kept, and league champions are crowned annually, but all teams make the round-robin style playoffs despite their regular season record. “There’s a banquet at the end of the year,” Matson says. “The league gives out some awards. Sportsmanship, team MVP, Spirit awards. It’s a lot of fun.”

“It’s very much a social league,” Matson continues. “There’s a social convenor. Next Saturday there’s about 15 of us gathering to give blood. We help out with different charities. We do toy drives too.”

Family members from both teams sat in the stands Saturday evening, ducking whistles, one side to cheer their team on, the other to poke fun at their opponent. The polite calls of “sorry” and “excuse me” rang up from the ice as players from both teams helped and supported each other.

The “Duck Hunt” Bruins came out on top Saturday, taking a 4-2 victory after falling behind 2-0 earlier. They proudly toted the inflatable cup back to their dressing room.

Then it was off to Silk’s for both teams, continuing the social aspect that is a huge part of the GHL every week.

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Kim Breakspeare, in the grey jersey, scores on the Ducks goaltender. (Photos by Mike Balsom)
Penner family watch twins compete on the ice

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

It was parents’ weekend for the women’s hockey team at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI), and the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) schedule made last weekend a perfect occasion for a Penner family reunion.

Twins Avery and Emma Penner are both attending university and playing hockey in Eastern Canada. The 19-year-old identical siblings have been on the same team for most of their hockey lives, but this year is different.

Emma is studying kinesiology at Dalhousie University and playing for the Tigers. Avery, also studying kinesiology, is a member of the UPEI Panthers.

Friday night was the second time this season the sisters squared off against each other in Charlottetown. Avery, who has one year up on Emma playing AUS hockey, has bragging rights for now, but Avery was able to win both games.

Parents Gerry and Kelly and 17-year-old sister Abbey flew out Friday to spend the weekend in Charlottetown and take in the game. Though they were in the Panthers’ home arena, not one of them was able to choose sides.

Emma describes the experience of seeing her sister for the first time in person on Oct. 22.

“I walked into the rink, saw her, dropped all my stuff and gave her the biggest hug. There were a few tears in there, but it was amazing to be back with her. We talk every day, multiple times, so it’s not like we’re missing out on anything. But just to be there with her and to be able to talk in person, it was amazing.”

For both games the Penner twins were the talk of the town.

“I went back and watched a little bit of the video (of the Oct. 22 game between UPEI and Dalhouse) and it was very funny with the announcer, Emma says. “It was ‘Penner Penner Penner’! They had a few things to say about it, which was pretty neat.”

Both girls were on their teams’ starting lines. They assembled on opposite blue lines facing each other for the anthem.

“Both our families have been the talk of the town,” Avery says. “As an older girl at Ridley, I wanted Avery to succeed as a player because obviously I want Avery to succeed as a player,” Emma says. “I was nervous at first. I had to remind myself what their objective was in the game.”

“It was tough during the game because obviously I want Avery to succeed as a player,” Avery begins her studies at Dalhouse and lacrosse, prepared them for university hockey, says Emma. “And though they are more than three hours apart, they play against each other once a year.”

The Friday family reunion lasted into the evening, with dinner out after the game, but the difficult part was when Emma had to leave with her Tigers teammates for a Saturday game in Moncton.

After the Christmas break, the tables will be turned the next time they have an opportunity to all come together out east, either Jan. 15 or Feb. 9, this time in Halifax.
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Across: 1 Cult, 5 Birch, 10 Ele, 14 Uh-uh, 15 Orare, 16 Meir, 17 Tube, 18 Donor, 19 Ivan, 20 Shopping centers, 23 Arcs, 24 Detest, 25 Bessie, 28 Drive, 30 Irate, 31 Coot, 32 Does, 36 Gig, 37 Deploys, 40 Flu, 41 Snap, 43 Muck, 44 Whose, 46 Lapse, 48 Ivan, 20 Shopping centers, 23 Arcs, 24 Detest, 25 Bessie, 28 Drive, 30 Irate, 31 Coot, 32 Does, 36 Gig, 37 Deploys, 40 Flu, 41 Snap, 43 Muck, 44 Whose, 46 Lapse, 48 I Ivan, 20 Shopping centers, 23 Arcs, 24 Detest, 25 Bessie, 28 Drive, 30 Irate, 31 Coot, 32 Does, 36 Gig, 37 Deploys, 40 Flu, 41 Snap, 43 Muck, 44 Whose, 46 Lapse, 48 I

Down: 1 Budgetary reductions, 2 “I refused,” 3 Gray wolf, 4 “--- is a foreign country...” (L. P. Hartley, “The Go-Between”), 5 Dress top, 6 Smooths, 7 Summoned the servants, 8 Foam clog, 9 Tendency of lie to beget like, 10 Gave off, 11 Pre-lunch reception, 12 All Grietans, according to Epimenides, 13 Physicist — Mach, 21 Asked nosy questions, 22 Middle of wine vat is a dry area, 25 Major Leagues, 26 The Emerald Isle, 27 Narrative of heroic exploits, 28 Fellini’s “La --- Vita,” 29 Castor, 31 Pigeons’ “brains,” 32 Baum’s Land ---, 34 Otherwise, 35 Goes to law, 36 Maximilian and Charlemagne, 39 Avowed, 42 Poster, 45 One golfer’s dreams, 47 Aster, 48 Circus center, 49 Strand, 50 Professor Henry’s protégé, 51 Portable chair, 52 Star who wanted to be let alone, 54 Elliptical, 55 Reminder, 56 Fast-food option, 57 “The Heat ---” (Glenn Frey), 58 Grux

**SUDOKU SOLUTION**

Sudoku solution from October 27, 2021

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3 4 6 1 8 9 2 7 5
2 8 7 3 4 5 1 9 6
7 5 9 6 2 4 3 1 8
4 9 1 8 7 3 6 5 2
6 1 3 5 9 2 4 8 7
5 6 8 7 1 9 2 3 4
8 3 4 2 5 6 9 7 1
9 7 5 4 3 1 8 2 6
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SOLD
$1,549,000
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41 Melville St.
SOLD
$1,595,000
Water view