Plans for $8-million museum expansion, rebranding unveiled

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara Historical Museum, founded in 1875 and housing one of the finest collections of early Canadian artifacts and archives in the most historic town in Canada, is outgrowing its space.

Sarah Maloney Kaufman, managing director and curator of the museum, was at Monday’s committee-of-the-whole meeting Monday to reveal plans for an $8-million expansion project, and a rebranding of the museum, which councillors heard will be called the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum.

They were at the meeting to share their good news, and also to ask for support to go along with an application for a federal infrastructure grant that would cover 73 per cent of the cost of the project. “This grant is crucial,” she said.

“Visitors today are treated with one of the most extensive collections, reflecting the history of one of the oldest settlements in Ontario,” she said.

“As our collection continuously grows each year and our public programs expand, space is becoming limited. Our collections storage and general storage spaces are near capacity.”

About 80 public programs a year must be held within the museum’s galleries, or outside the courtyard, due to a lack of proper programming space, she said.

Also propelling the project is the need to accommodate the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, by 2025, she said. In 2014, the museum hired a consulting company to determine whether the facilities meet current and future needs, and they do not, she said, nor do they meet accessibility requirements.

In 2016 they hired an architectural company to develop drawings to show renovated space, and also meet the recommended strategy to address the museum’s needs, which is an addition behind Memorial Hall, a new basement under Memorial Hall, a second floor to the Link Building, and a renovation of the existing facilities.

“We have not expanded since the 1970s, so this project is long overdue,” said Kaufman. The expansion will increase square footage from 10,107 square feet to 18,349 square feet, an increase of 8,242 square feet, she said.

“This will make our museum fully accessible with an elevator, access hallways and a universal bathroom. It will add a community space of 1,404 square feet for our needs, and also for community groups.”

There will also be dedicated research space so the

Continued on page 14
Man charged in death of long-term care resident

Local Staff

A 74-year-old man has been charged with manslaughter, following the death of a 94-year-old woman.

Both were residents of Chartwell Niagara Long Term Care Residence on Wellington Street in Niagra-on-the-Lake.

Niagara Regional Police were called to the home Aug. 10, responding to a report of a "related assault." The alleged assault had occurred the day before, and the woman was transported to a local hospital. She died of her injuries Aug. 20.

The woman has been identified as Verna Tr sina. Following an investigation by the criminal investigations branch and homicide unit, charges were laid against the male resident. Robert B. Stroeh was charged Monday with manslaughter, taken to the Robert S. Welch Courthouse in St. Catharines and released on bail, with a court date of Nov. 26.

Janine Reed, senior communications director of Chartwell Retirement Homes, said she could not comment on an ongoing investigation, but said Chartwell is continuing to take measures to protect its residents. Stroeh, she said, "is not a danger" to other residents.

Great weather for golfers

Two golfers enjoy a crisp fall day on the NOTL Golf Club course Monday. (Fred Mercnik)

Golf Club coffee group goes back almost 30 years

Penny Coles  The Local

In The Local’s quest to tell the story of men who meet for coffee, there was one we hadn’t heard about.

The men who meet daily, seven days a week at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, were just a touch peeved they were missed.

And so they should be — they may be the longest-standing coffee group in town, although there are two large tea pots on the table along with assorted coffee cups.

Doug Dineley, one of the originals, sits in the cozy corner of the club house.

Frank Harris, Ron Rempel, and Hugh Hutton. Waitress Cyndy McKillop looks after their tea cups. They accuse her of liking Dineley best, and she agrees — he is the best behaved, she said.

Rempel and Hutton vie for the least well-behaved, she said.

The group was originally mostly farmers, but not so much anymore. They are all golfers, though, with the exception of Harris, who tore his rotator cuff and has to take a break from the game.

The rest of them golf at least twice a week, in the two men’s leagues, says Dineley.

They especially like their table by the window because as they sit in their comfortable chairs with their warm beverages, they can critique those out on the course, which they do with gusto.

With two ex-Brits in the group, Brexit is one of their topics of conversation, says Harris, along with "how to get rid of Trump and Trudeau."

Hutton adds they like to talk about town problems.

Kevin Baum, Vic Martens, a member of the community centre group that meets Wednesdays, often steps by. Members who have passed away and are missed are George Werner and Bob Hunter.

The men know if they have a problem that needs solved, the coffee club plays the same role as a pub in Britain, says Harris — there will always be someone to solve it. If you want to know how to keep your dog off the furniture, or how to repair something at home, or need a landscaping tip, there is always someone with the answer.

“’I have a problem I can come here with it and somebody always knows something about it,” says Harris.

The golf club will close down for the winter, and the men will lose their cozy round table by the window, but they say they will continue meeting.

“We’ll be in Tim Hortons in the morning, both- ering those two groups,” says Dineley.

Man charged in death of long-term care resident

Local Staff

A 74-year-old man has been charged with manslaughter, following the death of a 94-year-old woman.

Both were residents of Chartwell Niagara Long Term Care Residence on Wellington Street in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Niagara Regional Police were called to the home Aug. 10, responding to a report of a "related assault." The alleged assault had occurred the day before, and the woman was transported to a local hospital. She died of her injuries Aug. 20.

The woman has been identified as Verna Traina. Following an investigation by the criminal investigations branch and homicide unit, charges were laid against the male resident. Robert B. Stroeh was charged Monday with manslaughter, taken to the Robert S. Welch Courthouse in St. Catharines and released on bail, with a court date of Nov. 26.

Janine Reed, senior communications director of Chartwell Retirement Homes, said she could not comment on an ongoing investigation, but said Chartwell is continuing to take measures to protect its residents. Stroeh, she said, “is not a danger” to other residents.

Great weather for golfers

Two golfers enjoy a crisp fall day on the NOTL Golf Club course Monday. (Fred Mercnik)
Bridge repairs could cost property owners $50,000
Structure was damaged during maintenance

Penny Coles
The Local

A local couple is looking at a cost of about $50,000 to pay for repairs to a bridge on their property, and hoping the Town will take some liability for the damage.

Adrian and Sohayla Praysner live on a beautiful stretch of land on McNab Road, and although they don’t farm it themselves, there are still fruit trees on the gently rolling property that slopes down to a valley, with a creek and what was at one time a structurally sound bridge for transportation to the bank on the other side.

The creek is now considered part of the Airpor t Drain, says Adrian, and as such, there is regulatory maintenance carried out by the Town, usually involving scraping brush from the banks.

But when the last maintenance work was carried out on their creek, the bridge, an attractive combination of stone pillars and wrought-iron fencing over a culvert, was severely damaged.

That was in 2012, and since then the pillars have continued to crumble and the fence is at an even more alarming angle.

The couple spoke to councillors at Monday’s committee of the whole meeting, frustrated at the many discussions and years that have passed since the bridge was damaged, and hoping for a resolution.

Sohayla showed photos of the bridge, and told councillors when the maintenance was carried out in 2012, the contracting company brought in a 27-ton Gradall excavator, the weight of which, she said, is about equivalent to 20 Honda Civics, stacked on her little bridge.

The couple believes it was too heavy for the bridge, which has since developed sink holes, and has flattened the top of the arch-shaped culvert and compromised the integrity of the structure.

It also scraped the sides of the creek too close to the bridge, they say, and the resulting erosion has caused the stone pillars to collapse. The wrought iron railings are falling in at an angle on both sides, all as a result of what was considered to be maintenance to the ditch, he says.

Some repairs were carried out, but the damage continues, they say.

The Town has assumed the ditch for irrigation purposes, and the right to maintain it, but not the accountability for the damage that caused, Adrian says.

“This wasn’t maintenance,” he says. “This is negligence, and someone should be liable.”

Brett Ruck, the drainage superintendent for the Town, told councillors that under the provincial Drainage Act, he has no choice but to charge 50 per cent of the cost of repairs to the property owner, and 50 per cent to be shared by property owners on the drain upstream of the bridge.

Ruck said he expects to have a report ready to go to council, explaining the alternatives, in January.

The Town has given the contract for council presenting possibilities for dealing with the issue, he said, including looking at other ways to distribute the cost — charging the property owner half is not necessarily the most reasonable way of dealing with how costs are apportioned, and there are other methods that could work in the future.

It will be up to council to decide whether they want to take a different route, he said.

Ruck said in the past, when a property owner has been charged a large amount for work on a drain, the Town has given them time to pay the bill, rather than expecting it in one lump sum.

But to the Praysners, the point is if a contractor damaged their bridge, there should be liability, and some responsibility on the part of the Town, who contracted the work that caused the damage.

“It seems frankly outrageous” that the Town, which assumed the bridge as part of its drainage system, would expect them to take responsibility for the cost of repairing it, Adrian said.

Ruck said he expects to have a report ready to go to council, explaining the alternatives, in January.
A large booth with 20 local businesses promoting Niagara-on-the-Lake at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is seeing about 1,500 visitors a day, well-worth the cost of participating in the 10-day event, says the Chamber of Commerce president.

Eduardo Lafforgue, who asked the Town recently for $20,000 to help cover the costs of participating, is thrilled with the quality of the booths participating, and with the positive reception from passers-by who stop to chat.

Set up in the fair’s food and lifestyle area, the booth is 40 feet by 10 feet, says Lafforgue. Although it was provided free of charge, there were other costs that needed to be covered, and the chamber had to make a quick decision to go ahead, without having had time to budget for the event.

Speaking from the fair Monday, Lafforgue says, “I’m standing between two cows and one horse, and the Lieutenant Governor is walking by, I think helping to open something.”

The space given the chamber “is enormous,” he says. People have been stopping by to sample wine and food, and loving it, and they’ve been very impressed with the Parks Canada soldiers — “they’re a huge attraction.”

On the weekend they had about 1,500 people a day, Monday was a little quieter with about 1,200 visitors, but by the time the fair closes, he estimates about 15,000 people, many of them walking through the building to the horse show, will have stopped to learn something about NOTL.

“This is a high traffic area, and the people walking through are just the kind of demographic we want to see in NOTL. It’s fantastic — well worth the effort and the investment,” he says.

There is a great list of sponsors participating, he adds, including the Niagara Historical Society and Museum, Parks Canada, and several wineries and restaurants.

“IT will be a great benefit to the whole town, not just for the chamber. People are collaborating, and we have a very wide spectrum involved. Niagara College is taking over the booth for a whole day.”

The NOTL booth is located beside the one for Innovation Ontario, Lafforgue says, so it will be great to showcase Niagara College and its innovation for visitors.

Many visitors who stop to chat already know and admire Niagara-on-the-Lake, he says, “but we’re making sure they learn even more about it to love.”


Jeff Weir from Reif Estate Winery was on hand to offer tastings to the visitors to the booth.

Visitors to the Parks Canada booth were impressed by the British soldiers and many wanted photos with them.

Angela and Lloyd Redekopp were at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair to promote their business, Greaves Jams.

The booth provided to the Chamber of Commerce is 40 feet by 10 feet, and has allowed them to share the space with 20 partners from NOTL. (Photos supplied)
92-year-old a regular visitor at Red Roof Retreat

Penny Coles  
The Local

At 92, Farmer is the oldest client at Red Roof Retreat, and one of executive director Steffanie Bjorgan’s favourites. He is in a group home run by Mainstream, which helps people with a developmental difference by providing a supportive environment, including offering supported living programs. He has a Mainstream worker who brings him to Red Roof as a day out. In the beginning, says Bjorgan, he went by the name of Ray, but at some point, after visiting Red Roof, he began talking about his early life on a farm, and insisted on being called Farmer. That has become the only name he goes by, she says.

He began coming to Red Roof about 10 years ago, and loved to walk around the property and help with the animals. He’s in a wheelchair now and unable to do that, but he still loves to visit. He loves the horses, and feeding them, but his movements are restricted.

One day not too long ago he and the others in the group home were asked to come up with a bucket list, she says, and at the top of his list was his wish to go for a ride in the Kubota at Red Roof, possibly because it reminded him of riding on a tractor.

Bjorgan says she was surprised to hear that — he had never mentioned it before.

“I heard that, and I said, ‘How are we going to do that?’” she says.

It would have been fairly simple while he was still mobile, but she wasn’t sure how she was going to manage it with him unable to walk.

To get him from the wheelchair to the Kubota, they brought in a manual lift, “and with some creative planning,” and some laughter at the absurdity of how they did it, managed to get him into it, beside Bjorgan, who was in the driver’s seat.

“I took him around the farm, and then we went to the fire department on Concession 6 to see the fire trucks. He loved it,” she says.

Then, recalling that it was still “cookie week” at Tim Hortons, which was selling smile cookies at $1 each to make money for Red Roof, she decided to take Farmer for a ride through the drive-through to buy him a cookie.

“He was so cute. He just giggled and gave a thumbs-up — he was pretty excited,” Bjorgan says as far as she knows he has no family, and nobody knows much about who he is or about his past.

“I’d love to know more about him,” she says.

April Faludeau, his support staff at the Mainstream group home, doesn’t know a lot about him either.

He has no family, and came to Mainstream after many years of being institutionalized with a developmental disability, she says.

“He started volunteering at Red Roof years ago when he was able to, and I would go with him. He still loves Red Roof, and Steffanie.”

Cookies raise more than $8,000

Penny Coles  
The Local

Who knew how many cookies could be sold to benefit Red Roof Retreat?

Last week, an astounding $8,033 was handed over to the organization, which helps special needs children and young adults, $1 for each of the Smile cookies sold in just seven days, at the two Niagara-on-the-Lake Tim Hortons’ locations.

Tim Hortons’ owners Lori and Andrew Paterson said they chose Red Roof to be the recipients of this year’s campaign because of the great work it does, and they want the proceeds to remain in the community.

Steffanie Bjorgan, executive director of Red Roof, said she was surprised at how much money was raised in such a short time, but not surprised by the generosity of the community.

The money will help with operations of Red Roof, which runs a large variety of programs, at three different locations in Niagara-on-the-Lake and St. Catharines, and weekend respite care for children and young adults.

Cookies raised $8,033 for Red Roof Retreat.

Steffanie Bjorgan of Red Roof Retreat would love to learn more about Farmer, one of her favourite clients, who had riding in a Kubota as part of his bucket list. (Photo supplied)

Tim Hortons franchise owner Lori Paterson, Red Roof’s special events co-ordinator Karen Post, coffee shop manager Mayank Mittal, supervisor Daniele Bedard and Red Roof’s executive director Steffanie Bjorgan are thrilled to have had such a successful Smile cookie campaign, which raised money for Red Roof Retreat. (Photo supplied)
Local membership card program launches today

We are excited to launch our new membership program this week, and hope our readers are ready to become Local members.

If you turn to page 10, you will discover our great business partners and the specials they are offering to anyone with a card that says “I’m Local.”

The card, which can be ordered online ($39.95 plus $5.20 HST) or picked up at our office on Four Mile Creek Road, is good for a year. Businesses may change their offers monthly, or they may stay the same. That’s up to them. We have 28 great membership partners on board, and we will update the website and print ads as more join the program.

In addition to covering the cost of the program for us, the cost of the card is also a way for our readers to support their Local community newspaper, which we hope you will want to do, as well as local businesses, while taking advantage of great special offers and discounts.

Our new membership program begins today!

All the information you need is available at notllocal.com/membership. You can purchase a membership card online, with a credit card or PayPal, and have it mailed to you. Please check out our membership partners, and the specials they are offering.

We hope you will want to sign up, and become a Local member!

Penny Coles
The Local

LETTERS

Let’s eliminate the word ‘promise’ from federal election campaigns

In light of our recent election (and elections everywhere), I have two rhetorical suggestions for election campaigning.

Any government is elected to advance national or regional interests and those of its electorate. Those interests must be pursued in dynamic, constantly changing circumstances, and unforeseeable policies. Policies must be based on reality in the light of those fluctuations.

Somewhat facetiously, I suggest the word ‘promise’ be eliminated, even banned, from all campaign rhetoric and reportage. Any candidate, at most, can promise priorities, objectives, and, perhaps, outlines of general related policy initiatives, but, given the ever changing world, detailed, specific promises may cease to make sense as situations evolve.

A government must have the flexibility to adjust priorities and policies, rather than doggedly/slavishly implementing promises.

Sadly, the term scandal is far too frequently and freely used by all, especially the media. Often, the term is used speculatively, subjectively and/or simply for rhetorical impact, i.e. drama, and for giving a story lasting ‘legs’ for political or journalistic advantage. The term ‘controversy’ is accurate, and generally objective/neutral; ‘scandal’ is not.

Let me add that the use of panels of analysts by most of the media too often uses panels comprised of politically committed members (or perhaps shills) who are not objective, and hence, do not qualify as true analysts. The analysis of such panels is of little use, because the analysis by the members is almost always completely predictable.

Rick Kirby
Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL FINDS

HARRY NELSON
MANSFIELD 1928 - 1969
RECTOR OF THIS PARISH 1959 - 1965

Life is short
by Donald Combe
Special to The Local

We believe that this monument was designed by the eminent architect Peter Stokes. The form is like many of the early stones found in the cemetery, the material is limestone and the inscription is faint. Perhaps a message to the observer that life is short and that even our memorials fade and disappear. Mansfield was 31 when he became St. Mark’s youngest rector. After only six years of this ministry, he left to further his education at Yale University and then McMaster University, where he joined the faculty. Soon after beginning his university teaching, he was diagnosed with leukemia and died shortly after.

Newcomers in the spirit

At last week’s meeting of the NOTL Newcomers Club at the community centre, members Susan Kisackiewicz, Karin Winkelmann, Marie Landorien (a ghostwriter, hence the journal), president Pauline Miller as a queen and Arlene McGuire as Ziggy Stardust dressed up to get into the Halloween spirit. Nov. 20, the group is holding a community awareness meeting at the community centre from 1 to 3:30 p.m., open to the public, to provide an opportunity to learn about more than 20 community groups in NOTL and introduce representatives from each. The meeting will include a presentation by Jockey Porter, a writer and world traveler, on Laughing Elephants And Other Stories: Adventures on the other side of our world. (Penny Coles)
Visiting Muskoka in November provides surprising perks

Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

A trip to Muskoka for many in our area conjures up images of docks, turning in the sun, and sunsets over endless green forests and glasy lakes. This description fuels the image of summer, not from its modern design, unlike many in our area conjures an image of summer's state not experienced anywhere else. This description perfectly captures the essence of Muskoka in November, a month of the year, awkward to many from our neck of the woods. The benefits of visiting Muskoka, however, are noteworthy. The fall colours are particularly striking. When I hear the word Muskoka, I can smell the pine needles and hear the fat silence of those woods immediately. Feeling out those forests and lakes in their raw moods is a rewarding experience for the prepared, so that's what we went for. Muskoka is a vast area, with its surrounding geographical area of the province is so special because it offers the perfect circle of human attraction. The Canadian Shield, Canada's most extensive geological landform, features bedrock and granite spewing dramatically to the Earth's surface. This hard rock traps water in between all of its nooks and depressions, creating the iconic car window scenery of lake after lake as you drive up north. We are attracted to natural beauty, and a certain ruggedness meets a certain stillness in this area of the province. It's a place to relax, retreat, and explore our senses in a way that only nature can do. The lack of pure natural space in Niagara and northern Ontario may explain why so many of us itch to get up north. Those who live up there are graced with these benefits, but can also face other socio-economic and environmental challenges that come packaged with the "you live here full time" deal. I feel like the greenery up there is the common denominator that makes it special for the summer warrior who embraces the sunny cottage life, as well as for residents tucked into those woods who live in the most breathtaking seasons of Canadian weather. Sometimes for generations, for some deep reason perhaps, what's needed is to step into the local pub in Huntsville is like stepping into the trails of the area in November. It's not busy. Its gloominess and its lighting work, but the place is surprisingly cozy and you feel like you've got this little experience to yourself. I look at the locals of the bar, dressed with boots that last for life and plaid jackets that never quit. And it's not just the local bar, it's in the traffic on the roads and the energy of the lineup at Timmies that feels different, too. It's relaxed up there in a way that we aren't down here. Despite being surrounded by the immediate and apparent necessities that smother us in southern Ontario, it is undeniably a different pace of life. Something happens along Hwy 11 heading north. There is a shift in both landscape and culture, I daresay. Together, these factors create another shift that hits us at a more innate level. A sense of timelessness, letting our guard down, and being a little extra pure in Ontario's wilts. That's how I see it, as we break free from the bottleneck traffic coming out of Toronto and the more densely populated southern Ontario. I have had nights 'up north' under a canoe, in a mansion cottage, a tent, a van, and a rundown motel. It never matters where, as the area is clearly famous and romantically for a reason. I think the four hour drive is certainly influential on our culture and our life here in Niagara, as it is a part of many of us in some capacity.

I am forever curious as to what the natural change is once our southern Ontario bodies cross into the Canadian Shield.

I love your article, and the way you write. I hope to spend more time in Muskoka this winter.

Owen Bjorgan says experiencing the first snowfall for the Muskoka area of Ontario made him reflect on southern Ontario's relationship with 'up north.' (Owen Bjorgan)

Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local

Welcome to Auchterlonie on Astrology for the first full week of November. This is the week of the Full Moon in Taurus on Tuesday, Nov. 12. If you follow my Podcasts on Facebook or my Website, this is the third week we look at some fun facts of astrology. Like the meaning of “The Ides of March,” and the names of the days of the week and how they are derived from the names of the planets. But this weekend, the week ahead, Thursday, Nov. 7, Venus and Mars are not all right, but a sensitive and imaginative Moon in Pisces can hopefully dream up a surprise to make things better. It was Nov. 7, 1929 that the Museum of Modern Art in New York City opened its doors for the first time. Franklin Delano Roosevelt won his fourth term as U.S. president on this day in 1944. Friday, Nov. 8, sees the Sun and Saturn at exactly 60 degrees from one another, known as a sextile in astrology. It says we have an opportunity to make our vocation or career take a step up. This on a day when the Moon moves from sensitive Pisces to fearless Aries in the morning. It was Nov. 8, 1960 that John F. Kennedy was elected as U.S. president, the youngest in history. He was 43. Saturday, Nov. 9, Retrograde Mercury hooks up with Pluto, making for a mental review of something to do with your motivation. Perhaps an ongoing conversation about a shared financial matter. In the afternoon, be on the lookout for an impulsive move that could be dangerous. Superstar astronomer Carl Sagan was born on Nov. 9, 1934, and Albert Einstein won the Nobel Prize in physics on this day in 1921. Sunday, Nov. 10, we see the Moon move from impulsive Aries into earthy Taurus at 6:17 p.m. This is a potentially accident prone morning goes to way to a more laid-back evening. And it was Nov. 10, 1975, that The Edmund Fitzgerald succumbed to Lake Superior when the gales of November came early. And funny man Tracy Morgan celebrates number 51 today. Monday, Nov. 11, is Remembrance Day. The Remembrance Day Ceremony has played a major role in Remembrance since 1931. Every year, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we gather in memorial parks, community halls, work places, schools and homes to stand in honour of all who have fallen. Together, we express a moment of silence to mark the sacrifice of the many who have fallen in the service of their country, and to acknowledge the courage of those who still serve. This year is an especially thoughtful Remembrance Day as the Sun and Retrograde Mercury meet in Scorpio just before 11 a.m., and urge us to remember the passing and sacrifice of someone dear. The brilliant Kurt Vonnegut was born this day in 1922. Leonardo DiCaprio is 45 today. Tuesday, Nov. 12 is the day of the Full Moon in Taurus at 8:34 a.m. It’s an emotional day, when stubbornness is likely the rule but when Mars in Libra and Jupiter in Sagittarius make a friendly connection that brings good fortune to all, and brings good health to some. London, Ontario’s Ryan Gosling is 39 today. Anne Hathaway is 37. Wednesday, Nov. 13, we see the Moon move from Taurus into Gemini early in the morning on a day when Retrograde Mercury is busy with hook-ups to Saturn and to Neptune. Review and rethink and maybe wait for a chance to put thoughts into action down the road, in a few weeks from now. Whoopi Goldberg is 64 and Jimmy Kimmel is 52 today. Again, a reminder to please check out my Podcast cast either on the Facebook page “Auchterlonie on Astrology” or on my website at: https://www.lookingupwithbill.com/ This week it’s all about the names of the days of the week and how they connect to the planets. And on the website you will find an offer to have your birth chart done by me, with a look at your year ahead to boost. Until next time, remember we are all Stardust. We are golden. So shine on!
St. Davids-Queenston Church home to plaque for war dead

A plaque listing soldiers from St. Davids and Queenston who died in the First or Second World War will be officially unveiled at a service Sunday. (David Hemmings)

When St. Davids-Queenston United Church commemorates Remembrance Sunday, members will have reason to celebrate.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the Niagara Historical Society will be unveiling a Lest We Forget plaque on the edge of the historic church cemetery, says church board chair Steve Hardaker.

The plaque is dedicated to soldier seamen and airmen from St. Davids and Queenston who fought and died in the First and Second World Wars, he says.

The church was contacted by David Hemmings, president of the historical society, with a request to locate the plaque in the church cemetery, says church board chair Steve Hardaker.

The plaque is dedicated to soldier seamen and airmen from St. Davids and Queenston who fought and died in the First and Second World Wars, he says.

The church was contacted by David Hemmings, president of the historical society, with a request to locate the plaque in the church cemetery.

Hemmings says he realized during last year’s Queen Street Remembrance Day service, listening to speeches by community leaders, that although the “war dead” are commemorated each year, there is very little known about them.

When he speaks of the St. Davids Plaque at church Sunday, he will also detail how difficult it was to research that information and find accurate details, and how especially horrific the First World War was, with men who died up to a decade after it ended, ending their lives destroyed by what is now understood as PTSD.

And many died not from active duty but of disease, the effects of training and exposure, or accidents in Britain or Canada.

St. Davids, he says, which was a small rural village in those days, “contributed extraordinarily to those who sacrificed their lives for our country in both wars. Almost one quarter of our municipality’s fallen soldiers and airmen came from St. Davids. Of these locals of St. Davids, five out of seven in WWII died in action.”

The cemetery, the location chosen for the plaque, is historic, as is the church, says Hardaker, and a fitting place for the plaque.

The church history goes back to 1788, when Christian Warner, a British Loyalist joined Butler’s Rangers. A Methodist who held meetings in his home, and built Warner’s Meeting House.

The church was relocated to be more central, says Hardaker, and was built in the middle of the historic cemetery on land donated by Major David Secord, after whom the village of St. Davids is named after, and who was later buried in the cemetery.

This first church was burned with the village by American soldiers in 1814, and a new church was built in 1815, not completed until 1843.

It eventually had to be torn down. The current church was built in 1954, and became St. Davids-Queenston United Church in 1996.

The plaque will be unveiled after the Remembrance Sunday service, which starts at 10:30 a.m.

The unveiling will take place at about 11:30, says Hardaker, led by Elizabeth Surrices and David Murray, members of the Niagara Historical Society who donated funds for the plaque.
Personal stories of war told at museum Monday

Sarah Maloney Kaufman and Barbara Worthy look over material in the museum gift shop books. (Photo supplied)

The Niagara Historical Society & Museum will be commemorating the First and Second World Wars on Remembrance Day with a special performance of We’ll Meet Again, which incorporates personal stories and experiences of living through both wars, from oral histories and archival documents collected by the museum.

Directed and compiled by Barbara Worthy, the performance is a collection of memories, readings and songs featuring the talented Patty Jamieson, Peter Millard and Jenny Wright, all associated with the Shaw Festival, with music by Doug Mundy and Penner MacKay. The audience is encouraged to sing along to some wartime classics.

Each year Worthy adds some new stories, and revives favourites. This will be the first year with Patty Jamieson stepping in to fill the role played by Gabrielle Jones in the past, who wasn’t free to do it this year, says Worthy.

“I’ve worked with Patty over a number of years. She’ll do a great job.”

The evening is a mix of stories from the two world wars, and each year some new ones are added, and favourites revived. All share a history of Niagara and commemorate those who fought and lived through two world wars, including some local history, says Worthy.

The story of Second World War fighter pilot Henry Thornton Crozier (Cro) Taylor, father of Terry Mactaggart and Tim Taylor, has been added. The story of Norm Howe, also a fighter pilot, is a favourite. He died in December 2018, and his story has been expanded for this year’s performance, says Worthy.

We’ll Meet Again will be presented on Monday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Now in its sixth year, the museum’s Remembrance Day program has been very popular and fills up fast. Admission is $15 per person and seating is limited. Call 905-468-3912 to reserve your spot. The museum is located at 43 Castlereagh St. and is open daily 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., November to April. For more information on the Museum’s programs and special events, please call 905-468-3912 or visit www.nhsm.ca.
The wait is over!

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS are now available!
notllocal.com/membership

3 easy ways to pay
1. Buy online at notllocal.com/membership
2. In Person
   Visit or call our office. We’re located at 1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil.
   Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. You may also call us at 905-641-5335 to pay by credit card.
3. By Mail
   Send a cheque for $39.95 + HST (= $45.14) made payable to The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
   Mail the form below to:
   NOTL LOCAL, P.O. Box 430, Virgil L0S 1T0

$25 off Floatation Therapy
10% off all regularly-priced items
Free dessert with purchase of any entree
$15 off Aura line of premium paints
25% off a full set of eyelash extensions or an eyelash lift and tint
20% off all food
Complete auto detailing $89 (reg. $199)
Buy one, get one free, tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

1/2 price appetizer with purchase of entree
10% off regularly-priced merchandise (except seasonal)
10% off shareable sandwich
Buy one, get one free, tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

Buy one Southbrook Organic Vineyards Grand Tasting and get one free
move360 group classes 25% off memberships (Membership options – Reg. price $99/month, unlimited monthly classes, or 10-class pass $150 plus tax)
Buy one admission to Mori Gardens Christmas Palooza Nov 15-17, get one free.

10% off Deli party tray orders of $50 or more
Complimentary Lakefront Series tasting ($20 value)
Free reusable 6-bottle bag with the purchase of 6 bottles of wine.

10% off Floatation Therapy
10% off regularly-priced merchandise, receive 10% off your purchase
10% off Deli party tray orders of $50 or more
10% off all in-store wine purchases, 20% off in-store non-wine purchases, online access to wine club member exclusive wines, free wine-of-the-month tasting when dining in the Ravine Restaurant, free tasting flight for up to six people in the Ravine Boutique Winery

25% off memberships (Membership options – Reg. price $99/month, unlimited monthly classes, or 10-class pass $150 plus tax)
20% off any regularly priced Esthetics service

Spend $50 before tax on regular-priced merchandise, receive 10% off your purchase
Free reusable 6-bottle bag with the purchase of 6 bottles of wine. 


3 easy ways to pay
1. Buy online at notllocal.com/membership
2. In Person
   Visit or call our office. We’re located at 1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil.
   Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. You may also call us at 905-641-5335 to pay by credit card.
3. By Mail
   Send a cheque for $39.95 + HST (= $45.14) made payable to The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
   Mail the form below to:
   NOTL LOCAL, P.O. Box 430, Virgil L0S 1T0

$25 off Floatation Therapy
10% off all regularly-priced items
Free dessert with purchase of any entree
$15 off Aura line of premium paints
25% off a full set of eyelash extensions or an eyelash lift and tint
20% off all food
Complete auto detailing $89 (reg. $199)
Buy one, get one free, tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

1/2 price appetizer with purchase of entree
10% off regularly-priced merchandise (except seasonal)
10% off shareable sandwich
Buy one, get one free, tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

Buy one Southbrook Organic Vineyards Grand Tasting and get one free
move360 group classes 25% off memberships (Membership options – Reg. price $99/month, unlimited monthly classes, or 10-class pass $150 plus tax)
Buy one admission to Mori Gardens Christmas Palooza Nov 15-17, get one free.

10% off Deli party tray orders of $50 or more
Complimentary Lakefront Series tasting ($20 value)
Free reusable 6-bottle bag with the purchase of 6 bottles of wine.

10% off Floatation Therapy
10% off regularly-priced merchandise, receive 10% off your purchase
10% off Deli party tray orders of $50 or more
10% off all in-store wine purchases, 20% off in-store non-wine purchases, online access to wine club member exclusive wines, free wine-of-the-month tasting when dining in the Ravine Restaurant, free tasting flight for up to six people in the Ravine Boutique Winery

25% off memberships (Membership options – Reg. price $99/month, unlimited monthly classes, or 10-class pass $150 plus tax)
20% off any regularly priced Esthetics service

Many have nowhere else to remember the dead

Most soldiers who died overseas are buried there, Legion member reminds us

Penny Coles
The Local

Al Howse has been an active Royal Canadian Legion member for more than 40 years.

He comes from a family of veterans. His grandfather, Bill Staines, fought in the First World War, and came home deaf, says Howse.

His father, Percy Howse was hit by shrapnel after the liberation of Bergen op Zoom in the Netherlands, and came home with what was then called shell shock, now known as PTSD, says Howse. As an adult, he realized his father suffered from a nervous condition as a result of the war.

He has uncles, cousins and brothers for whom the military is part of their family history, and their desire to serve their country and their community. “It always seemed natural to be involved, with so many of my family members, and generations, involved.”

Howse, an infantry captain and staff officer who spent some time in the Ieperwash Crisis land dispute, took over the job of Parade Marshal from his father in the 1990s, when Percy was slowing down and unable to continue. He’s been the poppy chair, the president of the legion, and is still a volunteer with the Poppy Campaign, and at 62 has attended his share of Remembrance Day ceremonies.

“This is a time to reflect,” he says. “To those with no direct connection to the world wars, Remembrance Day “is an overview of the history of Canada at war, from Confederation to the present. Our country has stood up to oppressive regimes that would take away our rights and freedoms. We are safely across the oceans from where wars have been fought, and the devastation is not first hand.”

Those who have come to Canada from those places have a different sense of that history, says Howse. “They remember with thanks that Canadians came to their rescue.”

The point of remembrance “is the personal losses,” says Howse.

“Twice between 1914 and 1918 there was a call for a general enlistment of all the able-bodied men and women to enlist in the military, and fight with allies overseas,” he says.

“Families saw their sons and daughters put on uniforms and leave home to learn to shoot guns, sail warships, and fly armed airplanes somewhere else. Many died there, and were buried where they fell.”

“They have no graves here for families to visit, only the Cenotaph where their names are carved, says Howse.

“There were so many lost, that the individual heroism of the dead was not properly recognized.”

There was no Highway of Heroes for those who were killed in the First and Second World Wars, says Howse, only a letter or cable note informing the family of their loss.

“There is another type of loss too, he adds. “Those who return do not come back as they left. All those who fight and kill to protect others are changed forever. The personal effects of fighting stay with a person long after the fighting ends.”

Those who have returned, lost friends and family too, he says. “Many come back with what we now call PTSD. Families are affected by changes in returning men and women. All of our military is affected by the conflicts we ask them to become a part of.”

Appraising Remembrance Day, Howse says, “we remember the ongoing troops being deployed. We have men and women in harm’s way today. There are many troops overseas, or training to go. We remember the ongoing threats, and Canada’s readiness to respond. There are local sons and daughters following in the same tradition of putting the country above themselves, and fight for the greater good.”

Imagine, he adds, your best friend is travelling overseas, and may not come back.

On Monday, Nov. 11, the Old Town Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph begins at 10:45 a.m., with a moment of silence at 11 a.m.

“The service at the Queenston Cenotaph begins at 1 p.m.
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 Services
Monday, November 11th

Old Town Cenotaph
10:45 a.m.
2 minute silence
11:00 a.m.
Queenston Cenotaph Service
1 p.m.
Veterans transportation donated by Community Transport Group

They gave their tomorrows so we could have our todays... Lest We Forget.
Town to offer support for federal grant

Opening exhibit at Pumphouse Thursday evening

Local Staff

With his paintings, Welland artist Robert Bora challenges people to see everyday things in a different way.

His new exhibit at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, The Things I See, opens at the Niagara Pumphouse on Nov. 5 and runs until Nov. 30. An opening reception will take place on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

"I paint what I see and how I see it," Bora says, explaining the title. "The everyday, ordinary, recognizable things from the real world around me that some may take for granted or ignore."

His oil paintings show vignettes from either the interior of homes or the architectural exterior: a bird cage sitting in front of a window, a coffee cup on a dresser, the roof peak of a house. All are painted in strong, warm colours in realistic style and a minimalist precision, with straight lines and angles, with many paintings featuring windows.

Bora says he uses windows to draw a viewer into a painting. "Windows are a recurring theme I use, not to offer a view to the outside, but rather to trap the viewer inside, hoping to conjure up a memory or feeling of the moment in time."

Bora says his ideas are sparked while out walking or driving and, after they grow in his mind, he tries to translate their emotional meaning to canvas in meticulous fashion while in his studio, a creation process that echoes Canadian realist artists such as Christopher Pratt and Alex Colville.

"The words to describe my style is minimalist, representational, realism," Bora says. "Capturing light, shadow, shape and colour are the four main constants in my paintings, all hoping to capture a more defined intensity and lasting emotional memory."

Robert Bora paints everyday images, things people take for granted, he says. (Photo supplied)

Artist Robert Bora paints what he sees

With his paintings, Welland artist Robert Bora challenges people to see everyday things in a different way.

His new exhibit at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, The Things I See, opens at the Niagara Pumphouse on Nov. 5 and runs until Nov. 30. An opening reception will take place on Thursday, Nov. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

"I paint what I see and how I see it," Bora says, explaining the title. "The everyday, ordinary, recognizable things from the real world around me that some may take for granted or ignore."

His oil paintings show vignettes from either the interior of homes or the architectural exterior: a bird cage sitting in front of a window, a coffee cup on a dresser, the roof peak of a house. All are painted in strong, warm colours in realistic style and a minimalist precision, with straight lines and angles, with many paintings featuring windows.

Bora says he uses windows to draw a viewer into a painting. "Windows are a recurring theme I use, not to offer a view to the outside, but rather to trap the viewer inside, hoping to conjure up a memory or feeling of the moment in time."

Bora says his ideas are sparked while out walking or driving and, after they grow in his mind, he tries to translate their emotional meaning to canvas in meticulous fashion while in his studio, a creation process that echoes Canadian realist artists such as Christopher Pratt and Alex Colville.

"The words to describe my style is minimalist, representational, realism," Bora says. "Capturing light, shadow, shape and colour are the four main constants in my paintings, all hoping to capture a more defined intensity and lasting emotional memory."

This is one of the views of the expansion planned for the Niagara Historical Museum. (Drawing supplied)
Messiah Sing-Along at St. Mark’s Church

Dust off your vocal chords and get ready to raise your voices to the rafters of St. Mark’s Church in a rousing and jubilant sing-along of Handel’s beloved masterpiece, Messiah.

Veteran choral conductor, Mervin Fick, leads The Messiah Chorus (and you) in an extraordinary concert that features a choir of seventy-five glorious voices, joined by soloists Lauren Halasz, Michael Dodge and Matthew Cassils.

Conductor Mervin Fick has been transforming choruses, and inspiring and raising their performances for more than 35 years. One of the greatest gifts he brings to performances, through the singers under his direction, is his ability to deliver truly joyful singing. The Orchestra of St. Mark’s features musicians specially selected for this performance of Handel’s Messiah. The fullness of sound of this orchestra coming together with a fabulous choir of 75, joined by four soloists, will deliver a once-in-a-lifetime concert you won’t want to miss.

The sing-along program will be based on selections from Handel’s Messiah and song sheets will be provided at the concert so that everyone can easily follow along.

The program will start off with a Christmas section, move into Easter, then finish off with ‘The Trumpets Shall Sound’, a piece with huge sound and great moments of rises and falls followed by ‘Amen’. A program highlight will of course be the beloved ‘Hallelujah Chorus’.

Music Niagara Festival’s Artistic Director Atis Bankas programmed the Sing-Along Messiah concert as part of this year’s inaugural ChoralFest, which runs Nov. 16 to 25 in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Niagara Falls. Bankas is particularly excited about the sing-along and the excellent musicians, soloists and choir that have been assembled for this occasion. “I encourage everyone to attend, because this is a rare opportunity to hear 75 spectacular voices, accompanied by an orchestra composed of tremendous musicians, performing some of the most uplifting and magnificent music ever made,” says Bankas.

“I hope we attract people of all ages who will come together and raise their voices in song. It doesn’t matter how well we sing, it only matters that we’re all there together, raising our voices in unison in celebration of Handel’s glorious Messiah.”

The concert coincides with the upcoming 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, says Bankas. “When he passed away, Beethoven’s scores were found at his residence and there were very few that weren’t his own compositions. But one of them was Handel’s Messiah. This showed the extent of respect, understanding and admiration Beethoven had for Handel’s work.”

The Sing-Along Messiah takes place at St. Mark’s Church Nov. 23 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at musicniagara.org and through the Shaw Festival Box office at shawfest.com.

Nancy Smith
Special to The Local

Conductor Mervin Fick, the conductor of the Sing-Along Messiah (Photos supplied)

Soloist Michael Dodge
Soloist Matthew Cassils

Conductor Mervin Fick, special to The Local
Artificial intelligence has potential to be five-star

Dr. Bill Brown
Special to The Local

There’s no doubt about the power of artificial intelligence — it excels in tasks such as voice and face recognition, instant nuanced translation between hundreds of languages and its astounding capacity to beat top-ranked human players at cognitively challenging games such as Go. Overall, AI is amazing.

What made AI so powerful in recent years is that the architecture of the computers is modeled roughly on how the brain works — by employing multiple overlapping networks and using “self-learning” algorithms. Not so long ago, AI-based computers beat humans at games such as chess and Jeopardy by loading the computer from the get-go with as many possible strategies and solutions as possible. This worked but required, at least in the early days, large computers which consumed a lot of power and generated a lot of heat. These days, self-learning algorithms are the key — only few basic guidelines need to be loaded in the computer to get it launched — leaving to self-learning algorithms to figure out winning solutions and learn from their mistakes much in the fashion with which the brain learns to solve most problems. It is the combination of increasingly powerful computers, which incorporate self-learning software algorithms that created the modern AI machine with its unprecedented adaptability and ability to absorb enormous amounts of data. And unlike humans, AI works tirelessly 24/7, to improve, often by playing against itself millions of times, or learning from giant vetted databases. And AI never forgets! All of which made it possible for AI to learn the excess in humans pattern recognition tasks such as distinguishing between different types of skin lesions with a facility competitive with the best dermatologists, reading X-rays, CT and MRI scans with an accuracy that matches the best radiologists, read retinal scans as well as or better than ophthalmologists and ophthalmologists, or assess biopsies more accurately and faster than experienced pathologists. In each case, AI has become more as advanced than today to physicians, but who knows about tomorrow, whether we’ll need that many individual human observers in the future, and for remote communities where specialists — are few and far between, access to AI reading capability would be a real asset.

But AI can do much more. For example planing the best treatment program for some patients, what about similar help for family physicians, nurse practitioners or indeed any specialty practice? That’s precisely where AI is head and bound.

The hope of electronic records was that they would provide instant sharable results for all members of the health care team and that more or less what they’ve provided. That information could be mined for risk factors for certain diseases, identifying trends in the health care system or even noting that something might otherwise have been missed, providing up to date management and treatment options, based on ‘best practices’ gleaned from the records of millions worldwide. With the quality of results and success success.

Of course AI isn’t perfect — just as human physicians learn from their experiences — so also does AI. And if the quality of clinical judgment is limited by the history, physical examination, laboratory tests and other pertinent information about the patient other patients whose data AI learned on so-so, so might the quality of output be. That’s a fact.

That’s one of the problems with AI, perhaps not so much with the reading capacity of center or other high quality health care providers, but with the quality of the data they play and the source of AI on which it learns to identify trends and patterns. However, once high powered computers and everything from retinal photo-graphe to skin lesions have been established and shared widely in the health care system — everyone profits including small clinics with no AI.

That’s the real power of AI in medicine — sharing the fruits of AI with small and big centers.

For now, in my books, AI merits two stars, but has the potential to become a five-star contributor to a health care future. That’s my hope and guess. I want AI to reach its full potential.

To learn more about AI, come to the InfoHealth ses-

This talk in the Nobel

Public Library.
Two years in a row, St. David’s Leos raised money to sponsor two autism-assist dog guides for two children, with support from the Mer- rittton Lions Club.

Last weekend, members of the the St. Davids Lions and Leos recaptured, partic- ipating in an event to help the Merritton club sponsor a dog guide for a visually-im- paired adult.

The goal of Leo clubs, for kids aged 12 to 18, is to encourage young people to affect positive change within their communities, develop valuable leadership skills, make new friends and have fun.

All of those goals were accomplished Saturday.

Ayla Jamal is a 13-year- old St. Davids student, and one of three local Leos who participated in the event, not only contributing to the support of the dog guide pro- gram, but also learning a little about how difficult it is to be visually impaired.

The fundraiser was a Dog Bowl, a five-pin bowling event held to raise money for dog guides. Often referred to as “blind bowling,” it also helps educate participants on what it’s like to be blind or vi- sually impaired.

Bowlers wear specialized glasses provided by the Li- ons Foundation of Canada Canine Vision Dog Guide program. The glasses mimic eye disease, to allow partici- pants to see through the eyes of someone who is visually impaired by diseases such as macular degeneration, diabe- tes, glaucoma or retinopathy.

One of the five members of each bowling team must wear a night mask to simulate bowling blind — that person is aided by another member of the team.

Jamal wore glasses that were spotted to represent di- abetes, but also learning a little about how difficult it is to be visually impaired.

“It showed me how diffi- cult it would be to be visual- ly impaired. I can’t imagine having to deal with that all day, every day. It just gave me a taste of what it would be like, and I know that can’t compare to what it would be like for someone who lives with it all the time.”

The Merrittton Lions op- erate a five-pin bowling alley in the basement of the Mer- rittton Community Centre, and one of its members, vi- sually-impaired Bill Sawrey, created the bowling event a decade ago as a way to raise money for dog guides — eyesight is International Lions Club's cause — and also to provide education and awareness of visual im- pairedness and blindness. His only ability to see is limited peripheral vision, he says. “If someone is standing less than 10 feet away from me in my peripheral vision, I can see someone there, but I won’t know who it is,” he explains.

He was a recreational bowler with others who are visually im- paired, and that gave him the idea to develop a program that combines sight aware- ness and bowling.

In 2013, the Lions Foun- dation of Canada launched Sawrey’s model, and there are now other clubs across the country with similar programs. All that's needed is a bowling alley and some members willing to give it a try, he says — the founda- tion provides the glasses. All proceeds support the Canine Vision Dog Guide program.

Autism is one of seven Lions Canada dog guide pro- grams; they also provide service dogs trained to help those who are visually im- paired, hearing impaired, have a medical or physical disability, or suffer from epi- lepsy or diabetes.

While he was grateful the idea to develop a program that combines sight aware- ness and bowling.

In 2013, the Lions Foun- dation of Canada launched Sawrey’s model, and there are now other clubs across the country with similar programs. All that's needed is a bowling alley and some members willing to give it a try, he says — the founda- tion provides the glasses. All proceeds support the Canine Vision Dog Guide program.

Autism is one of seven Lions Canada dog guide pro- grams; they also provide service dogs trained to help those who are visually im- paired, hearing impaired, have a medical or physical disability, or suffer from epi- lepsy or diabetes.

While he was grateful the idea to develop a program that combines sight aware- ness and bowling.

In 2013, the Lions Foun- dation of Canada launched Sawrey’s model, and there are now other clubs across the country with similar programs. All that's needed is a bowling alley and some members willing to give it a try, he says — the founda- tion provides the glasses. All proceeds support the Canine Vision Dog Guide program.

Autism is one of seven Lions Canada dog guide pro- grams; they also provide service dogs trained to help those who are visually im- paired, hearing impaired, have a medical or physical disability, or suffer from epi- lepsy or diabetes.

While he was grateful the idea to develop a program that combines sight aware- ness and bowling.

In 2013, the Lions Foun- dation of Canada launched Sawrey’s model, and there are now other clubs across the country with similar programs. All that's needed is a bowling alley and some members willing to give it a try, he says — the founda- tion provides the glasses. All proceeds support the Canine Vision Dog Guide program.

Autism is one of seven Lions Canada dog guide pro- grams; they also provide service dogs trained to help those who are visually im- paired, hearing impaired, have a medical or physical disability, or suffer from epi- lepsy or diabetes.

While he was grateful the idea to develop a program that combines sight aware- ness and bowling.

In 2013, the Lions Foun- dation of Canada launched Sawrey’s model, and there are now other clubs across the country with similar programs. All that's needed is a bowling alley and some members willing to give it a try, he says — the founda- tion provides the glasses. All proceeds support the Canine Vision Dog Guide program.
For more information on Rameses I and his discoveries, visit the NOVA documentary: The Mummy Who Would Be King, which can be found on YouTube.
Fall season of Bravo Niagara! continues to fulfill dream

Penny Coles  The Local

When Chris Mori found-ed Bravo Niagara! in 2014, she was fulfilling a dream 40 years in the making.

A Toronto native, grad-uate of the Julliard School of music and a pianist for the Florida Orchestra, she had long wanted to create a music festival, but had no idea she would one day accomplish her goal with the help of her daughter, Alexis Spieldenner, now a resident in Ni-agara-on-the-Lake, a town totally unknown to her then.

Mori and Spieldenner share a bond that has continued to as they work together to build and grow the festival they established together.

Mori has fought breast cancer twice — both with times her daughter at her side, once when Alexis was just a baby, and the second time 17 years later.

They also share their love of music. Spieldenner remembers the years she spent from early childhood, sitting backstage listening to her mother’s concerts, staying up way past a nor-mal bedtime for a child her age, but meeting many top musicians and becoming part of the music commu-nity so much a part of her mother’s life.

Mori discovered NOTL when she was looking for a retirement community for her father, after the death of her mother. She moved here in 2012, and was joined by her daughter, the perfect partner for the festival they would build together.

Spieldenner studied mu-sic at Duke University — she plays the harp — and when she graduated, came to NOTL, “I thought I would take a gap year and then study law in the U.S.,” she says, “instead I ended up do-ing this.”

Doing “this” means tak-ing on the role of executive director of the festival, pro-moting concerts and helping the festival “blossom to be-come a series of world-class artists performing in these incredible venues,” she says.

With the relationships Mori has built up over de-cades of being part of a com-munity of top-rated interna-tional musicians, she works with the artists and schedul-ing the concerts.

“We’re a good balance,” says Mori. “Alexis does the marketing and looks after the website. I pick the artists.”

Together they have host-ed about 50 concerts, many of them sold out.

“And for each one, there is a story to tell,” says Mori, recounting one about a lit-tle boy, about seven years old, who was such a fan of Emily Bear, a child prodigy and pianist who performed at Stratus for Bravo Niagara in 2012. His parents bought tickets for her concert and brought their son all the way from North Carolina to hear her. “There have been so many great experiences,” agrees Spieldenner. “And we’ve established some amazing relationships with many of the artists.”

Mori, artistic director of the festival, was able to bring soprano superstar Measha Brueggergosman to Strata on the fall season of Bravo Niagara! with a sold-out, spectac-u-lar coup, given not only the stature of the soprano in in-ternational music circles but the fact that it was her return to the stage after a year off re-covering from open-heart surgery.

Next up is the annual Voices of Freedom Festival, Nov. 7 to 9, established in 2015 to raise awareness of Niagara’s significant Black history, says Spieldenner.

It has grown to become an important platform for giving voice to music born out of oppression and high-lighting the ongoing journey to freedom, she explains.

“Music has the power to bring people of diverse back-grounds together, and we are thrilled to be presenting these incredible musical sto-rytellers, including Grammy winners Bakithi Kumalo, Paul Simon’s bassist and Larnell Lewis, as well as jazz icon Monty Alexander and his Harlem-Kingston Ex-press,” says Spieldenner.

The festival also includes several free community events, including impor-tant film screenings such as Un-der African Skies, a doc-umentary to be presented with Kumalo at the NOTL Public Library at 7:30 p.m. Nov.7. The film tells the story behind the incredible journey, history and evolution of Paul Simon’s Graceland, and explores the cultural and political climate of South Africa 25 years ago.

Kumalo will also be at Laura Secord Secondary School on Nov. 1 to lead an interactive workshop featuring Paul Simon mu-sic with students, and will also discuss growing up in Soweto, South Africa during apartheid and her relation-ship with the South African anti-apartheid revolutionary Nelson Mandela.

“Part of our mandate is to expose young students to this kind of music,” says Mori. “If there is any kind of opportunity for students to talk to the artists, play music with them, or attend work-shops, that’s what we want to do. Music gives us the op-portunity to educate young people without them having to sit and read about it in a book.”

While the music festival fulfills Mori’s dream, Spieldenner says, “it becomes my vision too. We each bring something different to the table here, but we’re building something together.”

“We have the next three years mapped out,” she adds. “This has surpassed where we thought we’d be five years ago. A lot has happened in five years. She hints at more to come in the future, with a shared vision, a strategic plan and expectations the festival will grow.

But first there is this weekend and the 2019/20 season ahead.

The Nov. 8 concert is the main event of the Voices of Freedom Festival, at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. It features Monty Alexander’s Harlem-Kings-ton Express and The Larnell Lewis Band, blending the sounds of his native Kings-ton, Jamaica, with the classic jazz traditions of New York’s Harlem at 7:30 p.m. in Par-tridge Hall.

Larnell will be joined by Kumalo, who will be his special guest. The legendary South African bassist will also make a special appear-ance with Laura Secord Sec-ondary School students.

Saturday, Nov. 9, at 11 a.m., Bravo Niagara! pres-ents Artists as Activists, a conver-sation exploring the role of artists in society and the historic and present-day intersection of music and social change. Held at the Niagara Historical Museum, participants include Kumalo, Celline Peterson, and Stanford Thompson, mod-erated by Garvia Bailey.

Saturday, Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. at the FirstOntario Perform-ing Arts Centre Film House, Stanford Thompson will be part of a screening of Cre-scendo: The Power of Music. Since its inception in 1976, El Sistema, Venezuela’s phenomenal youth orches-tra program, has brought social transformation to dis-advantaged children in that country.

In addition to produc-ing world class musicians, El Sistema is a rapidly ex-panding global movement, changing young lives world-wide.

This documentary film follows three students at schools that have embraced El Sistema. To register for free events and purchase Voices of Freedom Concert tickets, visit www.bravoniagara.org or call 289-468-9177.

Discounted student con-cert tickets are available ($5 for high school students and $25 for college and universi-ty students).

Continuing the 2019/20 season of Bravo Niagara!, Canadian Olfa Haromy, con-sidered one of the great in-ternational cellists, will per-form at St. Mark’s Church Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $60 to $80 and are available at Everehrite.ca.

Alexis Spieldenner and Chris Mori at the 2017 Voices of Freedom Festival with Grammy award-winning bassist Richard Bona. (Alex Heidtbeuche)
Halloween Trick or Eat

By Diego Rey And Olivia Santelli

Every year, Royal Oak looks forward to Trick or Eat, when Royal Oak School goes downtown and collects canned food from local businesses in Old Town.

After collecting the food, we count it and donate the food to Newark Neighbours, a local food bank. Trick or Eat is really important to Royal Oak because we love giving back and helping people in our own community. It’s also really fun because it gets us excited for trick or treating later that night.

This year, bad weather prevented us from heading out in costume, but wouldn’t stop our efforts to support local people in need. We rescheduled for a drier day, and were able to collect many items for families in the local community. Thank you to the businesses who supported us by collecting canned goods — it is a full town effort!

Students at ROCS sort food gathered during their Trick or Eat outing to collect food for Newark Neighbours. (Photos submitted)

Canada Votes

By Diego Rey And Olivia Santelli

This year at Royal Oak, students from Grades 2 and up participated in a school-wide election for the Canada Votes campaign. The students were put in groups of two or three and learned all about the Canadian political parties. Many students connected to the parties which were chosen for the activity: Conservative, Liberal, Green, and NDP. The students researched the political parties and their platforms, and placed their slips of paper in the Student Ballot box. The purpose of the activity was to learn about the government and being aware of the federal election. You can be sure the students watched the election results quite closely this year!

Grandpals Day at Royal Oak

For the first time this year, Royal Oak invited Grandpals of Royal Oak students into the school to share our school, our academic work, and a beautiful afternoon of quality time together. Grandpals included grandparents, and older close family friends, neighbours and really, anyone special to our students who deserves the special title of grand! We read, built, played chess, coloured and headed out to Simcoe Park to experience a typical, fun-filled Royal Oak recess in our beautiful town’s historic park.

The day was a huge success, and will be the first Grandpals day of many to come in the future.

Voices of Freedom educational tour for Royal Oak Students

Students of Royal Oak School were lucky enough to be the first recipients of the new Voices of Freedom educational tour in NOTL. Last Wednesday, students from Grades 2 to 8 participated all morning in a deep dive into history. Our guide, Hillary Kerr, from the Niagara Historical Museum, brought us to the Voices of Freedom Park, and many other significant locations in Old Town to learn about the storied history, and in particular, the important contributions of Black history of our town. We visited Queen’s Royal Park by the lake, Fort George and even the cemetery down the street from the school. It was really interesting to take a walk through time and educate ourselves about these events, while tracing the footsteps of people who lived and walked in our community.

In particular, the students and staff quite enjoyed the history about Chloe Cooley, a young Black woman enslaved in the area, and how her fight against her ‘owner’ Sergeant Adam Cooley down the path for the Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada. Our town’s history is incredible, and having the opportunity to take learning off the pages of a textbook and into places near and dear to us in town is a learning experience students of Royal Oak won’t soon forget.

Students of Royal Oak School were lucky enough to be the first recipients of the new Voices of Freedom educational tour in NOTL. Last Wednesday, students from Grades 2 to 8 participated all morning in a deep dive into history. Our guide, Hillary Kerr, from the Niagara Historical Museum, brought us to the Voices of Freedom Park, and many other significant locations in Old Town to learn about the storied history, and in particular, the important contributions of Black history of our town. We visited Queen’s Royal Park by the lake, Fort George and even the cemetery down the street from the school. It was really interesting to take a walk through time and educate ourselves about these events, while tracing the footsteps of people who lived and walked in our community.

In particular, the students and staff quite enjoyed the history about Chloe Cooley, a young Black woman enslaved in the area, and how her fight against her ‘owner’ Sergeant Adam Cooley down the path for the Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada. Our town’s history is incredible, and having the opportunity to take learning off the pages of a textbook and into places near and dear to us in town is a learning experience students of Royal Oak won’t soon forget.

Students at ROCS sort food gathered during their Trick or Eat outing to collect food for Newark Neighbours. (Photos submitted)

Diego Rey votes as the Royal Oak Community School takes part in Canada Votes.

Students collect food to be given to Newark Neighbours.

Diego Rey votes as the Royal Oak Community School takes part in Canada Votes.

Students of Royal Oak School were lucky enough to be the first recipients of the new Voices of Freedom educational tour in NOTL. Last Wednesday, students from Grades 2 to 8 participated all morning in a deep dive into history. Our guide, Hillary Kerr, from the Niagara Historical Museum, brought us to the Voices of Freedom Park, and many other significant locations in Old Town to learn about the storied history, and in particular, the important contributions of Black history of our town. We visited Queen’s Royal Park by the lake, Fort George and even the cemetery down the street from the school. It was really interesting to take a walk through time and educate ourselves about these events, while tracing the footsteps of people who lived and walked in our community.

In particular, the students and staff quite enjoyed the history about Chloe Cooley, a young Black woman enslaved in the area, and how her fight against her ‘owner’ Sergeant Adam Cooley down the path for the Act to Limit Slavery in Upper Canada. Our town’s history is incredible, and having the opportunity to take learning off the pages of a textbook and into places near and dear to us in town is a learning experience students of Royal Oak won’t soon forget.

Students at ROCS sort food gathered during their Trick or Eat outing to collect food for Newark Neighbours. (Photos submitted)
Soccer families donate uniforms for Guatemalan children

Penny Coles
The Local

Thanks to the efforts of local families, about 100 Guatemalan children will receive soccer jerseys, shorts and socks to wear when they’re playing their favourite sport.

Amanda Pagnotta, her husband Joe and their three boys, all soccer players, were busy last week sorting and folding items to be shipped to Guatemala, some donated by members of NOTL Soccer Club, others brand new, found in the far reaches of the club’s equipment room in the Virgil arena.

The soccer mom had decided it was time to clean out the room, and realized during her sorting there were several uniforms purchased for kids who had outgrown them. She connected with Wells of Hope in the past, Amanda says, and was told “everyone in Guatemala is very interested in soccer and they’re always asking for uniforms for the kids.”

The soccer club also put out a bin at the arena last spring and asked for used uniforms to be dropped off, and left it for about three weeks into the hockey season for hockey parents who might have soccer items to donate.

She recently began washing, sorting and boxing the donations, in preparation for having them taken by Wells of Hope to Guatemala.

She has matched jerseys, socks and shorts so that each child will receive a whole kit, and has purchased socks where necessary. Everything will be packed and ready to go, with about 10 sets of new uniforms and up to 100 used ones, she says.

“I think all who donated felt good about it, knowing the uniforms are going to a really good cause, for kids from about three years old up to 18. Everybody did such a good job — it’s a nice gift for the kids to receive, and I’m super happy my family could be a part of it. It’s been a good learning experience for the boys, to hear that they could pass on their things for others to use. They’re beginning to understand that we have so much, we can help others who are less fortunate.”

There are also some soccer balls, a few sets of shin pads and goalie shirts to go with the shipment.

She expects it’s something the soccer club could do every few years, she says, and hopes in the meantime soccer parents will hold on to the uniforms their kids outgrow.

Ted VanderKaay of Wells of Hope will send the boxes to Guatemala with Wells of Hope in the past, Amanda says, and took some soccer balls and uniforms with him. Ted VanderKaay has been erly distributed, he says.

“Hey, we’re all interested in helping and we’re all happy to help. It’s a nice gift for the kids to receive, and I’m happy my family could be a part of it. It’s been a good learning experience for the boys, to hear that they could pass on their things for others to use. They’re beginning to understand that we have so much, we can help others who are less fortunate.”

There are also some soccer balls, a few sets of shin pads and goalie shirts to go with the shipment.

She expects it’s something the soccer club could do every few years, she says, and hopes in the meantime soccer parents will hold on to the uniforms their kids outgrow.

Ted VanderKaay of Wells of Hope will send the boxes to Guatemala with a shipment of drilling equipment and other supplies, and will be there to ensure the uniforms are properly distributed, he says.

The soccer club president, Ted VanderKaay has been taking extra jerseys, shorts and socks to Guatemala with Wells of Hope in the past, Amanda says, and took some soccer balls and uniforms with him.

“He said there were people waiting for the equipment, running behind the truck as things were dropped off. He didn’t have nearly enough for everyone. A few soccer balls means the world to them.”

Johnigin
The Local

Local families about 100 Guatemalan children will receive soccer jerseys, shorts and socks to wear when they’re playing their favourite sport.

Amanda Pagnotta, her husband Joe and their three boys, all soccer players, were busy last week sorting and folding items to be shipped to Guatemala, some donated by members of NOTL Soccer Club, others brand new, found in the far reaches of the club’s equipment room in the Virgil arena.

The soccer mom had decided it was time to clean out the room, and realized during her sorting there were several uniforms purchased for kids who had outgrown them. She connected with Wells of Hope in the past, Amanda says, and was told “everyone in Guatemala is very interested in soccer and they’re always asking for uniforms for the kids.”

The soccer club also put out a bin at the arena last spring and asked for used uniforms to be dropped off, and left it for about three weeks into the hockey season for hockey parents who might have soccer items to donate.

She recently began washing, sorting and boxing the donations, in preparation for having them taken by Wells of Hope to Guatemala.

She has matched jerseys, socks and shorts so that each child will receive a whole kit, and has purchased socks where necessary. Everything will be packed and ready to go, with about 10 sets of new uniforms and up to 100 used ones, she says.

“I think all who donated felt good about it, knowing the uniforms are going to a really good cause, for kids from about three years old up to 18. Everybody did such a good job — it’s a nice gift for the kids to receive, and I’m super happy my family could be a part of it. It’s been a good learning experience for the boys, to hear that they could pass on their things for others to use. They’re beginning to understand that we have so much, we can help others who are less fortunate.”

There are also some soccer balls, a few sets of shin pads and goalie shirts to go with the shipment.

She expects it’s something the soccer club could do every few years, she says, and hopes in the meantime soccer parents will hold on to the uniforms their kids outgrow.

Ted VanderKaay of Wells of Hope will send the boxes to Guatemala with Wells of Hope in the past, Amanda says, and took some soccer balls and uniforms with him. Ted VanderKaay has been erly distributed, he says.

“Hey, we’re all interested in helping and we’re all happy to help. It’s a nice gift for the kids to receive, and I’m happy my family could be a part of it. It’s been a good learning experience for the boys, to hear that they could pass on their things for others to use. They’re beginning to understand that we have so much, we can help others who are less fortunate.”

There are also some soccer balls, a few sets of shin pads and goalie shirts to go with the shipment.

She expects it’s something the soccer club could do every few years, she says, and hopes in the meantime soccer parents will hold on to the uniforms their kids outgrow.

Ted VanderKaay of Wells of Hope will send the boxes to Guatemala with a shipment of drilling equipment and other supplies, and will be there to ensure the uniforms are properly distributed, he says.

The soccer club president, Ted VanderKaay has been taking extra jerseys, shorts and socks to Guatemala with Wells of Hope in the past, Amanda says, and took some soccer balls and uniforms with him.

“He said there were people waiting for the equipment, running behind the truck as things were dropped off. He didn’t have nearly enough for everyone. A few soccer balls means the world to them.”
Rangers offer one girls under-15 travel team

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

At its peak, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rangers basketball program had as many as four travel teams competing in tournaments across the province. This was in addition to the almost 60 kids in both the house league and development program that were running at the same time. Numbers are lower this year, with a healthy development program, but only one travel team is currently practising and playing out of Crossroads Public School. Kyla Pylypiw got her start in NOTL six years ago in the development program. The Grade 8 student at St. James Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines is now a key player for the U15 Rangers, who began training for their first tournament at the end of November. Kyla is one of three NOTL girls on the team, coached by her father, Shawn. As he explains, basketball in Ontario is not controlled the way hockey is, with players being tied to playing for their municipality of residence. Hence, the Rangers can draw girls from across the region. Pylypiw began coaching Kyla in the developmental league, and, after three years, he felt he had a good group of girls to move on to the travel program. He sees the developmental program as a great feeder system for the travel teams. “When we first started, there were only about 20 kids coming out. Each year they grew and grew, and it’s great for the area, and for the sport,” says Shawn.

With a lot of the skills being worked on at younger ages, he and co-coach Rachel Bice can focus on enhancing those skills with their 10 players. More importantly, though, they will spend much of the month working on both offensive and defensive plays, as well as positions on the floor. “This year we have two actual post players, and I’ve never had that until now. We’re definitely skills-based, too, and we have to tinker with some things, and try to improve on them.” The Rangers don’t play in an actual league. Instead, they are a tournament-based team. Pylypiw says they will enter at least five tournaments this year, in addition to a few local mini-tournaments against teams from neighbouring Niagara municipalities. Over the 35 to 40 games the U15 girls will play, the focus will be on competing at the Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) tournament in Durham next May. The OBA Tournament is a competition with which NOTL Rangers founders Jennifer and Bruce Caughill are very familiar.

In 2009, the couple began the program in NOTL after their daughter, Katie, had played in Niagara Falls for the Red Raiders the previous year. That Red Raiders novice team had seven NOTL girls playing on it. The Caughills felt it made sense to branch out and form their own club. “Success came quickly for the U11 girls. Coached by Jennifer and Bruce, the team won OBA gold in Division 4 their first season. The following year, the club added a U10 Novice Girls team, on which the Caughill’s younger daughter Maddie played. A novice boys team followed the year after.

In 2011, that original girls team, then playing at the U13 level, won the OBA silver medal in the highest division, followed by a bronze finish in 2012. Maddie’s Rangers squad, however, saw even more impressive success. Playing at the U12 age level in 2014, they won Division 2 OBA gold, making them the ninth best team in the province. Two years later, their U14 team won Division 1 OBA gold, crowned the top team out of 105 programs across Ontario.

“That team is a great story. They were second last in the province of Ontario their first year,” says Bruce. “A couple of programs, the Red Raiders and a Pelham team, collapsed, and we were able to pick up some of those players. It helped that we had two female former OBA Tournament of Meridian Credit Union OBA success to NOTL. Pylypiw credit the support of the NOTL community for keeping the Rangers alive. "When we first started, they were only about 20 kids coming out. Each year they grew and grew, and it’s great for the area, and for the sport,” says Shawn. In addition to a few local mini-tournaments against teams from neighbouring Niagara municipalities. Over the 35 to 40 games the U15 girls will play, the focus will be on competing at the Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) tournament in Durham next May. The OBA Tournament is a competition with which NOTL Rangers founders Jennifer and Bruce Caughill are very familiar.

In 2009, the couple began the program in NOTL after their daughter, Katie, had played in Niagara Falls for the Red Raiders the previous year. That Red Raiders novice team had seven NOTL girls playing on it. The Caughills felt it made sense to branch out and form their own club. “Success came quickly for the U11 girls. Coached by Jennifer and Bruce, the team won OBA gold in Division 4 their first season. The following year, the club added a U10 Novice Girls team, on which the Caughill’s younger daughter Maddie played. A novice boys team followed the year after.

In 2011, that original girls team, then playing at the U13 level, won the OBA silver medal in the highest division, followed by a bronze finish in 2012. Maddie’s Rangers squad, however, saw even more impressive success. Playing at the U12 age level in 2014, they won Division 2 OBA gold, making them the ninth best team in the province. Two years later, their U14 team won Division 1 OBA gold, crowned the top team out of 105 programs across Ontario.

“ ’That team is a great story. They were second last in the province of Ontario their first year’ says Bruce. “A couple of programs, the Red Raiders and a Pelham team, collapsed, and we were able to pick up some of those players. It helped that we had two female former OBA success to NOTL. Pylypiw credit the support of the NOTL community for keeping the Rangers alive. "When we first started, they were only about 20 kids coming out. Each year they grew and grew, and it’s great for the area, and for the sport,” says Shawn. In addition to a few local mini-tournaments against teams from neighbouring Niagara municipalities. Over the 35 to 40 games the U15 girls will play, the focus will be on competing at the Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) tournament in Durham next May. The OBA Tournament is a competition with which NOTL Rangers founders Jennifer and Bruce Caughill are very familiar.

In 2009, the couple began the program in NOTL after their daughter, Katie, had played in Niagara Falls for the Red Raiders the previous year. That Red Raiders novice team had seven NOTL girls playing on it. The Caughills felt it made sense to branch out and form their own club. “Success came quickly for the U11 girls. Coached by Jennifer and Bruce, the team won OBA gold in Division 4 their first season. The following year, the club added a U10 Novice Girls team, on which the Caughill’s younger daughter Maddie played. A novice boys team followed the year after.

In 2011, that original girls team, then playing at the U13 level, won the OBA silver medal in the highest division, followed by a bronze finish in 2012. Maddie’s Rangers squad, however, saw even more impressive success. Playing at the U12 age level in 2014, they won Division 2 OBA gold, making them the ninth best team in the province. Two years later, their U14 team won Division 1 OBA gold, crowned the top team out of 105 programs across Ontario.

“ ’That team is a great story. They were second last in the province of Ontario their first year’ says Bruce. “A couple of programs, the Red Raiders and a Pelham team, collapsed, and we were able to pick up some of those players. It helped that we had two female former OBA success to NOTL. Pylypiw credit the support of the NOTL community for keeping the Rangers alive. "When we first started, they were only about 20 kids coming out. Each year they grew and grew, and it’s great for the area, and for the sport,” says Shawn. In addition to a few local mini-tournaments against teams from neighbouring Niagara municipalities. Over the 35 to 40 games the U15 girls will play, the focus will be on competing at the Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) tournament in Durham next May. The OBA Tournament is a competition with which NOTL Rangers founders Jennifer and Bruce Caughill are very familiar.

In 2009, the couple began the program in NOTL after their daughter, Katie, had played in Niagara Falls for the Red Raiders the previous year. That Red Raiders novice team had seven NOTL girls playing on it. The Caughills felt it made sense to branch out and form their own club. “Success came quickly for the U11 girls. Coached by Jennifer and Bruce, the team won OBA gold in Division 4 their first season. The following year, the club added a U10 Novice Girls team, on which the Caughill’s younger daughter Maddie played. A novice boys team followed the year after.

In 2011, that original girls team, then playing at the U13 level, won the OBA silver medal in the highest division, followed by a bronze finish in 2012. Maddie’s Rangers squad, however, saw even more impressive success. Playing at the U12 age level in 2014, they won Division 2 OBA gold, making them the ninth best team in the province. Two years later, their U14 team won Division 1 OBA gold, crowned the top team out of 105 programs across Ontario.

“ ’That team is a great story. They were second last in the province of Ontario their first year’ says Bruce. “A couple of programs, the Red Raiders and a Pelham team, collapsed, and we were able to pick up some of those players. It helped that we had two female former
Performance Luxury

Niagara’s Premier Choice for Luxury Automobiles

TOUGH DECISIONS ARE RARELY THIS EXHLARATING.
THE GENESIS G70 3.3T AWD 
SPORT AND PRESTIGE

Test Drive / Purchase / Maintenance
WE COME TO YOU
1-844-571-8180
genesisniagara.ca

** The dealer names, logos, product names, feature names, images and descriptions are trademarked or owned by Genesis Motorics Canada, a division of Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. ** The base price of $50,499 available on a new 2020 Genesis G70 3.3T Sport model. Base price excludes taxes, license and all applicable charges including $1,900 O.C.C. See retailer for complete details. May not be combined with any other offers. Please contact your local Genesis dealer for complete details. www.GenesisCanada.ca

2019 North American Car of the Year*