



**Candlelight
Stroll a go
this year**
page 4

notllocal.com NOVEMBER 10, 2021 Volume 3 • Issue 45



Firekeeper Fred Bowering keeps the sacred fire going, in honour of fallen Indigenous veterans. (Mike Balsom)

Indigenous veterans recognized for contributions over centuries

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The boom of a single cannon blast echoed through the Queenston Heights sky Saturday afternoon, paying tribute to the many Indigenous veterans who fought for the country over more than 200 years.

Dignitaries, family members and representatives from the Indigenous community gathered at the Landscape of Nations Memorial, the site of the Battle of Queenston Heights, where Six Nations and Native Allies fought alongside their British and Canadian compatriots

during the War of 1812.

Before the watchful eyes of the statues of John Norton and John Brant, Tim Johnson, director of the Landscape of Nations 360° Indigenous Education Initiative, pointed out the consecrated nature of the ground on which he was standing.

"It is the site of the Battle of Queenston Heights," he confirmed. "There's a dialogue here now, between the Brock Monument and the Landscape of Nations Memorial. We are now able to tell the full story of this history, an important formative era that had significant Indigenous contributions."

That battle, on Oct. 13, 1812, marked a major turning point in the emergence of a young country whose borders and character were being tested by the Americans. Six Nations and Native Allies helped the British in victorious efforts in pivotal events at Queenston Heights and throughout the War of 1812.

Following the war, a historic entreaty of peace and reconciliation was made at Niagara on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 1815, between the Haudenosaunee of the Grand River and those of New York who had allied with the Americans.

This year marks the third

Niagara Parks Valour and Victory Ceremony to honour Indigenous veterans at the memorial site. As Johnson pointed out, Indigenous contributions to Canada's war efforts did not start or end with the War of 1812, but for many years those contributions were not recognized.

"Strong alliances had been established over generations, even before the War of 1812, between the Crown and various Indigenous nations," Johnson told The Local. "Indigenous nations took these alliances very seriously."

Continued on page 3

Tribute from one veteran to another

Penny Coles
The Local

Gary Hatton, a retired veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces living in Niagara-on-the-Lake, visits a particular gravestone in St. Mark's Church cemetery at this time every year.

He was pleased to discover the presence of the grave of Major Benjamin H. Geary, a distinguished veteran of the First World War, in the cemetery, and feels "to have this officer at rest in NOTL is an especial honour to the town and its residents, and in particular, its veterans."

Geary, Hatton explains, was a second lieutenant in the First World War, and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy.

Every year, on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., while the Remembrance Day service is underway at the Queen Street Cenotaph, Hatton says, "I

humbly visit his grave to place my poppy on his headstone, as a mark of respect for his service to his Sovereign, Great Britain and Canada.

Geary, he suggests, deserves a tribute as "our own real war hero."

Donald Combe, sexton of St. Mark's cemetery, wrote of Major Geary for The Local in 2019.

"Geary was awarded the Victoria Cross for his most conspicuous bravery and determination on 'Hill 60,' near Ypres, on April 20 and 21, 1915, when he held the left crater with his platoon," said Combe. "The crater was vulnerable to very heavy artillery fire. Each attack was repulsed, mainly owing to the splendid personal gallantry and example of Second Lieutenant Geary, who exposed himself with entire disregard to danger in order to see by the light of flares where the enemy were coming on. He

Continued on page 3

Tweed Farms closes

Penny Coles
The Local

Lord Mayor Betty Disero learned Friday evening that the Tweed Farms medical marijuana operation in Niagara-on-the-Lake was closing to cut costs.

Sean Webster of parent company Canopy Growth called to tell her of the closure, and said 30 staff members were being laid off. The rest will be given jobs in the Smiths Falls or

Kincardine operations, he said.

One of the first to open in Canada, the medicinal marijuana facility on Concession 5, at one million square feet, was once considered the largest in the world.

The greenhouses will be put up for sale, Disero was told.

The closure has been attributed to Canopy shares at what was described as a multi-year low.



**Peninsula
Flooring Ltd.**

13 Henegan Road
Virgil Business Park

(905)-468-2135
www.peninsulaflooring.ca



NPCA offering grants to improve watersheds

Financial assistance is available to private property owners

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority has two cost-sharing programs that could help Niagara-on-the-Lake residents who might be considering environmental projects on their property.

One is for those who have abandoned water wells on their property they would like to plug and seal.

The other is for residents who would like to improve water quality, forest cover and wildlife habitat on their property, a subject that has come up in discussions and articles in *The Local* recently for those whose homes border Four Mile Creek.

The deadline for applying for grants is Nov. 15, to be considered for projects in 2022, with grants

of up to \$15,000 available. There is some cost-sharing expected, explains Geoff Verkade, senior manager of integrated watershed planning and information management at the NPCA.

The Restoration Grant Program is one of several ways the NPCA works to improve the health of the Niagara Peninsula watershed's natural features — research has shown it is highly degraded, says Verkade.

There is a variety of project options, which can range from the creation of wetlands and tree plantings to riparian and upland habitat restoration, with grants available to private and public landowners, non-governmental organizations, nature clubs, and 'Friends of' groups.

Once the grant money is allocated, there are often

waiting lists which will be considered first for the following year, and it's helpful to reach out to the NPCA, if only for help working through the application, says Verkade. He and other NPCA staff are available to provide guidance for those who want to improve their properties, but aren't sure the best way to go about it, and could work on that for applications to be submitted next year.

Verkade, who has worked for the NPCA in restoration for the last 20 years, says grants have been available for a long time, but there was a 10-year period where restoration work was "shut down or put on pause." Since 2019, however, it's been back on track, dedicated to preserving and restoring watersheds, and with a greater demand

for grants.

"That's good, that people are noticing," he says. "They're finding out about it mostly through word of mouth. That's been effective — neighbours talking to neighbours, especially given the huge rural component."

In 2020, the program included the planting of 40,900 trees and 2,500 shrubs, reforestation of 18.3 hectares of land, and restoration of 4.74 hectares of wetland, 1.3 hectares of riparian habitat, and 2.9 kilometres of grass waterways, reports the NPCA.

"We continue to build on this momentum and the shared interest in a healthy and resilient watershed," he says.

Although there is a cost-sharing element, "we try to ensure the lowest costs to residents," he says, and can sometimes access other grants to that end, or for projects on the NPCA waiting list.

Grants are available to property owners right

across the NPCA's jurisdiction, which includes the Hamilton/Haldimand area as well as Niagara Region, but the grant program, while helpful, "is not the be-all and end-all. There are other services we can offer," he explains.

That includes a broad base of restoration services, some fees-for-service.

Protection for watersheds "tends to be a hot topic when it comes to existing resources," he says, "but people often forget about restoration from an impact perspective. Protection is good, and we can't lose that, but we should be really serious about restoration action in NOTL — the need is great. There is lots of good stuff that can be done, and we really need to be aware of the difference property owners can make."

Projects are considered partly from the view of the opportunity for impact, he added.

The NPCA's Water Well

Decommissioning Grant Program is designed to protect groundwater by plugging and sealing abandoned or unused water wells. They can be a physical danger to kids and pets, and also allow contaminants applied to the surface to easily reach the water table. In addition to the safety element, decommissioning can plug the pollution pathway and protect the quality of groundwater.

Applications for well decommissioning projects are accepted year-round, on a first come, first serve basis. This program provides an 80 per cent grant rate to a maximum amount of \$1,000 per well and a maximum of two wells per property.

For more information about both grant programs to help protect and restore local water quality and diverse habitats, visit <https://npca.ca/newsroom/article/restoration-water-well-decommissioning-programs-improve-water-quality>



Owners of properties bordering watersheds, including creeks and reservoirs such as the Virgil ponds, may apply for financial assistance to make changes that will improve water quality. (Owen Bjorgan)



MAC INC.



CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE HOME EVALUATION
905.262.8080

Jessie MacDonald
Broker

Evan MacDonald
Sales Representative

REVEL
ON-THE-LAKE
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Andrew Perrie
Team Leader
Sales Representative



REVEL
REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

FINEESTATES
— TEAM —

Landscape of Nations perfect place for annual tribute

Continued from page 1

That cooperation continued throughout the years, but after that war it was deemed that Native peoples were no longer needed or necessary, so the policies began to shift.”

Johnson says the notion of wardship replaced the alliances, as the country's government took control over the lives of Indigenous peoples. Residential schools and treaty violations were results of that wardship. He called the yearly memorial service a launching pad not only for remembering how much Native people contributed 209 years ago, but also for understanding what happened after that period.

Johnson was followed by a man recognizable to many local residents. Ron Dale was Parks Canada's project manager for the War of 1812 Bicentennial. Speaking without notes, the now-retired Dale outlined the contributions of Six Nations members to both World Wars, as well as the Boer War, Korean War and the mission in Afghanistan.

Sgt. Ray Starks, a member of the M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, was the guest speaker. Starks joined the armed forces in 1993 as a reservist with the Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment near Chatham. His current role is in diversity recruiting for the forces.

“My father was a paratrooper with the Princess Patricia's, so I heard his stories,” he said. “I also fortunately had an excellent history teacher who knew I was First Nations and took it upon himself to add that to our lessons about wars.”

As the only Indigenous student in his class, Starks valued his teacher for the lessons he and his classmates learned about the sacrifices made by Canada's Native population.

“For so long these sacrifices were never honoured,” Starks continued, pointing out that the focus for many years was on conflicts from the 20th century. “They usually don't go far back enough to when the country was fighting for its very existence. If it wasn't for the British and

Indigenous forces that were here, we wouldn't be waving the Canadian flag now.”

Of more recent Indigenous veterans, Starks said, “the sacrifices they made are the same sacrifices that were made here on this battlefield. To be able to talk to those veterans and carry on their stories, to pass them on to our children, is huge.”

Michele-Elise Burnett, a Métis with Algonquin roots, presented medals to three Indigenous veterans. Karl Dockstader of the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Jennifer Dockstader of the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre accepted on behalf of their family member, Tom Dockstader, an Oneida Nation veteran who served in Vietnam. Also receiving medals were two Tuscarora Nation members: Vietnam veteran Bruce Patterson, and Darrell Doxtador, a former army medic.

As Fred Bowering kept the sacred fire alive just metres away, participants in the program, along with Niagara Falls MP Tony Baldinelli, St. Catharines MPP

Jennie Stevens and Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Betty Disero, laid memorial wreaths at the battle site's Memory Circle.

Johnson told the gathered crowd that all Canadians are morally obligated to acknowledge the legacy of those who preceded them. And that the Landscape of Nations Memorial is the perfect place to do that every year.

“When you encounter this exhibition,” Johnson said, “from the entrance experience, following the Wampum Trail, gently sloping up and curving to the Memory Circle and then back down, it has a feeling to it. There's an aesthetic that's been created for it. When people come up here they say they feel something. It's an experience.”



St. Catharines MPP Jennie Stevens, Bruce Patterson, and Indigenous Sgt. Ray Starks lay a wreath. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Tim Johnson, April Jeffs (Niagara Parks Commission), Raymond Skye, artist and Tom Ridout, designer, Landscape of Nation Memorial lay a wreath to recognize Indigenous veterans.



Firekeeper Fred Bowering snaps some photos while Jennifer Dockstader of the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Ron Dale, retired from Parks Canada, lay wreaths.

Retired to NOTL, veteran died in 1976

Continued from page 1

was severely wounded, losing the sight of one eye, and the other was seriously impaired.”

Geary, who was born in 1891, retired from the army in 1919 with the rank of Captain, and took Holy Orders in the Church of England, having studied at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. After other church posts, he served as Chaplain to the Forces from 1926 to 27, when he emigrated to Canada.

During the Second World War, he served with the Canadian Army as Major, and after the war was Sergeant at Arms in the Ontario Legislature for 24 years. He retired to NOTL in 1972, where he became an active member of St. Mark's. He died May 26, 1976.



Veteran Gary Hatton lays his poppy on the gravestone of Major Benjamin H. Geary. (Photo supplied)

ENJOY NIAGARA, YOUR WAY

Support and celebrate local businesses and use the hashtag #NiagaraMyWay to share your favourite Niagara experiences.

#niagamylway
SHOP LOCAL



Powered by:

GNCC
GREATER NIAGARA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
gncc.ca

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
chambernotl.com

Candlelight Stroll, with some changes, is happening this year

Penny Coles
The Local

The 2021 Candlelight Stroll, a favourite holiday tradition in Niagara-on-Lake for more than 30 years, is a go.

It will be an in-person event, Dec. 3 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., with mostly the same format as pre-COVID years, but with one small change and many more volunteers on hand to help ensure pandemic protocols are followed, says Eduardo Lafforgue, president and CEO of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, the organizer of the popular event.

It will begin with singing from the Court House steps, where volunteers, including the Shaw Guild ambassadors, will be stationed, as well as along the route of the stroll. Their task will be to keep groups of strollers in their family bubbles, and others spaced two metres apart. Everyone in attendance is expected to wear a mask, says Lafforgue, adding all public health protocols will be followed.

This year, says Lafforgue, “we’re absolutely thrilled that we can go

ahead with our traditional Candlelight Stroll, walking through the streets of the Old Town with music, as in past years.”

In addition, the volunteers who typically sell candles and help out with the Newark Neighbours collection of food will be on-hand.

The main difference, says Lafforgue, will be a shortened introduction and speeches from the Court House, helping to reduce a large gathering and keep people physically distanced before the stroll gets underway. Once the candles are lit, the crowd will disperse as they move along the route.

Details have been worked out with support from town staff and the regional public health department.

According to tradition, based on the goal of the original stroll, a portion of the funds raised through candle sales is expected to be donated to someone in need.

Some of the proceeds, as has become a more recent tradition, will go to the Temporary Seasonal Agri-

cultural Workers Welcome Package, which provides safety vests and other basics

for temporary agricultural workers.

Last year, the stroll in-

cluded a limited ceremony pre-recorded from the Court House steps, broad-

cast on Cogeco, with residents urged to buy candles and stay at home.

Newark Neighbours ready for Christmas



Newark Neighbours volunteers have been working on a fun project for the John Street Thrift Store. With an overflow of donated Christmas decorations, giftware, dishes, glasses, and other holiday items, a team of five volunteers wrapped up decorated gift packages to sell to customers at very reasonable prices. Pat Hicks, Marilyn Rickard, Mary Ann Novaco and Wendy Lowe, with Shelley Kirkbride (missing from the photo), put the gift baskets together. Thrift Store hours are Monday to Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Photo supplied)





Martin
Sheppard
Fraser LLP

**ASHLEY M.
LIPINSKI**

Family Law

email: lipinski@msflawyers.com
phone: 905.354.1611 x 266

*Get in touch for a
Free Home Evaluation*



RICHARD MELL
Broker
289-219-0304
rmell@sothebysrealty.ca


Together we
achieve more

We provide our clients with an exceptional, personalized service like no other. Everyone deserves the extraordinary, because luxury is not about price point, it's about an experience.




DONNA D'AMICO
Sales Representative
905-380-9390
ddamico@sothebysrealty.ca

Sotheby's | Canada
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Sotheby's International Realty Canada, Brokerage. Independently Owned and Operated.



Petar's

Diamonds are our specialty



Petar's Jewellery
268 Geneva St., St. Catharines
(opposite Fairview Mall) | 905-937-7340

Heritage designation challenge for Marotta properties dropped

Penny Coles
The Local

After four years of fighting Benny Marotta's proposals for four significant heritage properties in the Old Town, SORE, the community group activating for heritage preservation of all four properties, is notching some wins.

Last week, Marotta informed the Conservation Review Board it is withdrawing the challenge to the town's notices of intent to designate 200 John and 588 Charlotte Streets under the Ontario Heritage Act, a challenge SORE was also fighting.

At each step of the legal battles between Marotta companies and the town, SORE has been part of the fight, including the challenges over heritage designation.

The notices to designate four properties, including two now deemed the site of a future subdivision, proposed to have 191 units, and two on the Randwood property, planned to be a conference centre and hotel, were filed by the town in August, 2018, and followed by a challenge initiated by Marotta's Solmar and Two Sisters Resorts.

The companies then initiated a Superior Court challenge to the legality of the town's intention to designate the properties, which was rejected on all

grounds. Marotta companies at that time withdrew their Conservation Review Board challenges for 144 and 176 John St. E., the site of a proposal for a hotel and conference centre.

The Conservation Review Board was expected to deal with the remaining challenge early next month.

The recent withdrawal is "presumably in no small part because the town has an outstanding prosecution against the Marotta companies for their outrageous clear-cutting of large parts of 200 John and 588 Charlotte in November of 2018," says an update from SORE (Save our Randwood Estate).

"We have lost count of how many legal battles Mr. Marotta and his companies have initiated and then lost or abandoned concerning the Rand Estate. This is just the latest," it continues.

"SORE, and we assume the town, will be considering seeking costs from the Marotta companies for dragging them through years of a now-abandoned CRB challenge."

SORE expects the town will now "vigorously pursue the Heritage Act prosecution against the Marotta companies for the 2018 clear cutting. A potential remedy for the town, in the event the prosecution is successful, is to reinstate the illegally destroyed heritage landscape and mature trees."

Lord Mayor Betty Disero says she doesn't know why Marotta dropped the challenges to the Conservation Review Board, and wouldn't want to assume anything about his motives for withdrawing. As to any other legal actions, "council will meet in closed session with staff and their legal team to see what is outstanding, what is left to deal with, and where we go from here."

SORE, the community group formed in opposition to the Marotta companies' 2018 proposal to turn the two John Street properties into a hotel and conference centre, continues to advocate for protection of the historical and cultural heritage of the buildings and structures, and the nationally important Dunington-Grubb landscape, which is accepted as a significant heritage feature of the estate. Members have hired lawyers, heritage experts and specialists to provide peer review reports, to assist them in their efforts regarding both the Randwood Estate project and the more recent proposal for a subdivision on the remaining John Street and Charlotte Street properties, the back end of the estate.

The subdivision concerns include high density, stormwater and drainage issues, a grading proposal and the project's impact on the natural environment.

On the plus side for SORE



The property owner's challenge to prevent heritage designation of a John Street and Charlotte Street East properties, the site of a proposed subdivision, has been dropped. A challenge to designate Randwood was dropped by the same property owner, and it is now designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, affording it and the historic landscape some protection. (File photo)

members is the recognition they are on the right track, having recently won the prestigious Margaret and Nicholas Hill Award from the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, "for their dedicated work to protect and champion the significant landscapes and historical elements of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Rand Estate."

In the announcement of the award, SORE is credited with being "a pivotal force in the protection of this historic estate, spurring significant community action. They have

worked to champion the importance of these properties not as individual addresses, but through their combined history as the Rand Estate. Already successful in advocating for the designation of both 144 and 176 John Street in 2020, SORE continues to advocate for the designation of the adjacent properties at 200 John Street East and 588 Charlotte Street, and to support the sensitive development of these lands, so that the historic elements are meaningfully conserved while allowing the site to sup-

port the needs of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community."

SORE members say they are grateful for the recognition both of almost four years of hard work, and of the provincial and national significance of the iconic Rand Estate.

Nicholas Hill, for whom the landscape award is named, created a Heritage Conservation Plan for the Queen and Picton Street area locally. "We are honoured to be associated with such an outstanding heritage expert," SORE says on its website.

SANTA IS COMING!

Saturday, December 4th, 10am-12pm
1596 Four Mile Creek, NOTL

.....



Please join us for complementary photos with Santa! A toy or non perishable food item donation are appreciated. Toys will be donated to McMasters Childrens Hospital & non-perishable food items will be donated to Nobody Goes Hungry Niagara.

Seasonal snacks & drinks provided.

REVEL

ON-THE-LAKE

REAL ESTATE GROUP



REVEL

REALTY INC. BROKERAGE

EDITORIAL

Too soon for campaigning — or is it?

Did many of you answer a telephone survey a couple of weeks ago about who you will vote for in the next municipal election?

It's still almost a year away, but someone out there wants to take the local political pulse, for some reason, possibly positioning certain candidates? It would be easier to understand the purpose if we knew who paid for the survey, so if any of our readers happen to know and would like to share, we're all ears. Several political players have been mentioned, but it's all just guesswork at this point.

This is what we have learned. Of the four candidates mentioned for Lord Mayor, only one is saying she

will definitely be on the ballot. That's Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and it's no surprise at all that she plans to run again.

Janice Thomson's name was also floated. She heard about the survey from her father, who gave her heck that he had to learn her plans from a telephone survey. Where her name came from she has no idea. She is definitely and emphatically not saying whether she will run or not — she is saying she loves her job, and loves her busy life. And that's all she's saying.

Andrea Kaiser was also mentioned in the survey. She found out about it from a friend, and says she can't imagine why she would have

been included. After two tries at winning a provincial seat, she said she is committed to growing Drea's Wines, her fledgling wine company, and she says now she hadn't given a thought to another stab at municipal politics. She did, however, close with "never say never."

Former councillor Terry Flynn was the fourth mayoral candidate mentioned, which wasn't a surprise at all. He's been saying for years, decades even, he will run for Lord Mayor one day. He's recently retired as a volunteer firefighter, and he will retire from his job with the EMS in the spring, so the timing seems right. But it may not be.

The dark horse had a

surprising answer to the question of his future political aspirations. He's seeking the provincial Liberal nomination for the election that is anticipated to be held next June, unless Doug Ford jumps the gun. If Flynn wins the nomination — he has

competition from a Niagara Falls woman — and a seat at Queen's Park, we won't see his name on the municipal ballot. If he is available, though, he says he will run for Lord Mayor.

All four say they have no idea who is behind the

poll, or why those particular names were chosen. We'd love to know the answers to those questions, and even more, we'd love to know the results.

Penny Coles
The Local

Return to traditional Candlelight Stroll good for the spirit

It was great news to hear the Candlelight Stroll will return this year, with safely precautions in place.

There was a brief mention of it amongst councillors during their virtual meeting Monday, and for just a moment it seemed like it could go sideways, with the town putting the kibosh on it.

However, instead it was a discussion of the process which led up to the town

deciding the intended safety measures are in place, and issuing a special event permit for it to go ahead.

For those who have wondered why a Candlelight Stroll, but no Christmas Parade, CAO Marnie Cluckie had the answer. The time to begin booking bands and other entries was last June, and there was no way to know then what the restrictions would be in December.

The decision to go ahead with the stroll was made over the last few weeks, knowing that it can be held safely, following current restrictions.

So thanks to all who are going to make this happen, It's a great family event, and will put some of the spirit back in Christmas.

Penny Coles
The Local

Remembrance Day services

For those who plan to be at the Queen Street Cenotaph Thursday morning for the Remembrance Day service, the timeline will be a little different, to reduce crowding.

The Canadian flag will be lowered to half mast at 10:15 a.m., when family and institution wreaths will be placed on the cenotaph, two at a time, by Royal Canadian Legion members.

The flag will then be raised for formal ceremony, and at 10:50 a.m. Legion members will gather in front of the LCBO and file onto the road led

by a colour party consisting of the Canadian flag and the Legion Branch banner, at the direction of the parade marshal.

The rest of the traditional service will follow, with official wreaths being placed at the Cenotaph before the Act of Remembrance, the benediction, and God Save the Queen.

Those attending the service are asked to wear masks, and only to attend if fully vaccinated.

The Queenston Cenotaph service will begin at 1 p.m.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The Only Living Boy in New York (Prime, 2017) was an elegant and sophisticated melodrama where everything was too much: too much loud music, too much

intrigue, too much drama on too large a scale, etc. Pierce Brosnan and Jeff Bridges were passionate about the young man whom they both claimed as son, and as unbelievable as it all was it worked for me, and I want to see it again.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

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

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

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

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

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal instagram.com/thenotllocal @thenotllocal

Local VOICES: Museum poppies bring back war-time memories

Andrew Henwood
Special to The Local

My wife and I took a short walk today to the memorial that has been so lovingly, carefully, thoughtfully created in the forecourt of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum here in the Old Town. We spoke of those of our families who had paid that ultimate price and lost their lives in the Wars: one of my uncles, killed on July 1, 1916, was among the almost 60,000 British troops killed or wounded on that very first day of the Battle of the Somme. One of my wife's uncles was shot down in Burma while attacking a train during the Second World War.

There are others to remember, less thought of perhaps because they are not so easily brought to mind. I remember most those of my own colleagues who died just the same as those in the two Great Wars, except not in wartime. They

were killed during the 1960s, an era known as The Cold War, when we were facing down the Russians along the border between what was then West Germany and East Germany.

My friends and I were flying the CF-104 Starfighter. That airplane measured 67 feet long, and had a wingspan of just 22 feet. It has been called the flying brick. It was also called the Widowmaker. It was the Germans who first called it that. Their model of the 'One-O-Four' didn't have as good an ejection seat as the Canadair version. We had a rocket seat that would punch you up 400 feet, thus allowing your parachute to deploy even if you had ejected from ground level, provided you had a forward speed of at least 80 knots.

You could think of us as the manned precursors of the cruise missile. Our job was to fly as low as possible, as fast as possible, and be ready if the

balloon went up to deliver one nuclear weapon onto a target in the Russian zone. The target on my map was an airfield in Czechoslovakia.

It is easy to understand that flying over the treetops at 550 miles an hour is an inherently dangerous business. Now add in the low visibility caused by more pollution of the atmosphere in Europe, and unexpected obstacles such as pylons with high voltage power lines strung across the country. When it snowed it was worse. When it was night it was worse. Under those conditions we were of course required to fly somewhat higher.

Even so, though it was peacetime a good number of our cohort was lost. The Canadian government bought 200 Starfighters. During the 25 years that the CF-104 was in service, 110 of those aircraft were lost to accidents. They crashed. Thirty-eight of the pilots were killed.

As my wife and I came up to the museum we saw that others had gathered. You seldom pass that spot now without there being someone looking quietly at the poppies. I was asked if I was a veteran, and thanked for my service.

I take care to remember the six of my colleagues who lost their lives.

In peacetime. As the RCAF motto says, Ardua ad Astra, or Through Adversity to the Stars.

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

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

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS
(Toll Free)
1-866-550-5205

GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS
905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE
Service for youth
416-586-5437
1-800-668-6868
(Crisis Line)
kidshelpphone.ca

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

ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE
Mobile calls to:
#SAFE (#7233)
1-866-863-0511
(Toll Free)

CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-222-8477
(TIPS)
niagaratips.com
Text 274637 (CRIMES),
keyword: Niagara,
then your tip

Local LETTERS

Local LETTERS

Where is heat, why is concession stand closed

My kids have been out of hockey for a number of years. But other kids are still in there, as COVID restrictions allow.

Now we have the Predators playing usually Friday nights, without I might add, a ton of support. This is good hockey, for goodness sake!

Our arena was wonderful a few years ago. Parents, grandparents, friends showed up, bought coffees, watched the games, yelled and screamed, booed the referees. The kids would line up buying all kinds of junk. No one cared! It was fun!

Now we are trying to support our Niagara-on-the-Lake Predators as well as the other Saturday night (older) players, and all of the younger minor hockey players, kids and grandkids.

The general manager Johan Eriksson of the Predators is adamant that the new Niagara-on-the-Lake Predators hockey squad will be a community team. (Well, I guess we will see.)

His words: "Having moved from Toronto, and scheduled to play in the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL), the Predators will be play-

ing half of their 42-game regular season at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil. The other 21 games will take place on the road, mostly visiting their Southern Division opponents in towns such as Kingsville, Tottenham, Colborne, Oshawa and Durham. Locally, Port Colborne also has a team in the GMHL, the Niagara Whalers." (I stole this from Mike Balsom's article in The Local.)

The concession stand is not open, and of course neither is the heat on.

Did the town decide supporting young families with kids in hockey is no longer worth the price? Is this strictly a retirement community? Should we maybe invite tourists to join in and then get all kinds of funding? You think this is tongue-in-cheek? It isn't, it annoys me that this town was family-oriented with lots going on for kids. Now it appears to be for tourism, heritage and retirement. How sad!

I'm aware of things in the Virgil Sports Park for children that the town has done, but cannot understand the rationale that the concession stand was too expensive. So what if

you weren't making money, you do with all these new humongous houses being taxed to the limit. Our taxes are going up because of the police and population. That was an interesting statement in the paper. I haven't seen a cop for ages and that is only when an accident occurs and they fly from St. Catharines or Niagara Falls.

Which has nothing to do with the arena.

So take some of our tax money and put it back into our arena. Where is our concession stand? It's a make-work project for young people. Where is the heat? Are you all old and kids gone? Get with the program for goodness sake and support our arena. I am really annoyed. It's not always about tourism, heritage and old retired people.

We know this town council is trying to save money by cutting things like the darn concession stand at the arena, but spend tons of our dollars getting experts to do their job for them. They don't appear to make a decision without calling in experts.

Sandie Gordon Schulz
(an old retired person)
NOTL

Drop by for a visit - you won't be disappointed

Curiosity got the best of me . . . I just had to know more about Niagara-on-the-Lake's history. So, four years ago, I went to the source and put my name in the hat to join the Niagara Historical Society's board of directors. In October, 2021, after serving for four years as the Treasurer, I was nominated and elected by the members as the new president.

Better known as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, this historical, not-for-profit organization holds its place of honour with pride in NOTL, and takes that role very seriously. We have been the custodian for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's collection

for several years, and, since 2019, have been the town historian for their archives. This means we conduct historical research on behalf of town staff as requested. We also store over 50,000 items (including documents) in our museum.

The organization is built on solid governance, a dedicated board of directors, involved volunteers, and a staff that is second to none. If you have not yet had the opportunity, I encourage you to drop by for a visit. You will not be disappointed.

This past week, the new executive of the board got together to talk about priorities over the next year. We were well taken care of and

had a delicious meal at The Gate House (shopping local is important.)

Over the next three years, my focus will be on leadership, volunteers, and our expansion. If you want to get involved (for a day, a week, a month, or a year), please reach out to Barbara Worthy, visitor and member services assistant at bworthy@nhsm.ca.

I look forward to meeting you at one of our many events (*I hope to see you at the History in the Vineyard event, on Dec. 9*).

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @notlmuseum

Mona Babin,
President, Niagara
Historical Society



Mona Babin (president, bottom left), George Webber (vice-president), Ted Rumble (treasurer), Sarah Kaufman (managing director and curator), and Alex Topps (secretary). (Photo supplied)

Thanks for pumpkin support

We at Watson's pumpkins hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and a fun Halloween.

Thank you to everyone who bought pump-

kins from our wagon on Concession 7. Because of your generosity we will be donating \$1,500 to McMaster Children's Hospital and \$1,500

to Ronald MacDonald House. Thanks for your support.

Brook, Reid, Steve
and Peg Watson

Letters! We want letters!

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

Yes, reader is also fed up about destroying habitat

I, too, most definitely did not miss the bit about the destruction of protected habitat at 524 York Road. So in response to Owen Bjorgan's question, "Is anyone else healthily fed up?" ... a resounding "yes" from me.

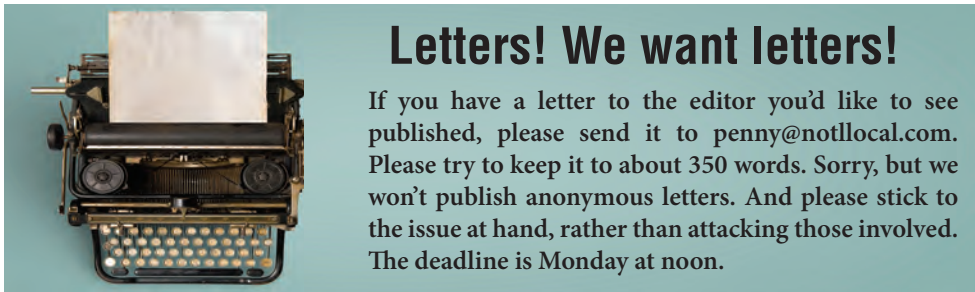
He very eloquently expressed my concerns

regarding this matter. Severely altering protected habitat should not be acceptable to anyone.

I, too, do not consider myself to be anti-development, but do, perhaps naively so, expect that all projects be regularly inspected, and most certainly when our precious

ecosystems are concerned/involved. My hope is that other councillors will follow Coun. Alan Bisback's lead in requesting responsible development accountability ... before it's too late.

Mary Andrews
NOTL



Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

Christmas GIFT GUIDE

Advertise your business in our special section!

***SPECIAL BONUS FOR MINIMUM 1/4 PAGE AD**
We will match your minimum quarter page ad size with equal space for your submitted story about your product or service.

Publication Dates: November 17 & 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22

Booking Deadlines: Fridays prior to each publication date at noon
First Deadline: Friday, November 12

NOTL businesses contact
Karen at 905-641-5335 or karen@notllocal.com

Businesses outside NOTL contact
Julia at 905-934-1040 or julia@notllocal.com

Ken Reid hopes to serve community in some capacity

Penny Coles
The Local

Ken Reid would love to continue his canine control duties for the town.

Although he can't provide all the services as outlined in the town's request for proposals from agencies interested in providing animal control for Niagara-on-the-Lake, he hopes to be able to contribute something.

He sees the town moving away from what he considers to be small-town community spirit, to operating like a large corporation, and he gets that, but he loves his job, and would like to think there is a way to continue doing it.

The town's canine control officer for 22 years discovered recently, when he went to the town to discuss renewing his contract, that he is soon to be out of a job. The town is looking for a proposal for a much larger packages of services.

That came out of the blue, he said. "I still want to work. I will do it month-to-month, or with a one-year contract. Obviously there is no way I can fulfill that proposal, but after 22 years of working for the town, I want to continue working, to serve the community. I feel I have to submit something."

He's been told he should consider submitting a proposal, but the scope of what

the town is looking for is more than one person can provide.

However, he says, he is considering submitting something, if only to outline the services he can provide, and hope that might be enough.

"It took me by surprise, that there was no discussion with me and that they would go about it the way they did," he said of town staff.

Reid says he expected a call to stop by the town hall and renew his contract, by Nov. 1, although it doesn't end until Dec. 31. This year, when he didn't hear anything, he went to the town hall and started asking questions.

A staff member said "they were going a different route, and I should check out the town's website." There he found the request for proposals he sees as directed at a humane society or some similar large, established organization to serve NOTL and Grimsby, and the possibility of other municipalities coming on board, to provide extensive 24-hour animal control services, with staff and facilities to impound animals.

In answer to questions from The Local, town staff responded by email.

Planning director Craig Larmour said through the RFP, "Niagara-on-the-Lake

is aiming to provide a more comprehensive level of service for the growing needs and expectations of the community."

The resulting contract will include all animal control-related functions, including domestic animals, livestock, and wild animals within the municipality, he says.

The town has a procurement policy to follow for any contracted services, as outlined by Larmour:

- Ensure the most cost-effective methods are used for the acquisition of goods and services for all operations;
- Ensure the prices paid for goods and services make optimum use of resources and will best serve the interests of the corporation and, through it, the residents of the town; and,
- Maximize openness, accountability, and transparency throughout the procurement process.

"The current procurement opportunity enables the town to ensure that the provision of this service is subject to a process that achieves these objectives," he says. "It also allows the town to partner with another local area municipality(ies) to provide shared services."

Larmour adds, "Mr. Reid has provided a valuable service to the town over the last

several years. The procurement is in no way a criticism of Mr. Reid's service, and it is hoped that Mr. Reid will consider submitting a proposal."

CAO Marnie Cluckie agreed, also by email, "that Mr. Reid has provided a valuable service to the town over the last several years. Town staff did inform Mr. Reid of the RFP process and I can confirm that the new procurement is in no way a criticism of Mr. Reid's service."

Cluckie also agreed that on Oct. 21, bylaw services staff spoke with Reid, confirmed his contract officially ends on Dec. 31, and also informed him that the town was pursuing a joint request for proposal (RFP) for animal control services with the town of Grimsby, encouraging him to apply, and offering to assist him with accessing RFP documents posted by the Town of Grimsby.

"The staff member tried to articulate that this was being done, not as a result of dissatisfaction but rather because the existing contract

was coming to an end, and the town needed to clearly articulate the scope of work currently required (which is modified from the canine control scope that he has been presently providing). Additionally, the town must follow the objectives of the town's procurement policy," said Cluckie.

Addressing the issue of Reid receiving this information after going to town hall to ask about his contract because he had not heard from town staff, and after the RFP was posted online, Cluckie added that "having recently spoken with Mr. Reid, I understand and completely appreciate his feeling that this notification could have come earlier. While the timing of information delivered to Mr. Reid does not hinder his ability to respond to the RFP, as the process has not yet closed, it is important to the town that service providers feel valued and are given adequate notification. Staff are currently reviewing the procurement policy and the importance

of formalizing notice for the expiration of contracts to ensure appropriate notification is addressed. Mr. Reid has provided a valuable service to the town. However, the scope of work of this contract hasn't changed in some time and needed to be revised to reflect current needs, which extend beyond canine control to include all domestic animals, livestock and wild animals. The RFP also calls for the provision of impoundment, quarantine and humane services. Those services weren't competitively procured during this contract term, which is a requirement of the procurement policy."

Cluckie continues: "NOTL is committed to being an equal opportunity employer. The town would not assume that anyone is eliminated from the bidding process. There are many options available to bidders, including combining resources when submitting a proposal in order to increase the potential of success in the procurement selection process."

Hirji warns lifting capacity limits may have been too soon

Penny Coles
The Local

The number of people in the region with COVID has increased to the level of the highest rate of infection during the fourth wave, Niagara's acting chief medical officer says.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji says he'll be watching the numbers closely, and suggests if cases don't come down, it might be necessary to jump in and reverse the provincial decision to lift capacity limits two weeks ago, especially for recreational and sports facilities. They also lifted for restaurants, event spaces, conference centres, and gyms.

The rise in cases we're seeing now, in Ontario and Niagara, is linked to people being infected about two to three weeks ago, he said, when capacity limits were lifted, and is no coincidence. "I think it's pretty clear it likely had some impact."

While he's pointing at sports and recreational facilities as a contributing factor, he says it's impossible

to know whether infection is being spread while people are actively participating in sports, sitting together on a bench, or in crowded change rooms, which could be a breeding ground for the virus.

While not going so far as calling for capacity limits to be imposed now, he said, "we need to start thinking seriously about bringing those back, unless we see cases start to flatten out in the next few days."

On Tuesday, the regional website was showing 12 active cases in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which is significantly more than the one or two it usually shows.

Hirji said he isn't seeing much of a pattern with the NOTL cases — they are not "generally associated" with any outbreak, and only a small number are in school-aged children.

Some of the spread has been within households where there is lots of interaction, "and we typically see infection spread from one person to many more."

With children under the age of 12 making up a large percentage of new cases in Niagara, they will become a priority for vaccinations as soon as they're approved by Health Canada for the 5 to 11 age group, said Hirji, because they are the ones most at risk.

Booster shots as a third dose are being made available for certain groups, but there will be 32,500 kids eligible for first and second doses, and there are still about 45,000 eligible residents in other age groups who are not yet vaccinated.

Schools are too small, with any extra space being used to facilitate physical distancing for students, Hirji said, and nowhere for a large number of vaccinations to take place. The large community centres used until recently are no longer available, and there is also a shortage of health care workers to administer doses — those who came out of retirement to help have gone back to retirement, while others are just burned out.

He warned that vaccinations won't proceed as quickly as they have in the past, and making appointments would be best, as there will be few spots available for walk-ins.

When children are approved for vaccination, he added, "we're going to basically be reserving almost all of our appointments for that age group to make sure they get that opportunity."

Hydro office open with full staff

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Hydro Henegan Road office opened Monday, after closing for a week due to a COVID-19 outbreak that involved two employees.

"All remaining employees of NOTL Hydro have tested negative a second time," said president Tim Curtis Monday, "and the office is now once again fully staffed and open to customers."

One employee and his two children had first tested positive, and were experiencing symptoms. The second employee, likely infected by the first, didn't have any symptoms but tested positive last Monday, Nov. 1, a few days after the first man was off sick. "Everyone is well on the mend, and the two infected employees have been cleared by Public Health to return to work this week," said Curtis.

Both men were fully vaccinated, as are all Hydro em-

ployees. In addition to the vaccination policy, employees have been using the rapid antigen tests three times a week. The tests are supplied free by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce to small and medium-sized businesses, to help employers and employees protect each other at the workplace and those they may come in contact with NOTL Hydro, which is owned by the Town of NOTL, continues to use the tests to prevent infection spread.



GARY SNIDER
BROKER
T: 905.988.2205
E: gsnider@bosleyrealestate.com
A Rotarian and proud sponsor
of Crime Stoppers Niagara.

"Times" are a-changing" ...now that you have changed your clocks, please don't forget to change your batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Keep yourselves and family safe!

"I look forward to sharing my 30+ years of real estate knowledge with you the next time you are ready to make a real estate move. Call me for a complimentary home evaluation, or stop by for a coffee...and I'm buying."

BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE

Bosley Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage respects the contract of its competitors.



ANDREWS LAW
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION
Barristers & Solicitors

905.468.0081
info@rjwandrews.ca

REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS



Niagara
on-the-Lake
Realty
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

The Highest Total Volume of Local Sales for the Past Decade.

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



NEW LISTING

411 VICTORIA STREET
\$2,995,000

MLS 40181924 • Christopher Bowron
and Nicole Vanderperk



NEW LISTING

33 LOUISA STREET
\$550,000

MLS 40171323 • Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia



NEW LISTING

223 JOHN STREET
\$1,295,000

MLS 40184547 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



SOLD

284 DORCHESTER STREET
\$3,349,000

MLS 40180491 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



SOLD

8 LUCIA COURT
\$1,395,000

MLS 40179997 • Victoria Bolduc and Sarah Gleddie



SOLD

LOT 17 MAPLEVIEW CRESCENT
\$199,900

MLS 4017859 • Randall Armstrong



SOLD

330 JOHN STREET WEST
\$1,229,000

MLS 40169059 • Jane Elltoft



SOLD

4644 PETTIE AVENUE #209
\$719,900

MLS 40153299 • Randall Armstrong



SOLD

298 FOUR MILE CREEK
\$1,450,000

MLS 40165174 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



NEW PRICE

23 FOUR MILE CREEK RD UNIT #430
\$285,000

MLS 40157207 • Cheryl Carmichael and
Randy Armstrong



NEW PRICE

1361 LINE 1 RD
\$1,685,000

MLS 40185403. Nicole Vanderperk and
Christopher Bowron



8 ABERDEEN LANE S
\$997,000

MLS 40170996 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



55 PRIDEAUX STREET
\$2,348,000

MLS 40161034 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



14554 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY
\$2,195,000

MLS 40129783 • Christopher Bowron
and Nicole Vanderperk



94 PRIDEAUX STREET
\$2,695,000

MLS 40166412 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



1433 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
\$769,000

MLS 40163664 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



5395 HURON STREET
\$650,000

MLS 40164551 • Jane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft



670 KING STREET
\$1,950,000

MLS 40160766 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



94 TANBARK ROAD
\$2,399,000

MLS 40161253 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller



20 CIRCLE STREET
\$850,000

MLS 40159131 • Cheryl Carmichael



513 GATE STREET LOT
\$1,100,000

MLS 40140611 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



240 NASSAU STREET LOT
\$2,395,000

MLS 40150638 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



177 KING STREET
\$3,898,000

MLS 40142872 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft



615 SIMCOE STREET
\$1,295,000

MLS 40157714 • Viviane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

Christopher Bowron*** 905-468-2269
Kim Elltoft** 905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong** 905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc* 905-941-3726
Philip Bowron* 905-348-7626
Bonnie Grimm* 905-468-1256

Nicole Vanderperk* 905-941-4585
Viviane Elltoft* 905-468-2142
Thomas Elltoft* 905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft* 905-988-8776
Cheryl Carmichael* 905-941-0276
Sarah Gleddie* 905-685-2458

Christine Bruce* 905-328-9703
Linda Williams* 905-401-4240
Caroline Polgrabia* 905-933-4983
Patricia Atherton* 905-933-4983
Weston Miller* 289-213-8681
Giovanni Rodriguez Martinez*... 905-328-2145

***Broker of Record ** Broker *Sales Representative

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Football legend 'Big Ang' supported players post-football

**Mike Balsom
Special to The Local**

Hamilton Tiger-Cats legend Angelo Mosca has died at 84 years of age, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's. The Canadian Football League Hall of Fame member's family released a statement announcing his passing early Saturday morning.

Tributes quickly poured in from across the country. In an official statement from the CFL, Big Ang, as he was often called, was described as "savvy, smart and ahead of his time," and a "shining example of what can happen when an incredible person and our amazing game come together."

There are very few CFL players, if any, who loom larger in the league's history. The tough-as-nails defensive tackle, middle guard and defensive end who also put in time on the offensive line, played in nine Grey Cup games, winning four with the Ti-Cats and one with the Ottawa Rough Riders.

Mosca was inducted into the Hamilton Sports Hall of Fame in 2012, and his number 68 is one of only two retired in the 152-year history of the Tiger-Cats. A statement from the team called him "one of the most legendary players in CFL history, and certainly the most legendary to ever wear a Tiger-Cat uniform."

Known during his playing time and later during a 10-year wrestling career as one of the meanest and nastiest competitors in both sports, Mosca's stepson, Mark Cherney of Niagara-on-the-Lake, knows the real story.

"He was a character who just knew how to build on that persona," Cherney laughs. "It certainly fueled his career. But behind the scenes he was a much different person. He loved hanging out on the deck looking out at the lake and just enjoying the grandkids. He had a real heart of gold and loved to be involved with charities."

Cherney and his mother Helen, a Royal LePage real estate agent in NOTL, first met Angelo during a post-game on-field fan meet-and-greet in 1996. The long-time season ticket holders approached the legend, Mosca clicked with Helen, and two years later they were married.

The couple first lived in Virgil for a few years before moving to the Newport Quay area of St. Catharines. But Mosca could be found every spring volunteering at the Virgil Stampede nickel sale, where he took the time to chat with everyone who came through.

Cherney says his stepfather also worked tirelessly to help the Niagara Children's Centre,

and participated in many local sports celebrity events.

"If you needed a personality to come to your charity event," Cherney says, "you just had to ask him. He would figure out how to be there. He was incredible that way."

After retiring from the CFL, Mosca quickly became the public face of the Tiger-Cats. Cherney often accompanied him to appearances, where he truly experienced the adoration Big Ang received everywhere he went.

"Travelling with him and seeing how the fans were so excited to see him, that was one thing he always impressed me with. He'd tell you it wasn't the owner of the team or the promoter of the wrestling that made him his money. It was the fans who made him who he was."

He would take as much as two hours to sign autographs, trying his best to ensure he didn't leave until the last one was signed.

Cherney was with Mosca at a November, 2011 CFL Alumni luncheon during Grey Cup week in Vancouver when an altercation broke out between the former Ti-Cat and Joe Kapp, who played against Mosca with the BC Lions in the 1963 Grey Cup. Hamilton won that game 21-10.

The two former players argued over a hit Mosca levelled



Angelo Mosca with Mark Cherney. (Photos supplied)



The great-grandfather surrounded by grandkids, with Mark Cherney and sister-in-law Melissa.



Helen Cherney and Angelo Mosca

on the Lions' Willie Flemming in that championship. Kapp approached Mosca with some flowers, Mosca refused, then Kapp waved the flowers in his face. Big Ang retaliated by hitting Kapp in the head with his cane. Kapp then punched Mosca in the jaw, knocking him down.

It was all caught on camera, of course, and went viral, leading to Mosca receiving an invitation to the Dr. Phil show.

Cherney says Mosca was embarrassed and ashamed at the whole incident, but true to his nature, he was able to turn it into a way to help others.

"He used it as an opportunity to bring attention to the struggles some of the players go through after they leave the league," Cherney explains. "We went to Toronto for the 100th Grey Cup. They auctioned off the cane that was involved, and it brought in \$7,700 for the alumni association."

In 2015, at an event called Still Mosca in Hamilton, that cane was donated by the original successful bidder and auctioned off once again to raise money for Alzheimer's, the disease that the legend had recently announced was affecting him.

Cherney says Mosca was proud of having played in the league, and did all he could to help out his former team as well as the many players who struggled with their lives post-football.

The native of Waltham, Mass. had a tough, hard-scrabble upbringing before leaving to play college football at Notre


Dame. He had already begun playing with the Tiger-Cats in 1958 when he was chosen in the 30th round, 350th overall, the following year by the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

Cherney has seen the letter of intent from the Eagles, and he says the Green Bay Packers also showed interest. But Mosca stayed put and truly made his mark in the league. He was also instrumental in helping to establish the CFL Players' Association in 1965.

Besides his local family, Mosca also leaves behind Jolene, Angelo Jr. and Gino, his three children with his first wife, as well as another daughter named Angela.

As of press time, funeral arrangements have yet to be announced. As Cherney says, though, there's a lot to be considered, and they spent some time over the weekend discussing how to honour Mosca with the Ti-Cats organization. But he expects a private family event to be held shortly.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE DENTAL



**Dr. Kevin Clark and
Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark**
Dentists
and their registered
Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009



282 Gate Street | \$1,395,000

Year round living in this charming renovated cottage situated on a magnificent 70'x150' lot with a beautiful garden. One bedroom and potential for two plus a home office. Two gas fireplaces that fully heat the home, excellent spacious kitchen. Located on a quiet street just minutes to the center of town. Rare opportunity!

Listed by
"Sis" Bunting Weld
Sales Representative
Royal LePage /
Johnston & Daniel Division

Office: **416-489-2121**
www.sisweld.ca

Let's not forget



TONY BALDINELLI MP
Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE
4056 DORCHESTER ROAD, SUITE 107
NIAGARA FALLS, ON L2E 6M9
905-353-9590

FORT ERIE OFFICE
48 JARVIS STREET
FORT ERIE, ON L2A 2S4
905-871-9991

Winery founder Herbert Konzelmann lived a life he loved

Penny Coles
The Local

Herbert Konzelmann, founder of Konzelmann Estate Winery, died Friday at the age of 84.

He was also a much-loved husband, father, grandfather and an “amazing” great-grandfather.

He had been battling cancer for some time, and was dealing with it well, remaining active, attending morning meetings, out on the tractor or working in the winery “just like he always was,” and was happy to have been part of the last harvest, director of marketing Andrew Niven told The Local.

“It’s one of the reasons I’ve always looked up to him — he had such a strong work ethic.”

But it wasn’t really work to Herbert, Niven added — it was just something he loved to do.

However, his health declined over the last two weeks, and he passed away peacefully, at home, surrounded by his family.

“It was a sad situation, but it couldn’t have happened any better, with him at home, where he would have wanted to be.”

It was a somber and emotional weekend at the winery, says Niven, but team members were sharing their stories of Konzelmann — he was someone who connected with people, and had a personal touch with each of them. “Everyone who knew him had a unique story to share.”

One of the stories he liked to tell, and shared when he received a lifetime achievement award two years ago, was that before making a decision to transplant his family to Canada and build a winery, he filled a suitcase with soil from a lakeshore peach orchard and took it back home to Germany to be tested.

The result convinced him he could grow vitis vinifera grapes, instead of the hybrids most grape growers had planted.

Farming had always been in his family, as far back as 1521. His ancestors lived in a small village in Germany, where grape growing dates back to 1108. In the 1890s, Friedrich Konzelmann, Herbert’s great-grandfather, was experimenting with homemade wine in the cellars of one of his restaurants, and served his first glass to his diners in the spring of 1893.

It was 1984 when Konzelmann, then 47, packed up every machine and vine he owned, and brought his young family to Niagara to follow in the footsteps of his great-grandfather. He planted 100 per cent vitis vinifera grapes, and before long was winning awards for

his wines and building a reputation as a pioneer for the Niagara icewine industry.

Herbert first purchased 40 acres of peaches on Lakeshore Road, and replaced many of them with vinifera plantings. The winery opened its doors in 1988. In 1997, he purchased a second vineyard, and in 2006, removed a corner of vines, and work began on the observation tower and retail boutique.

When he arrived in Canada, he found it very difficult, especially not being able to speak much English. But he had worked hard, and said when he looked over his vineyards, he was proud of what he had accomplished.

“It was here Herbert truly found himself and began paving the way for what would become a flourishing wine region. His vision from the very beginning was always built around hospitality and providing a product for everyone to enjoy,” says a release from the winery on his passing.

Today, most Niagara growers have vitis vinifera grapes planted, and Konzelmann Estate Winery has won hundreds of awards in the intervening years, not only in Niagara but in Europe and London, England.

In 2019, Konzelmann was presented with the first ever Ontario Wine Awards Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his many years of outstanding contributions to the Ontario wine industry.

Twenty-five years before that, he had been named the first Ontario Wine Awards Winemaker of the Year.

Niagara wines today have more finesse, more fruit, and are more elegant than many around the world, he said at the time of his Ontario wine industry recognition, and Konzelmann Estate Winery had already been named one of the top 100 in the world.

Yet he would still get out into the vineyard whenever he could to prune, cut the grass or spread compost, and he was still the one to decide when it was time to harvest the grapes.

But he was also quick to say, when he was recognized with the lifetime achievement award, that he had good people to head every department, and for that he was very grateful.

He said then, in the summer of 2019, “life is good. I really, really like my job. I don’t know how much longer I’ll keep doing this, but for as long as I can, I will.”

And he did, right up to within two weeks of his passing.

“I have not only lost a father,



Herbert Konzelmann was acknowledged with a standing ovation at the 2019 Ontario Wine Awards at Niagara College for his Lifetime Achievement Recognition. (File photo)



Eric Pearson, Konzelmann Estate winemaker, and Herbert Konzelmann were presented with a gold certificate by Sadie Darby for one of two winery wins at the 2019 Ontario Winery Awards ceremony at Niagara College. (File photo)

but a best friend, confidant and role model,” said his daughter Claudia in emailed comments. “My father was a man of faith who cared deeply for his friends, community, co-workers, and most of all, family.”

Her father lived a great life, fully invested in the winery, “not because he had to, but because he truly loved to. I am so thankful for his life lessons, and the unconventional love he spread to everyone he met. He was a devoted husband to wife Gudrun of 57 years, caring father, grandfather and great-grandfather... and someone who we will never forget. I would also like to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support since my father’s passing. It really means a lot to myself and family.”

Jim Reschke, Herbert’s daughter Ulla’s husband and vice president of Konzelmann, says he has never met a person who had the drive, passion and dedication of his father-in-law. “He leaves a huge void and will be greatly missed.”

Today the winery is flourishing, “producing more than 500,000 bottles each year and

employing a team of close to 75 people. New experiences, immerse tastings and vast array of wines continue to highlight the wineries success; all of which emanate from a vision Herbert Konzelmann had over 35 years ago.”

He was a pioneer in every definition of the word, says the release, a guiding light for the

industry he came to love, and a man “whose legacy will forever continue with each bottle of Konzelmann wine.”

Visitation was held at the George Dart Funeral Chapel Monday, with a private family funeral to take place at a later date, and burial at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery.

Niven says although there has been no announcement at this point, there will likely be a more public celebration of his life outdoors on the winery property in the future.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Terry Fox Foundation or to Full Gospel Church.

Knowledgeable Niagara resident for over 21 years

Why Wendy...

• DEDICATED • HONEST
• PROFESSIONAL

ROYAL LEPAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

direct: 905.325.9494

wmidgley@royallepage.ca



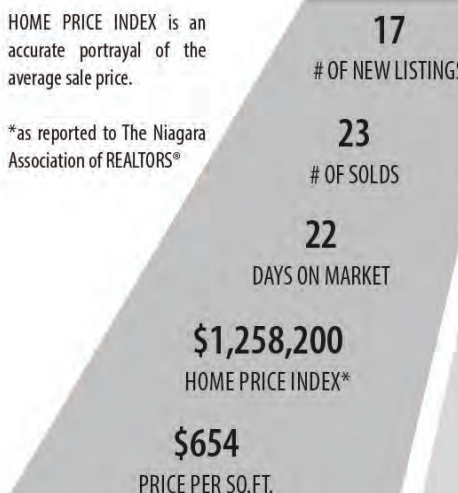
LOCAL REALTORS® LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MARKET SNAPSHOT

OCTOBER 2021

HOME PRICE INDEX is an accurate portrayal of the average sale price.

*as reported to The Niagara Association of REALTORS®



Aaron Cherney*
Jo-Ann Cudmore*
Peter Domarchuk*

Helen Mosca*
James O'Connor*
Margie van Gelder*

Arthur Wosinski*

*Sales Representative

125 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake Direct: 905.468.4214

ROYAL LEPAGE
NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

**Proud to support
local news!**



Wayne Gates

MPP Niagara Falls Riding proudly
representing Niagara-on-the-Lake

905-357-0681

wgates-co@ndp.on.ca



Local ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local musician happy to be playing before live audiences

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake musician Steve Goldberger has been slowly getting back in front of live audiences over the past month as he awaits word on a possible return to regular weekend gigs at The Old Winery.

Goldberger is appearing at Niagara Falls bar Local (we love the name of that bar!) this Friday, Nov. 12, alongside Andrew Aldridge and fellow NOTL musician Penner MacKay.

Those regular weekend gigs have been Goldberger's lifeblood since 2012. Until the pandemic closed things down, the two collections of local musicians welcomed guests from Niagara and across Ontario for evenings of roots-based music (Fridays with the Old Winos) and Blues and R&B jam sessions (Saturdays with the Niagara Rhythm Section). It's never been the same set twice.

For Goldberger, 18 months is the longest time he's gone without performing for an audience in his entire musical career. And

the unplanned layover has created some unique challenges for the band leader and bassist.

For starters, this upcoming gig and others will see Goldberger putting down his bass and picking up a guitar, something he rarely does with the Winos and the NRS.

He's played a few of these duo performances with Aldridge since September, and has had to adjust to playing the six-string rather than the four.

"It's a different thickness of strings," he laughs. "They cut into my bass calluses. It hurts even more. I've been trying to play guitar every day now with these gigs coming up just to get my act together."

"It's totally out of my comfort zone," Goldberger continues. "I like to push and challenge myself with different things. And I'm singing, and talking about every song beforehand. For most of my career, I've been in bands where other people sing."

Speaking of those bass calluses, with 40-plus years as a professional musician,

they become part of a bass player's make-up, as natural as the hair on your arms. But with month after month of inactivity, Goldberger found that he had to redevelop them as he began to step back onto the stage.

A September outdoor gig on a nearby farm gave him an opportunity to gather the Gentle Spirits band featured on his 2018 album. Back on the bass for that one, he immediately noticed the effects of such a long layoff.

"Playing a whole night, my fingers were killing me," he marvels. "It's a different intensity than playing a song or two here (in his Shed Studio), or just sitting around."

As well, he's been busy trying to design the perfect two-hour set list for Friday night, in collaboration with Aldridge, whom Old Winos fans will recognize as a frequent guest. For someone with such a long career in the music industry, narrowing things down is a bigger challenge than he thought it would be.

"You want to play some covers that people know," Goldberger explains, "so I made myself a list of about

150 songs I can do. Now how do I narrow that down to maybe 25? I just eliminated five songs last night. I'm going to play a bunch of originals that I do, and some new ones too."

Just getting the chance to get out there and play some of these smaller gigs has been another challenge for the affable Goldberger. Having a regular residency here in NOTL for about 20 years, he hasn't had to do a lot of cold-calling.

"I've been on the phone calling bars again," he laughs. "It feels weird. 'Hi, I'm Steve, I have this band.' I haven't had to do that for a long time."

It's helped him put his career into perspective, especially this latest stretch that has revolved around his living in NOTL for 20 years.

"I really appreciate what we've had," Goldberger says. "To be able to play both nights, and to play with this long line-up of great guests. But at the same time, I thought I would die without regular gigs, and here I still am."

He goes on to reflect on his days playing with To-

ronto-based bluegrass-folk group Black Creek, touring all over the province. One week they had a six-night residency in Kingston, but at the same time had booked a high school gig in Cornwall.

"We left Kingston in the afternoon, drove to Cornwall, got to the high school, unloaded and set everything up. The principal walked in and said 'who are you?' We told him we were Black Creek and were booked to play at the school. He said 'no, you're not, you must be booked at the other school.' So we had to break it down and high-tail it to the other place and do it all over again."

Then, of course, they had to make it back to Kingston for their evening set that same day.

Those were heady times, but he was much younger back then. Recent invitations to join a fellow musician at a recording studio in Pickering, and another for an Ottawa opening slot for legendary Canadian guitarist David Wilcox, aren't met with as much enthusiasm as they would have perhaps 20 or 30 years ago.

He and Rob Glatt have been in talks about getting the Old Winos and Niagara Rhythm Section back on the Old Winery stage for their Friday and Saturday night residency.

"They've been cautious," he says, "and I think until they can comfortably have full capacity, there's no point, as it's such a small place. We might start with booking a few special events first before going back to the regular gigs."

He's chomping at the bit to be back on that stage. He admits to some jitters about being the main focal point in these more intimate settings, but he's having lots of fun trying this new format with just one or two accompanists.

Steve Goldberger, Andrew Aldridge and Penner MacKay can be seen at Local, on Main Street in Niagara Falls this Friday, Nov. 12, at 9:30 p.m. Goldberger will also be playing with his longtime NRS partner Steve Grisbrook at Peter Piper's on Highway 20 in Fonthill Sunday, Nov. 21, for their Jimmy's Juke Joint Blues Party matinee at 2 p.m.



Steve Goldberger is in his studio playing guitar, something most fans don't get to see very often. (Mike Balsom)

Local ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Pumphouse presents Migrations, Frontiers and Territories

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Artist Anick Fernandez was pleased to be able to explain her creative process and share her work at the opening reception to her exhibition, *Migrations, Frontiers and Territories*, Sunday at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

"In my creative process, I first find something that moves me, because I cannot expect someone to be moved if I am not moved by something," Fernandez explains.

"Once I have that idea, I research about it. There's a lot of thinking going on, it's all mental. It may take weeks or months or sometimes years. It's always in the back of my mind. Sometimes I write out a few words to guide me," says Fernandez.

"I never make sketches. Sometimes I make a tiny drawing, maybe two centimetres, to figure out proportions, but that's it. When I have all the elements in my mind, I start working. I work intuitively. All the shapes, all the forms, everything begins to flow and it doesn't stop until it stops. Until it is done."

For this exhibition, Fernandez derived her inspiration

from the images of the refugees fleeing Syria and attempting to enter Europe. Fernandez and her husband were living in Spain at the time and she was moved by the refugee plight. "When I started this project, it was in response to the migration from Syria," she says. "All these Syrians were trying to reach Europe. We were watching on TV all these heartbreaking images of families. That was the trigger of this exhibit. This is like the story of migrations in general, how people move from one place to the other, the difficulties they find along the way, that are not just geographical obstacles but prejudice against religion and ethnicity."

Fernandez speaks with compassion for the hardships and obstacles refugees and migrants encounter. "When we first arrived in Spain, one of the things that shocked me to learn was that there are so many people from Africa trying to reach either Italy, Greece or Spain. They pay fortunes to get a place on a boat to cross the Mediterranean Sea. Many have capsized. Many of them drown. Many of them died from hypothermia, but sometimes they make it." Fernandez's work explores the paths of the migrants, the obstacles

they face and the willingness to overcome them.

She uses the printmaking techniques of collagraphy and drypoint to create her works. The works themselves are rich with texture and movement. Within the images, one can trace the steps of the migrants as they leave their territory and seek out another, the visible obstacles they face in their path and their ways around them. "I'm an optimistic person. All of these works were designed to be exhibited together," she explains as she gestures toward a series of prints. "These forms here represent obstacles and barriers, and then these lines here, represent people finding their way out. They all make it."

Fernandez describes this journey. "They arrive in a new territory and they will have to adapt." She understands how it feels to migrate, move to a new 'territory and adapt.' Born in Mexico, she has travelled extensively and had her work exhibited in Mexico, Spain, Portugal, and France and Canada. She understands how it feels to breach a new frontier and enter a new territory. She explains how the world has changed over this past year, and we are more aware of the concept of territories; whether they are



Local artist Anick Fernandez shows her work in the Joyner Gallery of the Niagara Pumphouse until Nov. 27.

countries, provinces or regions or even rooms in our house. "I think that COVID uncovered it. Now we are all talking about new territories in one form or another, and borders. COVID

has been such a great opportunity to remind us or to make us aware that we are all interconnected, and that we depend on each other, and that we are all the same."

This exhibition will be on display from Nov. 3 to Nov. 27 in the Joyner Gallery. For more information and gallery hours, contact niagarapumphouse.ca or call 905-468-5455.




Niagara Region and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake are pleased to announce the NRT OnDemand service area has been expanded and now includes all of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Additional vehicles have also been added to better serve you.



easy.

Call or use the app to book a ride.



clean.

COVID-19 safety procedures in place and regular vehicle cleanings.



safe.

Courteous, trained drivers will take you to your destination.





Transit for everyone.


Monday to Saturday 7 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Niagara-on-the-Lake 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Rides cost \$3 within your municipality
(Available in Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Pelham)

\$6 for trips to other communities
(Available in Grimsby, Lincoln, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Pelham, Wainfleet and West Lincoln)

Scan me to Download and Ride
or Call 289-302-2172

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play



MOVING WATER FORWARD

[Fwoosh] The sudden burst of water from your faucet fills the empty coffee pot. [Drip...Drip...Drip] it slowly percolates until finally...you get that first sip...ahhhh!

Clean water.

Brought to you in part by **Niagara Region**

Renewing your driver's licence, plate sticker or Ontario photo card is as easy as ordering groceries.



ServiceOntario makes it quick and secure to renew on your own time.

Save time. Renew online.
Visit ServiceOntario.ca/services to learn more.

ServiceOntario

Paid for by the
Government of Ontario



Local ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz pianist making local live performance debut

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A mere six days after his guest slot with Sultans of Swing for their Nov. 13 Bravo Niagara! Festival performance, jazz pianist Robi Botos will be back on the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre stage with his own trio.

The two shows serve as a bit of a hometown debut for Botos, who moved with his family from Toronto to Niagara-on-the-Lake last December. Since the relocation, though, the pandemic has kept him from performing in front of live audiences in the region.

He has also had very few opportunities to actually get out and meet locals. Nevertheless, he feels fortunate to have left the big city rat race.

"I have to say it's been tricky to try to get a sense of the community without really being able to visit people and have people over," he laments. "But it's been a relief to be in a much slower-paced place. I don't miss traffic and I don't miss the craziness of Toronto."

The one-time Oscar Peterson protege has had a few live engagements in 2021 in front of limited audiences, so he is relishing the chance to play in front of a Bravo Niagara! crowd at the PAC.

"I am best at playing live, in the moment," he tells The Local. "I can't do what I normally do remotely. Playing is part of life for me, I put my

life into the music. It's like taking away your antidote for your mental health. It's very critical for your soul."

Botos calls live performance a two-way street, a silent connection with the audience.

"You need the audience, to get something from them," Botos explains. "It's not necessarily the cheers and the standing ovations. It's also you putting those notes out there. I have some new music I am playing for this show. Once you have those gigs and you perform it live, that also creates something more, that's very healing for a musician and a writer."

Botos says the isolation that the world has felt through the pandemic has influenced his new compositions, making it some of the most meaningful music he has ever performed.

Born in Nyíregyháza to a Roma family, Botos grew up in Budapest, where he learned to play the drums before switching to piano at seven years old. Since his 1998 move to Toronto, he has become a well-known and prominent member of that city's jazz scene.

Bravo Niagara! supporters will be familiar with the talented pianist. He has played a number of shows here through the years, mostly as a sideman in other bandleaders' combos.

In 2020, Bravo Niagara! produced *Robi Botos: Roma-ni Experience* as part of its Voices of Freedom Festival:

Sounds of Hope program. The 40-minute video tribute to his fellow Roma people can be seen on Bravo Niagara's YouTube channel. It is a heartfelt, moving lament for a people who have been marginalized, ostracized and subjected to genocide.

His commitment to shedding light through his music on the plight of displaced peoples made him an obvious choice to collaborate with the Sultans of String on their two-CD refugee project.

"It's always a pleasure to see Chris (McKhool, Sultans' violinist) and the band bringing people together," he says. "They put some light on how important it is to understand that we're all just coming from somewhere, trying to get somewhere. We're all refugees, we're all immigrants."

Botos continues, "we all bring different stuff to the table. The results are always unique. I'm not really a fusion or world music artist. But with them, it's always an open concept. Why not mix up Hungarian folk music with some unique Persian instruments and some African beats? It's a great way of looking at music. It's great to experiment."

He's excited about sharing the PAC stage with Chris and his band, along with a multitude of special guests from around the world. And he's equally excited to be

Continued on page 15



Jazz pianist Robi Botos (Photo supplied)

Local ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Botos to play with trio, special guest vocalist

Continued from page 14

joined Nov. 19 by drummer Larnell Lewis and bassist Mike Downes, along with special guest vocalist Joanna Majoko.

"After all this time it's going to be that much more special to be able to go to that venue and make music," he says. "I'm very blessed that I can have my trio with me for it. Though I don't like to call them 'my trio' because we all play in a million different bands."

Ever cerebral when conversing about music, Botos places a high value on how those outside experiences inform the working relationship he, Downes and Lewis have when they come together.

"If you have the right mindset, that means when Mike pulls out a chart and shows me a Serbian folk song, I'm going to be researching that," he explains. "We don't just play with each other on a regular basis, but we have learned how

to make music for 15 to 20 years together. Regardless of age and background, it's this student mentality."

He relishes the human, personal connection that he has with Downes and Lewis, who are always there when they need each other.

It's a concept he tries to pass on to the next generation of musicians through his role in Humber College's music faculty. From his NOTL home, he has been able to continue teaching remotely, and marvels at the ability to offer private piano lessons to students as far away as France and Germany.

Botos says he's not yet confident enough to head back to Humber for in-person teaching, and certainly is happy to avoid the clogged QEW and Gardiner Expressway.

But he knows the best way to learn is to play, and to play with better musicians. Experiencing failure and correcting mistakes is the best way for musicians to grow.

"They're not getting



Robi Botos, who recently moved from Toronto to NOTL, will be playing in two performances at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, this Saturday, Nov. 13, and next Friday, Nov. 19. (Photo supplied)

enough opportunities to perform right now," Botos says of his young charges. "They just keep practising at home, that doesn't necessarily make them a better mu-

sician. The healthiest thing for students would be for them to play live and listen to their teachers play more often. They need to get out and hear great musicians."

Those students would be well-served by seeing their inspiring instructors (Downes and Lewis also teach at Humber College) bouncing musical ideas

off each other on Nov. 19. Tickets for the Bravo Niagara! Festival performance, starting at 7:30 p.m., are \$50, and available at bravoniagara.org.

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

BARRELHEAD *Bistro*

LOCATED AT PILLITTERI ESTATES WINERY

1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

HEARTWARMING SOUPS, ARTISANAL SALAD AND SAVORY SANDWICHES ON HOUSEMADE FOCACCIA

OPEN 7
DAYS
A WEEK
11AM - 5PM

INDOOR
SEATING
&
TAKE OUT
AVAILABLE
(905) 468-3147

SPECIALI

ZUPPA & FOCACCIA PANINO | 15

ZUPPA & INSALATA | 15

FOCACCIA & INSALATA | 20

  FOLLOW @BARREL.HEAD FOR DAILY SPECIALS

PILLITTERI
ESTATES
Winery

*VACCINE PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR INDOOR DINING

Learn the history of the railway through virtual lecture

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

Explore Niagara railway history with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's next instalment of their Virtual Lecture Series presented by local author Peter Mulcaster.

This 1854 to 1959 history seemed to have been somewhat neglected until Mulcaster came to town. Originally from the UK, he began his career as a professional engineer in the automotive industry. After immigrating to Canada in 1966, he eventually moved to Toronto where he spent the majority of his career in the IT industry. After his retirement, Mulcaster chose to spend the next chapter of his life in NOTL. Unbeknownst to him at the time, this move would inspire him to write some chapters of his own.

"I was very interested in local history. the 1812-14 war, and the importance of the town in the early days of Upper Canada. The role it played was significant," he said. His interest in the history of the area led him to do some independent research into the town, and during that time, "I sudden-

ly came across an old photo that showed railway trains running through the centre of the town, and I wondered what that was about. There didn't seem to be anything that was written up on that. With my background as an engineer, I'm interested in transportation, so I thought I'd start researching it."

Three years of researching later, this project resulted in a book, *Off to Paradise Grove: A Railway History of Niagara-on-the-Lake 1854-1959*. "It's a little bit of history which was there, but it's been largely forgotten, because if you look around town, unless you really know what you're looking for, there's absolutely very, very few signs that there was ever a railway coming through the town," Mulcaster explains.

He acknowledges the many contributors to the final result. He expresses his gratitude to the staff of the NOTL Museum, specifically Shawna Butts, Sarah Kaufman and Amy Klassen for their assistance. He also recognizes the contributions of maps, photographs and information that were supplied to him by the Canadian Railroad Historical Association - Niagara Di-



In a 1901 photo taken from King Street, a train is about to depart with the Duke and Duchess of York, who would later become King George V and Queen Mary. (NOTL Museum)

vision, of which Mulcaster is an active member. "I also got a lot of help from the local residents that helped me put together the book. It was a very collaborative effort. A lot of people in the town gave me photographs that I could use in the book"

All of the research, the photographs, the maps and the information, draw our attention to over a century of railway dominance that has almost been forgotten. In his lecture, Mulcaster will highlight the socio-eco-

nomic impact the railway had on the area. He will describe the state of the art technology of electric and steam engines and how engineering challenges, such as the escarpment and the Niagara River, were overcome by would-be railroad entrepreneurs. Railway service meant connection, progress and prosperity.

And hopefully, railway service could mean those things again. When asked how he felt about the increase of GO Train service

to the Niagara Region, Mulcaster said, "I think it's excellent. I think it's a very good step." He continued, "We need these kinds of interurban networks. They are very, very predominant in Europe and I think it's going to be part of the solution to solve the environmental problems that we are starting to face. We have to start changing the way we use transportation."

He acknowledges that smaller and isolated towns, like Queenston and Virgil,

still lack public transport but he remains optimistic that increased train service to the area could bring increased connection, progress and prosperity just as it did almost a century ago.

His virtual lecture is Nov. 17, at 11 a.m., and will require registration through Zoom. To access the registration link, go to www.notlmuseum.ca. For more information, please contact Amy Klassen: ww.aklassen@nhsm, or call 905-468-3912.

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

WEEKEND SALE!

Thursday, November 25 - Monday, November 29

BLACK FRIDAY

CYBER MONDAY

Receive **25% off*** your purchase

Use discount code at checkout: **BLACKFRIDAY**

Serving Niagara Since 1977

SIMPSON'S

PHARMASAVE

IN-STORE and ONLINE at simpsonsparmacy.ca

* Some exclusions apply. Regular-priced merchandise only. Excludes prescriptions, Philips Sonicare & Muse products, special orders, lottery, transit passes and codeline products. See store and online for more details.



THE FARMHOUSE CAFÉ

Open For Lunch
7 Days a Week
Indoor and Patio
Dining Available

Reservations Strongly Suggested
Online Booking Now Available!

Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814



CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR

Open 7 Days a Week
Indoor and Outdoor Wine
Tastings Available
Reservations Strongly
Recommended

Curbside pickup still
available for online orders!

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com

Creek Road Paints

is still **mixing** things up!

Open for in-store shopping
(5 Customers at a time)

Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm,
Saturday 8 am - 12 pm

Place your order in advance and
we can have it ready for you.

Call 905-468-2412.

Creek Road Paints

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

Yellow Door student earns role in Shaw's *Holiday Inn*

Penny Coles
The Local

A young actor who has trained with the Yellow Door Theatre project has been given an opportunity to join the Shaw Festival ensemble for *Holiday Inn*, the Christmas classic which opens this weekend.

Irving Berlin's beloved musical tells the traditional Christmas story of Jim, who quits showbiz and the bright lights of New York City for a quiet Connecticut farmhouse. There, he meets Linda, a tap-dancing schoolteacher who has never forgotten her stage dreams, and together they turn the profit-losing farmhouse into a spectacular inn, open only on holidays.

Some of the greatest Irving Berlin songs – including *Cheek to Cheek*, *Easter Parade* and *White Christmas* – are brought to the stage with glorious singing and dancing.

And 12-year-old Wren Evans will be part of the ensemble, on stage for his first season with the Shaw Festival.

For those who don't remember a young person in the traditional version of the classic, Evans explains the character he portrays, Charlie Winslow, is a new addition to the play. "It's

considered a main role, providing some comic relief, as he helps to pass information on to the audience."

There are a lot of comical scenes in the play, he adds. "I'm just one of many."

His role is shared with another young person, Julia Thompson, who plays Charley Winslow — they divide the performances between them.

Evans has trained with the Yellow Door Theatre Project, and been in some of their productions, including *Little Mermaid* in its summer camp, and has been taking dance and voice classes. He expected to be part of the Yellow Door *Hansel & Gretel* production, also opening soon, but encouraged by YD artistic producer Andorlie Hillstrom, he says, he tried out for the Shaw role, "not expecting to get it, but for the auditioning credit."

"But I got it, and had to leave the *Hansel & Gretel* production."

Hillstrom is excited for him. "I am always proud of the accomplishments of our young performers, and cannot wait to see Wren on-stage at the Festival stage," she says.

As excited as he is to be in rehearsal with the Shaw, seeing what goes on backstage and learning so much

about something he loves to do, "I'm nervous," he says, in bit of a stage whisper. "I'm really nervous."

Then, asked if he is also excited by the opportunity, he says "yes, I'm nervcited."

He feels the Shaw actors "are so much better than me," and he finds that very intimidating.

But he loves acting, and knows that this is a great opportunity to help get him where he wants to go, with theatre a part of his future. And he admits to being proud of being on the Shaw Festival stage at the age of 12.

"I've seen other Shaw plays," he says, and loved them, but being in one is a very different experience.

As he headed off to rehearsal for the evening, he says his days are often divided — a morning at school, a couple of hours rehearsing, a dinner break and then back to rehearsing, sometimes until 10 p.m. He is often tired on school mornings, but "on weekends, I sleep."

Holiday Inn runs at the Festival Theatre from Nov. 20 to Nov. 28, with tickets available for previews beginning this Sunday, Nov. 14.

For tickets visit <https://www.shawfest.com/whats-on-tickets/#list>



Wren Evans is rehearsing at the Shaw for *Holiday Inn*, which opens in previews Sunday. (Photo submitted)

Hansel & Gretel features local kids at FirstOntario

Penny Coles
The Local

Hansel & Gretel, an original musical, written by Lezlie Wade and Scott Christian, and starring young performers from the Yellow Door Theatre Project fall performance company, will be presented at the FirstOntario Per-

forming Arts Centre next week. *Hansel & Gretel* explores the significance of friendship and the resiliency of young people when faced with adversity. The play is set in a mythical place where antagonistic witches (there are good witches and bad witches) need the youthful exuberance of children to stay

young and beautiful. In time they learn that beauty is as beauty does. The play is suitable for ages six and up.

"Why fairy tales? There is a reason they have endured for hundreds of years. They teach children how to handle moral dilemmas by stressing, not how to be good, but who

they want to emulate. There are villains. There are heroes. And there are opportunities for change. The critical message remains that perseverance will win out in the end. This is an excellent reminder for us now and always," says writer and director, Lezlie Wade.

"There are so many

things that I love about *Hansel & Gretel*, but my favourite part has to be the music and story of this musical. Scott and Lezlie wrote such an amazing musical for people of all ages. Rehearsals are full of laughter because the characters that Lezlie wrote are so funny. Scott wrote amazing music for this

show and the tunes are really catchy. *Hansel & Gretel* is such a fun show and I feel honoured to be a part of it. Thank you Lezlie and Scott for this wonderful masterpiece!" says cast member Emily Fulton.

For ticket information visit www.firstontario.pac.ca or call 905-688-0722.



Preparing for their *Hansel & Gretel* performances are Hannah Evans, Hannah Baran, Kevin Etherington, Catherine Dubois, Emily Fulton, Julia King and Mariah Rackal. (Photo supplied)

Niagara College expanding health care programs

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara College is responding to the provincial need for more health-care workers in Ontario.

The college's Applied Health Institute has an expanded enrolment for its practical nursing program this term. It has increased its fall intake with 60 in its regular delivery stream, in addition to a class of 30 who attend classes on evenings and weekends.

It has also ramped up operations to seven days a week this term to accommodate an increase in students in its practical nursing and personal support worker (PSW) programs. The college has taken in more than 140 PSW students in two accelerated streams, in addition to those enrolled in its regular PSW program.

For Angela Butt, associate dean of the College's School of Nursing and PSW, it has been exciting to welcome an increased number of practical nursing and PSW students, and

she is thrilled about lab expansions at the college which have occurred to accommodate more students, expecting the increases to have both short- and long-term benefits in the field.

Having spent decades in nursing herself before moving to her position at Niagara College, she says the increased need for nursing is complex, with the COVID-19 pandemic only adding to a long-standing problem.

It's partly due to what she calls a "reverse bell curve," with a large number of health-care workers retiring, and "quite a few entering the profession, but very few in the middle."

That shortage of the middle group is a result of the political situation of the Mike Harris government, when cuts were made to health care, and there was a "lost opportunity" to build up the number of nurses in the field, she explains.

Experienced nurses are very much needed to mentor nursing students, but there just aren't enough of them, says Butt.

She began her career when there were enough nurses to mentor her and the smaller numbers of graduating students, helping them to feel much more confident and competent on the job.

It's much harder on the current classes of graduating nurses, who are missing that component, she says.

"For those who are entering now, my hat's off to them, really having to learn on the fly, without enough experienced nurses to support them."

She says it behooves colleges, universities and employers to work together to make it work for recent grads, to help them develop the confidence and competence they need to be ready to work in the field.

Butt praises those employers who work with Niagara College to make that happen.

She says it's also important to be sure colleges and universities are setting realistic expectations about what graduates will encounter in their placements. She points specifi-

cally to the fact that hospital patients, and sometimes their families, are stressed, and may take their anger or fear out on nurses. Managing those situations is one of the "soft skills" nursing students need to acquire. Talking about it ahead of time helps build resilience, she says — but it's a tough skill to develop without experience. And without it, graduating students may decide nursing is not for them.

Balancing their work life, which typically includes 12-hour shifts, with their personal life can also be tough.

But for the most part, Butt says, "students who come here, for practical nursing or PSW programs, have either had a really good experience with health care, and want to be part of it, or a really bad experience and want to be part of changing it, working for a bigger purpose."

Butt says she's always loved being a nurse, "every twist and turn" of her career.

"Health care," she adds,

"will always be there for us," and students entering college to train to be nurses or PSWs during the pandemic "are probably further motivated, and want to be in it for the right reasons." If they're not motivated because of what they've heard about the difficulties of nursing during a pandemic, "it's probably not the best choice for them."

Training more nurses and PSWs means hopefully providing a bit of reprieve to the health care team in the short-term, with students helping with some of the workload during their placements.

In a recent news release from Niagara College about the uptake of students in their applied health studies, Rachel Grist, who began the first term of the practical nursing program this fall, says "nursing is a beautiful combination of art and science, and I want to be a part of that symphony of skills."

She wanted to work in health care before the pandemic, but working

through the whole pandemic as a PSW has shown her "the incredible resiliency of the health-care profession," she says.

"I want to continue and grow in my ability to contribute, and I want to be able to do more for my patients."

Grist aims to go into paediatric nursing following graduation, with the goal of helping Indigenous communities, and increasing awareness of their needs. She feels a heightened sense of urgency and importance to being a practical nursing student during the pandemic. "Now, more than ever, there is a need for nurses.

Pre-pandemic there was a shortage in the nursing world, and it's just suspected to grow," she said. "It puts a lot of pressure on me to graduate, but I'm sure my fellow students and I will be able to get through it."

For more information about practical nursing, PSW and other Niagara College programs, visit niagaracollege.ca.



Niagara College practical nursing students head to the teaching lab. They will learn about infectious disease control and prevention as part of the program, and before they begin working their placements, all students also need to complete COVID-related modules. (Photo supplied)

Gravestone restoration an ongoing project at St. Mark's

Penny Coles
The Local

The work of preserving cemetery monuments at St. Mark's Church isn't new.

It probably began about 1838, says Donald Combe, when a 1782 memorial stone was discovered in excavated rubble during the construction of the church transepts. It was brought inside, affixed to a wall, and then moved, mounted on the wall in the south transept.

Preservation and restoration work has continued in the cemetery over the years, at first "patch and repair by the enthusiastically unskilled," continues Combe, church sexton and co-author of *Saints, Stones and Sinners*, which identifies historic monuments and stones in local cemeteries.

At one point restoration was urgently needed because of damage caused by fallen

trees during a particularly bad storm. Some of the work has been carried out by experts and students from the School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank.

However, the church cemetery board was aware that much more was needed, says Combe, "if the stones and their history were not to be lost to the ravages of time and acid rain, pollution and other factors exacerbated by climate change."

Last year, as part of a program by Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and Canada Remembers, an initiative of Veterans Affairs Canada, historic cemetery specialist Alan Ernest, from Carlisle, Ont., undertook much-needed repairs to veterans' monuments in the cemetery.

Funded by six member governments, the work of the commission began more than

a century ago and continues around the world, wherever there are veterans buried from the First and Second World Wars.

Veterans Affairs Canada works with the commission, says Ernest, helping to improve the standards of grave markers of more than 300,000 fallen Canadian Armed Forces members at home and around the world.

Ernest has restored thousands of historic marble, limestone, sandstone and granite monuments, and also works with the Town of Oakville's Historic Cemeteries Restoration Project, the largest such project in Canada, now in its 12th year.

The Commonwealth commission and the veterans' affairs project "brought me to Niagara-on-the-Lake to look at the situation here a couple of years ago, and last year I returned to do the work," he says.

He restored 20 markers, funded by the federal government, and returned this year to work on another 21 for the

church, from their list of those most in need of work.

He also repaired another five stones for families who had monuments in need of work, he says.

The project for St. Mark's isn't finished, and he hopes to come back to continue the much needed restoration.

"There has been lots of deferred maintenance, and it takes a while to catch up," he says.

Ernest says he spent one or two days a week in NOTL over the season, which for him is April to November, typically working long days, beginning at sun-up. St. Mark's is actually a "small proportion" of his work for the year. Oakville, and the Town of Lincoln have cemeteries which have kept him busy, but St. Mark's has the oldest stones, some from before the War of 1812, and some broken, lying on the ground in pieces. As much as he enjoys the challenge, it can take up to two months of letting those pieces dry before putting them back together, he explains, and then

going on to the next stage of restoration.

Although his task at St. Mark's is restoration of old, damaged stones, repair work in cemeteries is ongoing, from damage caused by tree branches falling, vandalism, and sometimes lawnmowers which get too close to stones. "There is always a certain amount of maintenance required."

He takes about a month off at Christmas, then, since his work is physically taxing, "I have to start doing exercises and stretching to make sure when April comes, I'm ready for it."

Leading up to his work in the field, he visits cemeteries to assess monuments and gravestones to see what needs to be done, he says.

St. Mark's volunteer Sally Mitchell credits Combe as the most knowledgeable about the cemetery as the church's historian and sexton. He suggests what needs to be done to restore the most historic monuments, and Mitchell gets to work trying to make things

happen — her job is raising the money to support the restoration project. Ernest then examines the stones, provides an estimate, and with his team, gets to work.

Generous gifts and donations, together with receipts from garage and other sales raised \$21,500, funding this year's restoration of monuments, says Mitchell.

It is the board's intent to move forward, as money allows, and continue the task, says Combe.

"We encourage donations to the designated restoration fund, or gifts to a specific monument restoration. This cemetery has been in continuous use since 1782, and is the final resting place of both our little known and celebrated ancestors. This burial ground is an important part of our Canadian heritage."

In the printed edition of The Local, Al Ernest was identified incorrectly. The Local apologizes for the error, especially to Mr. Ernest, and for any inconvenience it may have caused.



Al Ernest, with Chris Allen, works in St. Mark's Church cemetery. (Photos supplied)



Restoration specialist Al Ernest surveys the damage to the Waters monument.



Al Ernest works on the Melville Monument, where Robert Melville, who died in 1849, and several family members are buried.



Al Ernest and his crew restored the Waters monument, which was in pieces before they started. John Waters, the first black councillor in town, died in 1880. The size of the marble monument demonstrates his importance in the community and his financial success.

LocalSPORTS

Skating club offers safe, fun environment for kids and adults

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Skating Club opened this season with a focus on safety, for skaters, coaches and young program assistants.

And for those who missed the first session, registration will open Nov. 13 for winter programs.

Club president Yvonne Haines says there are about 250 skaters enjoying being back on the ice, after an early

end to last season, when the skating club and minor hockey association learned the ice would be removed early, due to COVID.

There have been some limits to the number of kids on the ice this past session to

ensure everyone can be kept safe, especially for the youngest group of skaters who require hands-on assistance as they learn to stand on their own, says Haines. “We are doing everything we can to minimize risks for everyone.”

It is also important to keep the young program assistants safe, some of whom are too young to be vaccinated. For that reason, the younger children have also been wearing masks on the ice.

If COVID numbers are low, and everyone, from young skaters to coaches, stays safe, the club will consider increasing the number of children allowed on the ice in the winter sessions, she adds.

Parents of the youngest groups have to be in the building when their youngsters are on the ice, and have to be vaccinated.

“We can’t be responsible for kids on the ice, some of them as young as three,” says Haines.

Parents who are not vaccinated can’t register their youngsters, and that lost them a few registrations, but not many, she added.

At the door, as parents arrive with their skaters, an arena staff member greets them, asking for vaccination proof, and then Haines has them sign in. “I’m taking attendance, to make sure I know who is with which child, for contact tracing.”

Haines, who has been a volunteer with the club since her daughter Emma was a young skater, is also retired from Niagara Health, after 47 years as a registered nurse. She retired in May 2020, and when there was a call for nurses to administer vaccinations, she stepped up.

She knows the protocols

“in and out,” she says, and is adamant about enforcing restrictions, from the province, the town and Public Health, as well as policies set by the skating club and Skating Ontario.

Founded in 1967, the NOTL Skating Club has a long history of delivering the highest quality programs for skaters of all ages and abilities, from the youngest who are just stepping on the ice for the first time, to those who want to compete, says Haines.

That is reflected in the number of parents who come from other municipalities for their children to join the club. “They like our programs, and we have a good reputation.”

Yvonne’s daughter Emma joined the club when she was six — old compared to the many kids who learn to skate when they’re three or four — and she loved it from the beginning, becoming a very talented competitive skater.

“I loved going fast, trying new things, and jumping, when I got older. And I loved the competitions.”

She also helped out as a program assistant for several years, putting in many volunteer hours with the younger kids — being on the ice was a huge part of her life, and until recently, she would lace up her skates and have some fun with friends from her skating days.

She’s now Emma Thwaites, 35 and the mother of three children. She can be found at least twice a week in the stands at the Centennial Arena watching her two daughters learn to skate. Kayla is seven, and Brooklyn is four, both enjoying their lessons.

Her son Luke is just a year old, and her husband Graham will likely sign him up with minor hockey as soon as he’s

old enough, but she would like to see him join the pre-CanSkate group for three-to-five-year-olds, to learn all the basics that will serve him well in hockey. Many young boys take their first steps on the ice with the skating club, before beginning their minor hockey career, she says.

“It gives kids the basic skills, like balance, speed control, skating backwards and forwards, everything that’s needed for those foundational skills that are necessary for any sport on the ice it leads to. Skating is skating, and the skills will always be there, whatever sport you choose.”

She has high praise for the local club, “an established program with a great reputation in the region. And kids have a ton of fun, that’s the main thing.”

As far as feeling comfortable having her kids in activities during a pandemic, she says, “I have no issues at all. They are doing everything they can to keep us all safe, and I have never once doubted the safety of my family. We feel very confident, and getting back to doing this with our kids, it’s so nice just to feel some normalcy. The kids are seeing each other again, and it’s important for them to also have that feeling of returning to normal. They’re happy, and I’m happy to be out and seeing people again after a long 18 months.”

For those interested in registering their children for winter sessions, the club offers pre-CanSkate and CanSkate for beginner level skaters of all ages, three levels of StarSkate, and competitive skating lessons.

For more information visit <https://www.notl.skatingclub.com>.



The youngest skaters have fun on the ice during Thursday afternoon pre-CanSkate (above), CanSkate (middle) and pre-junior (top) NOTL Skating Club classes at the Centennial Arena. (Judi Krzczkowski)

Judi Krzczkowski coached Emma Thwaites when she was young, and now she's coaching Emma's daughter Kayla. (Penny Coles)

LocalSPORTS

Local realtor sponsoring Predators hockey player

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A weekend with no games scheduled might just be what the hockey doctor ordered for the Niagara Predators of the GMHL.

General manager Johan Eriksson tells The Local that defencemen Logan Baillie and Brett Lee, both of whom have spent time on the injured list, participated fully in last week's practices. That means when they take to the Meridian Credit Union Arena ice Friday night the team should have its longest bench yet this season.

"Right now we don't have any injuries," Eriksson says. "It's difficult to say exactly how many, but we'll probably be increasing by between four and seven players from what we have had."

The return of Baillie and Lee, along with recent additions such as Pontus Mad-

sen, Maxwell Bredin, Henri-Pierre Jayet and back-up goaltender Justin Appleton should allow the Predators to stay fresh by playing shorter shifts in their three games this weekend.

Most likely, that bigger line-up will be sharing space with team owner Robert Turnbull, as Eriksson says the team is not yet ready to name their new permanent coach. He does say the search is narrowing, and he's hoping to bring in someone with more local roots than the recently-departed Andrew Whalen.

"We have two names right now," he says, "but we need options. We need it to be someone local enough to be able to do the drive. I would say someone from within the Niagara region, if possible, Hamilton at the farthest."

Another newcomer, Port Colborne native Noah

Caperchione, played his first game with the Predators the previous Friday in their 5-2 loss to North York. Eriksson says the arrival of the 21-year-old Greater Metro Hockey League number one draft pick was made possible through the sponsorship of Andrew Perrie of Revel Realty.

"I saw a post by Johan on a Facebook group looking for sponsors," Perrie says. "I thought, what a great way to get involved and to get our name out there. And it was aligned perfectly with my passions."

Perrie is one of the biggest boosters of the noon-hour soft-puck shinny league played every weekday in Virgil. Monday to Friday, Perrie is there lacing up his skates.

The Barrie native knew Eriksson was moving to Niagara Falls from the Muskoka area, and was finding it difficult to know where to turn locally to make connections.

"He didn't know anybody," says Perrie. "So I helped them by getting contacts for equipment and travel, and I helped them find some places for the out-of-town players to live."

When Perrie discovered that Caperchione had not yet joined the team because of the cost, he stepped in with his first monetary donation to the Predators.

"He's a really good kid," Perrie says. "The team wanted him really badly. He needed a little extra help. A hockey stick can cost up to \$500. If you compare how much it costs to play today versus five years ago, it's gone through the roof."

Eriksson is excited for what Caperchione brings to the team. The right-handed shooting forward has played almost 200 games for Port Colborne and Caledonia in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, collecting 53 goals and 67 assists along the way.

"Noah hasn't been skating for a while," Eriksson



Revel realtor and Predators supporter Andrew Perrie is helping make it possible for Noah Caperchione to play hockey in Virgil. (Mike Balsom)

says, "so he needs a couple of weeks to get into the groove. But he will be an amazing player for us and we couldn't have made that happen without Andrew's help."

Eriksson says Perrie has also begun to assist the Predators in lining up more sponsors for the team. It's a strategy that some teams do really well in the GMHL, while others flounder. The Predators hope that as they establish themselves in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the support from local businesses will grow.

Perrie wants to see the team be successful in the town. With three young boys of his own (Hudson, five years old; Kade, 17 months; and Jagger five months), he feels it is important that young people see a local

team playing hockey at a higher level, giving them something to strive for while learning to love the game through the local minor system.

"It's something that is incredibly fitting for Niagara-on-the-Lake," he says. "We needed something like this. This is a great hockey town, and there are lots of kids living here. The timing is great."

"My goal is to get people to come out to the games," he continues, "to get the team more exposure. To use my connections to help with funding and bring really good players on board so they can have a strong team."

With Eriksson and team owner Turnbull, Perrie has been discussing the possibility of organizing a char-

ity game of some sort. And with the push on right now from some local citizens to convince the town to support three outdoor rinks, he doesn't see why there couldn't be an outdoor "heritage" game this winter, similar to what the National Hockey League has been doing for years.

The Predators have their busiest weekend yet this season, starting at home with a Friday, Nov. 12 home game against the 6-and-6 Plattsville Lakers at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday they travel to Colborne for an evening contest against the Northumberland Stars. The weekend concludes with the Stars visiting the Preds for the first Sunday matinee at the Meridian Credit Union arena. Game time Sunday is 3 p.m.

Meet the Predators

Name: **Gino Carter Squire**
Jersey number: **92**
Age: **19**
Birthdate: **Oct. 8, 2002**
Hometown: **Brandon, MB**
Nickname: **Beans**
Favourite hockey player: **Steven Stamko**
Your hockey highlight: **Watching Connor McDavid's Columbus goal**
Hockey highlight: **Being named captain for the Predators**
Other sports you play: **Volleyball, golf, soccer, floorball**
Favourite "cheat" meal: **Kraft Dinner**



LocalHAPPENINGS

ST. DAVIDS LIONESS
Annual Holiday Market
Saturday, November 13 • 9 am to 2 pm
Artists and Vendors • Bake Table • Fantastic Draw Prizes
COVID - Mask Required and Social Distancing
No Lunch or Refreshments Available
Join us for fun and fantastic Christmas shopping
St. Davids Lions Club - 1462 York Road
All proceeds go back into the Community

Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
You are invited to the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021 | 3:00 PM
Zoom Videoconferencing
For more information:
visit niagarapumphouse.ca/events
contact 905-468-5455 or
office@niagarpumphouse.ca

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

LocalWORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday, November 14th
10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering -
Online & In-Person
(Registration Required)
Message:
Kevin Bayne -
The Beginning of Marriage
Our services are also streamed
online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our
website for more information!
www.ccchurch.ca

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

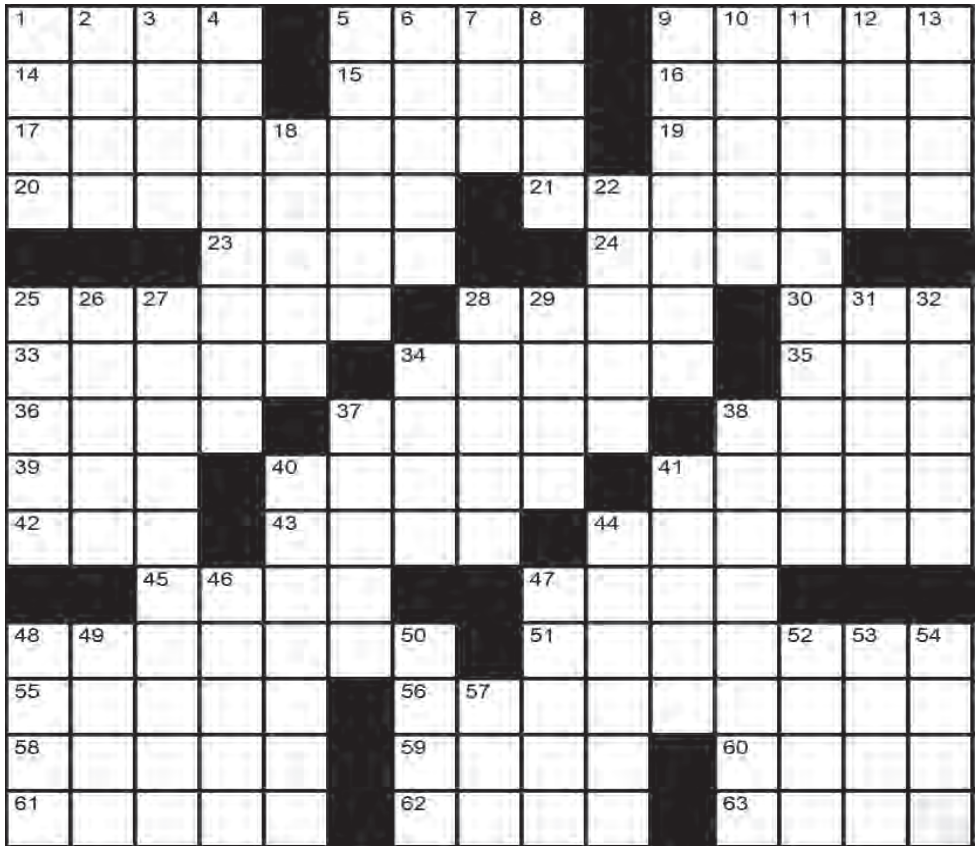
Local CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com



Compassionate
Transparent
No Pressure
www.morganfuneral.com

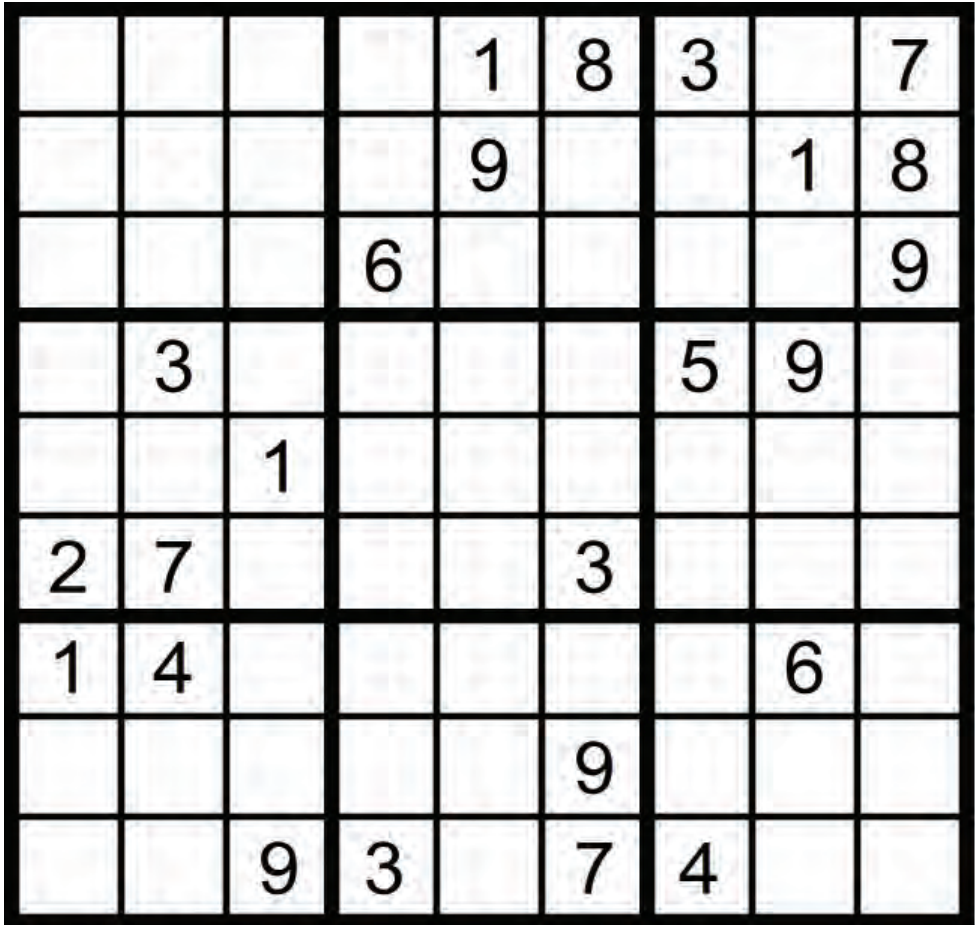
CROSSWORD



- Across:**
- 1 Butter units
 - 5 Au naturel
 - 9 Sea state 5
 - 14 Brusque
 - 15 "... --- slayeth the silly one" (Book of Job)
 - 16 Crackshot Oakley
 - 17 Speech of violent denunciation
 - 19 Bequeath
 - 20 Least happy
 - 21 Linked
 - 23 Egyptian sacred bird
 - 24 Jaunty rhythm
 - 25 What's coming down the pike
 - 28 Conniption
 - 30 Winter time in Halifax
 - 33 Turned Samoa upside down to find a terrorist
 - 34 Not very enthusiastic
 - 35 Cost-of-living indicator
 - 36 Hindrances
 - 37 Al ---, baseball's "Hebrew Hammer"
 - 38 Zachary Taylor was one
 - 39 Cowpoke's sweetheart
 - 40 Not so many
 - 41 Chessman
 - 42 Shout to a matador
 - 43 Foam at the mouth

- 44 Cowcatcher
 - 45 Cool, sartorially
 - 47 Scrabble piece
 - 48 Signs up
 - 51 Under close scrutiny
 - 55 Idiots
 - 56 State with a pelican flag
 - 58 Be relaxed
 - 59 Fine, black or liberal, maybe
 - 60 Federal anti-discrimination agency
 - 61 Deathly pale
 - 62 Synchronize
 - 63 Compos mentis
- Down:**
- 1 Mount for electronic components
 - 2 Experienced by migraine sufferers
 - 3 Stepped
 - 4 Play grounds
 - 5 Scottish legend
 - 6 Single things
 - 7 Movie medium
 - 8 Onlooker
 - 9 Came from behind
 - 10 "Paper Moon" Oscar winner
 - 11 Loose
 - 12 "Out with it!"

- 13 Observe
- 18 "Black Widow" lead --- Winger
- 22 The --- Marbles, from the Parthenon
- 25 Do without
- 26 Customary
- 27 Crumb catcher
- 28 Put back to zero, for example
- 29 Impressionist
- 31 Extra interest
- 32 Possessor of "fearful symmetry" (Blake)
- 34 Hall, crier, car or house, perhaps
- 37 Give feedback
- 38 Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
- 40 Shiver of excitement
- 41 Raw hides
- 44 Polish off, or polish?
- 46 Depend
- 47 Talks up
- 48 Scat queen
- 49 Those opposed
- 50 Taking all the tricks
- 52 UN body promoting peaceful nuclear power
- 53 In a little while
- 54 Spike
- 57 Such as cinnabar



OBITUARY

UNGER, PETER — Peter Unger aged 89 passed away peacefully on November 8, 2021 at St. Catharines General Hospital. Funeral Service will be held at Cornerstone Community Church Orchard campus on Friday November 12/21 at 11am with a private burial preceding the service. Visitation will be held at Tallman's Funeral Home in Vineland on Thursday November 11/21 from 6 to 8pm. Registration is required through Tallman's website. Peter was born in Aberdeen, Sask. At age 6, his family moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake. Peter remained a life-long resident of Niagara. He worked as a Stationary Engineer for 50 years. Peter was an avid hockey player, camper, tennis player, gardener and volunteer. He is survived by his wife Ruth, 3 children and their spouses. 9 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. If desired, memorial donations may be made to Gideon International Bible Society.

Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Sudoku solution from November 3, 2021

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

HELP WANTED

No Experience Needed

Seasonal farm workers needed from March 5, 2022 to September 25, 2022. Must enjoy working in an agricultural environment in all weather conditions. Must be available 7 days a week. Heavy lifting and ladder climbing will be required. Duties will include six (6) weeks of picking strawberries along with pruning, thinning and picking plums, peaches and nectarines. Pay is \$14.39 per hour and own transportation is a must. **Mail resume to Walter, Konik Farms, 1585 Concession 6, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0** Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

NOTICE

EARN EXTRA CASH

Sell your unwanted items or advertise your garage sale in our **CLASSIFIEDS**

To place your classified ad, contact Karen: **classifieds@notllocal.com**

Deadline: **Mondays at 3 p.m.**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Pats, 5 Nude, 9 Rough, 14 Curt, 15 Envy, 16 Annie, 17 Broadside, 19 Leave, 20 Sadder, 21 Related, 23 Ibis, 24 Lilt, 25 Future, 28 Rage, 30 A S T, 33 Osama, 34 Tepid, 35 C P I, 36 Rubs, 37 Rosen, 38 Whig, 39 Gal, 40 Fewer, 41 Piece, 42 Ole, 43 Rant, 44 Fender, 45 Chic, 47 Tile, 48 Enlists, 51 On trial, 55 Loons, 56 Louisiana, 58 Let go, 59 Arts, 60 E E O C, 61 Ashen, 62 Mesh, 63 Sane.

Down: 1 P C Bs, 2 Aura, 3 Trod, 4 Stadiums, 5 Nessie, 6 Units, 7 D V D, 8 Eyer, 9 Rallied, 10 O'Neal, 11 Unattached, 12 Give, 13 Heed, 18 Debra, 22 Elgin, 25 Forgo, 26 Usual, 27 Tablecloth, 28 Reset, 29 Ape, 31 Spice, 32 Tiger, 34 Town, 37 React, 38 Wineries, 40 Frisson, 41 Pelt, 44 Finish, 46 Hinge, 47 Touts, 48 Ella, 49 Noes, 50 Slam, 52 I A E A, 53 Anon, 54 Lace, 57 Ore.



LocalSPORTS

Teen headed to Spain for world darts championship

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

That age-old question of nature versus nurture rears its head when talking with teen Trey House about his success playing darts. The son of Matt House, current vice president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Darts League, has been around the game his entire life. For most

of his young life, though, it was little more than a diversion. He would often accompany his father to the basement and challenge him to hit specific targets on the family's dartboard. Soon, Trey was picking up the darts and hitting those same targets himself. About six years ago, he was asked if he wanted to participate in the Niagara Youth Dart League. He came out a winner

in one of his first matches, and he was hooked. A bonus for the young rookie was being able to hang out with his father. Another was the fact that his best friend from Carlton Public School at the time also joined, and they would throw in doubles competitions together. Now in Grade 9 at Governor Simcoe Secondary School, Trey, a St. Catharines resident,

has recently competed in the Championship Dart Circuit (CDC). His standing there has earned him a spot on Team Canada for the upcoming Junior Darts Corporation (JDC) Junior World Cup Championship in Gibraltar, Spain. He'll be one of four Canadians to compete against teams from around the world in both group and individual matches.

Trey has had many successes already on the darts circuit. He has competed all across the province, and at only 12 years old, he was named to the youth division for Team Ontario. He was scheduled to represent the province in Nova Scotia for the 2020 Canadian championships when the pandemic put an end to those plans.

Trey's mother, Lisa House, is blown away by her son's mastery of the game. "It's pretty amazing," she says. "He's phenomenal at it, he enjoys doing it. And it's taught him a lot about respect and sportsmanship. Trey's such a team player. I enjoy watching him play the game." Trey attributes his good arm to his practice regimen. He heads downstairs about four or five days a week for at least two hours per session. He sets his own challenges, running through 15 minutes of hitting

triple-20s and moving on to around-the-worlds. "That's all the doubles," explains Trey. "You can't move on until you hit all the doubles. You hit double-1, double-2, double-3, if you miss double-4, you stay there until you hit it, then you hit double-5, double-6, double-7." It's clear that the young athlete is disciplined and serious. On the phone, though, he likes to joke about his father, taking a few potshots at Matt throughout the conversation.

When asked if he and Matt spend a lot of time throwing together at home, Trey says, "he won't really play with me. He doesn't like losing to me."

On the subject of who will be travelling with him to Spain: "He's too scared to get on the plane," says Matt. "It's my mom who's going." He laughs, and admits that since Dad isn't home during the call, it's the ideal time to make fun of him.

Lisa enjoys the dynamic between father and son. "It's interesting," says Lisa. "They joke around, they play back and forth and they feed off of each other. Trey bought Matt some Jim Long (Canadian professional darts player) darts for his birthday, totally surprised him. The bond between the

both of them for the love of the game is phenomenal." The trip to Spain for Lisa and Trey will cost close to \$10,000, with that amount funded by the Team Canada members themselves. Trey's family and friends in the darts world have stepped up with donations. As well, his sponsor, Randy Moffat of Guelph specialty store Smurf Darts, is running an online fundraiser, selling spots in a raffle for a number of dart-related prizes. Trey's other sponsors — 180, L-Style and Dirty Jersey Darts — have also chipped in. In addition, the family has begun a GoFundMe campaign to help offset the costs as Trey heads out to represent his country. At press time, they had raised \$1,660 of their \$8,000 goal. He doesn't have a lot of time to prepare for the worlds. Trey and Lisa will be leaving for Spain next Thursday, giving them a chance to settle in before competition begins on Nov. 23. That nature versus nurture question — it really doesn't have a definitive answer in the case of Trey House. The assumption has to be that for this young man on the rise, it's a little bit of both. To contribute to the fundraising efforts, visit gofundme.com and search [treys house jdc](https://gofundme.com).



Matt House and his son Trey in the family basement, where they spend time together playing darts. (Photo supplied)

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE HOME EVALUATION



FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



RE/MAX NIAGARA
REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND
OPERATED

This market is wild and the average sale price of a Niagara-on-the-Lake home is now nearing \$1,200,000. If you want to know what your home is worth, call Greg now for a free evaluation.

GREG SYKES real estate TEAM



GARY DEMEO

DEBI CHEWERDA

GREG SYKES

MATT DI PALMA

CAMERON JONES