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 Queenston Heights monument, 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 received 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.”

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Continued on page 3

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 homage to the Indigenous veterans who fought for the country more than 200 years ago.

Dignitaries, family members and representatives from the Indigenous community gathered at the Brock Monument and the Queenston Heights Sky. The special Indigenous Education Initiative, “Landscape of Nations 360° Indigenous veterans recognized for contributions over centuries,” was confirmed. “There’s a dialogue here now, between the indigenous nation 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 throughout the War of 1812. Following the war, a historic treaty of peace and reconciliation was made at Queenston Heights and throughout the War of 1812.

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Continued on page 3

Tweed Farms closes

Penny Coles
The Local

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

Sean Webster of parent company Canopy Growth, who exposed himself with entire disregard to danger in order to see by the light of flares where the enemy were coming on. He received 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.”

Continued on page 3

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

Continued on page 3

Candlelight Stroll a go this year

Page 4
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.

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 whose homes border four Mile Creek. Local recently for those 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.

“There’s a lot of grass-roots work that’s been made,” 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.
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 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 Bi-centennial. Speaking without notes, the now retired Dale outlined six Indigenous nations to both World Wars, as well as the Boer War, Korean War and the mission in Afghanistan.

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.

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 war.”

As the only Indigenous student in his class, Starks valued his teacher for the lessons 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 Ebene Burnett, a Metis 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 Doxtator, 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 Balderson, 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 dropping 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.”

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, hav- ing 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.
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 Agricultural Workers Welcome Package, which provides safety vests and other basics for temporary agricultural workers.

Last year, the stroll included a limited ceremony pre-recorded from the Court House steps, broadcast 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)
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 advocating for heritage preservation of all four properties, is notchting 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 intent 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 reimburse 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 speculate 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 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 historic importance 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 and 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 support 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.
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 to determine if there are issues that need to be addressed. 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 parties have been mentioned, but it’s just guesswork at this point.

This is what we have learned. Of the four candidates mentioned for Mayor, only one is saying she will definitely be on the ballot. That’s Lord Mayor Betty Diserens, 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 call. 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 says now she hasn’t given a thought to another stab at municipal politics. She did, however, close with “never say never.”

Former councillor Flynn was the fourth mayoral candidate mentioned, which is where she will run for Mayor. She’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 ambitions. He’s seeking the provincial Liberal nomination for the election that is anticipated to be held in the next June, unless Drea 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. Wël Grey of the CRTC had nothing but those questions, and even more, wël to 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, safely precautions in place.

There was a brief mention of its 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 wondered why a Candlelight Stroll, but no Christmas Parade, CAF Marine Glace 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, with 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
the Predators will be playing 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 Welland, Tillsonburg, 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. 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 retirees only.

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 humming houses being taxed to the limit. Our taxes will all go 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 or 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.

Sandy Gordon Schulz
(an old retired person)

NOTL

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 pumpkins 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 McDonald House. Thanks for your support.

Brook, Reid, Steve and Peg Watson

My kids have been out of hockey for a number of years. But other kids are still in there, as COVID restraints 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 coffee, watched the games, yelled and screamed, boosed 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 playing...”
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 more than just another canine control officer, 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 this 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 to act,” and Reid should check out the town’s website. There he found the request for proposal (RFP) for animal control services, which is addressed. Mr. Reid has provided a valuable service, and will do it month-to-month, or until a one-year contract. Ob-viously 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 said.

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.

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

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

411 VICTORIA STREET
$2,995,000
MLS 40110104 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderpark

33 LOUISA STREET
$550,000
MLS 40170323 • Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia

223 JOHN STREET
$1,295,000
MLS 40184647 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

284 DORCHESTER STREET
$3,349,000
MLS 40189491 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

8 LUCIA COURT
$1,395,000
MLS 40179957 • Victoria Bodas and Sarah Gleddie

LOT 17 MAPLEVIEW CRESCENT
$199,900
MLS 40171853 • Randall Armstrong

330 JOHN STREET WEST
$1,229,000
MLS 40169800 • Jane Elltoft

4644 PETTIE AVENUE #209
$791,900
MLS 40110298 • Randall Armstrong

298 FOUR MILE CREEK
$1,450,000
MLS 40169744 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

23 FOUR MILE CREEK RD UNIT #430
$295,000
MLS 40170297 • Cheryl Carmichael and Randy Armstrong

1361 LINE 1 RD
$1,685,000
MLS 40185469 • Nicole Vanderpark and Christopher Bowron

55 PRIDEAUX STREET
$2,348,000
MLS 40161034 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

14554 NIAGARA RIVER PARKWAY
$2,195,000
MLS 40179263 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderpark

94 PRIDEAUX STREET
$2,695,000
MLS 40166412 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

1433 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
$769,000
MLS 40163954 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

5395 HURON STREET
$650,000
MLS 40164681 • Jane Elltoft and Thomas Elltoft

670 KING STREET
$1,950,000
MLS 40160700 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

94 PRIDEAUX STREET
$2,399,000
MLS 40166412 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

1433 NIAGARA STONE ROAD
$1,295,000
MLS 40161253 • Thomas Elltoft and Weston Miller

20 CIRCLE STREET
$850,000
MLS 40159131 • Cheryl Carmichael

513 GATE STREET LOT
$1,100,000
MLS 40140911 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

240 NASSAU STREET LOT
$2,395,000
MLS 40150659 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

177 KING STREET
$3,898,000
MLS 40140872 • Thomas Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

615 SIMCOE STREET
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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-Cats 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 stepped on Mark Cherry of Niagara-on-the-Lake, knows the real story.

“He was a character who just knew how to build on that persona,” Cherney laughs. “He 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 certainly the most legendary to ever wear a Tiger-Cats uniform.

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

Helen Cherney and Angelo Mosca

Angelo Mosca with Mark Cherney. (Photos supplied)

on the Lions’ Willie Fleming 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.

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

Helen Cherney and Angelo Mosca

Angelo Mosca with Mark Cherney. (Photos supplied)

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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 canes that was involved, and it brought in $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 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 90th round, 350th overall, by the following year by the NFL’s Philadelphia Eagles.

Cherney has seen the letter from big Ang in the Eagles, and he sees 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, Angela 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.
WINERY FOUNDER HERBERT KONZELMANN LIVED A LIFE HE LOVED

Winery founder Herbert Konzelmann lived a life he loved and would have wanted to be remembered for. He was a man of great passion and dedication to his work, family, and the industry he loved.

Herbert Konzelmann, founder of Konzelmann Estate Winery, died Friday at the age of 84. He was a man of great passion and dedication to his work, family, and the industry he loved. He was a pioneer in the Niagara wine industry and had a unique story to share. “It's one of the reasons I've always looked up to him — he had such a strong work ethic,” said his daughter Claudia.”

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

Herbert Konzelmann had over 35 years of industry recognition, and Konzelmann Estate Winery had already been named one of the top 100 in the world. He was a man of multiple passions, and his commitment to the wine industry was unparalleled.

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

“Herbert Konzelmann, whose legacy will forever be greatly missed,” said a release from the winery on his passing. “He left a huge void and will be truly missed. Herzogtum was on the vineyard’s industry. He was a man of faith and dedication of his father-in-law. He was a devoted husband to wife Gudrun of 57 years, and the unconventional love and the unconventional love he spread to everyone he met. He was a devot...”

He was a man of faith and dedication of his father-in-law. He was a devoted husband to wife Gudrun of 57 years, and the unconventional love and the unconventional love he spread to everyone he met. He was a devo...
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 livelihood 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’ve, 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 Toronto-based blues-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 new 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 residencies.

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

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 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 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.

“T’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 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.
Jazz pianist Robi Botos (Photo supplied)

**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! 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 Swing on their two-CD refugee project.

"It’s always a pleasure to see Chris (McKee, 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
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.

Botos to play with trio, special guest vocalist

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 searching 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.

“Tt’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 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 musician. 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 bravo niagara.org.
Kim Wade  
Special to The Local

Explore Niagara railway history with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s next installment of their Virtual Lecture Series presented by local author Peter Mulcaster. This 1854 to 1959 history seemed to have been almost forgotten, and information that were supplied to him by the Canadian Railroad Historical Association - Niagara Division, 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-economic 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: www.aklassen@nhsm, or call 905-468-3912.
Yellow Door student earns role in Shaw’s Holiday Inn

By Penny Coles

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 tradition-

al Christmas story of Jim, who quits showbiz and the bright lights of New York City for a quiet Connecti-
cut farmhouse. There, he meets Linda, a tap-danc-
ing schoolteacher who has never forgotten her stage dreams, and together they turn the profit-losing farm-

house into a spectacular show 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 re-

hearsal 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 rehears-
ings, 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 tick-

ets available for previews beginning this Sunday, Nov. 14.

For tickets visit https://

www.shawfest.com/

whats-on-tickets/#list

Hansel & Gretel features local kids at FirstOntario

By Penny Coles

Hansel & Gretel, an original musical, written by Lezlie Wade and Scott Christi-

an, and starring young performers from the Yellow Door Theatre Project fall performance company, will be present-
ed at the FirstOntario Per-

forming Arts Centre next week. Hansel & Gretel explores the significance of friendship and the resi-

liency of young people when faced with adversity. The play is set in a mythi-

cal place where antagonis-
tic witches (there are good witches and bad witches) need the youthful exuber-

ance of children to stay

young and beautiful. In

time they learn that beau-
ty is as beauty does. The

play is suitable for ages six and up.

Why fairy tales? There is a reason they have en-

dured for hundreds of years. They teach children how to handle moral di-

temmas 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 re-

mains that perseverance will win out in the end. This is an excellent re-

minder 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 char-

acters that Lezlie wrote are so funny. Scott wrote amazing music for this show and the tunes are re-

ally catchy. Hansel & Gre-

tel 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.

Prefering for their Hansel & Gretel performances are Hannah Evans, Hannah Baran, Kevin Etherington, Catherine Dubois, Emily Fulton, Julia King and Mariah Radkal. (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 welcoming 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 specifically 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 respite 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 resilience 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.
**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, Sinners and Rubble, 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 Willoawan.

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 380,000 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.

Ernest 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 grave stones 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 project. 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.
St. Davids Lioness revive Holiday Market

Penny Coles
The Local

After having to skip a year, the St. Davids Lioness are looking forward to holding their traditional Holiday Market event. It has to be scaled back, says Lioness Diane Pewer, to allow for physical distancing, and masks are required, although they won’t be asking for proof of vaccinations.

This year, there will be no refreshments offered. But there will be some great price draws, including helicopter rides, Sentinel caravans, and masks are required to allow for physical distancing.

The market is this Saturday, Nov. 13 in the Gerry Wool Room, an annual car show, St. Davids Lions carnival events, and a food drive. ‘As events open up from COVID restrictions, Pewer says, ‘we hope to become more active in fundraisers so that St. Davids Lioness can help give money back to the community, desperately in need of funding.’ Organizations they support are Project Share, Newark Neighbours, Wellington, CNIB Lake Joe camp for those with sight loss, Camp Trillium, a nonprofit oncology camp supporting kids and families affected by childhood cancer, Lions Foundation of Canada Vision, Hearing and Special Skills Dog Guides, and other local organizations.

The Lioness, celebrating their 44th year, are also hoping to sign up some new members. Applications are being accepted for prospective members. Anyone looking for more information can call Joanne at 905-282-4849.

Penny Coles
The Local

Virgil doctors of the Niagara North Family Health Team are holding a drive-thru flu clinic on Friday, Nov. 12 and Saturday, Nov. 13 in the community centre parking lot.

Executive director Mary Keith stresses it is only for patients of Drs. Dirgham Al-Jarrah, Tim Bastedo, Steve Durocher, Abby Mahdy, Ronan O’Leary, Luigi Ricciardi and Francois Viviens. Appointments must be made ahead of time, either through the patient portal or by phone, at 905-468-3275, ext. 0.

Doctors in the former hospital building are holding afternoon clinics in the Gerry Wool Room, and appointments are required.

Patients should not attend the drive-thru clinic if they are feeling unwell, or have had previous reactions to the flu shot.

They are asked to download a consent form, fill it out to take to the appointment, and wear a mask.

Family Health Team offers drive-thru flu clinic

Grace United volunteers ready for Christmas Market

Susan Brady, Gail Data, Lori Moerschfelder, Valerie Webb, Bonnie Vriens, Karen Hart and Carol Gorman have been busy helping organize the Christmas Market at Grace United, which has been split up over the next two weekends to allow safety in the hall, with COVID-19 protocols in place. The Christmas Basket Extravaganza on Saturday, Nov. 13 features beautiful gift baskets plus homemade items, jams and preserves. The following Saturday, Nov. 20, offers Christmas baking, jams and preserves, tourtières, unique gift items, toys, antique china, vintage items and more. The market at Grace United Church on Victoria Street runs both days from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (David Gichri)

Gift boxes support local merchants

Local merchants still need support this Christmas as they emerge from pandemic restrictions, and The Shaw Guild gift boxes were such a success they are repeated. They will include items from 14 stores, for $125, returning net proceeds to participating stores. Guild elves are busy collecting, packaging and delivering the boxes for delivery on Dec. 10. The last day for orders is Nov. 13. The 2020 Christmas Box (above and left) was a new adventure for the Shaw Guild – a project to raise money for local merchants. In late October, guild members headed out on a shopping spree to identify contents in the $5 to $10 range, that represented the quality products available in the community. The box contained 12 items. Customer response was overwhelming, especially when they opened their ‘surprise’ package. To place an order, visit https://www.shawguild.ca/community

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November 10, 2021

THE NOTL LOCAL

Penny Coles
The Local

The Lioness Holiday Market had to skip a year, but the bake sale and other events returns this year. Lioness Joanne Bryskak and Connie Vennert will be back with the bake sale. (Photo supplied)
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.

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 season to ensure everyone can be kept safe, especially for the young 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 young skaters 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 vaccines, 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 competition.”

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 it’s important for them to also feel 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 normal. The kids are seeing each other again, and it’s important for them to 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 www.notlskatingclub.com.
Local realtor supporting 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 due to the recent additions of 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 see between four and seven players from what we have had.”

The return of Baillie and Lee, along with recent additions such as Pontus Madson, Maxwell Bredin, Henri-Pierre Jaret 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 lineup 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 furthest.”

Another newcomer, Port Colborne native Noah Capreronz, 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 Real Estate.

“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 and travel, and I helped them find some places for the out-of-town players to live.”

When Perrie discovered that Capreronz 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. “We want him to learn the game well. 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 Capreronz brings to the team. The right-hand 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 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 thee 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, “so get the team more exposure. To use my connections to help with funding and bring real 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 charity 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 Platts ville 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 Sun day matinee at the Meridian Credit Union arena. Game time Sunday is 3 p.m.
CROSSWORD

Across:
1. Butter units
5. Au naturel
9. Sea state 5
14. Brusque
15…-- slayeth the silly one (block ofJob)
16. Crackpot Oakley
17. Speak 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. Commotion
30. Winter time inHalifax
33. Turned Simons 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

Down:
1. Mount for electr.
2. Experienced by migraine suffers
3. Stepped
4. Pay 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. Obscene
14. “Black Widow” lead
15. The…–Marbles, from the Parthenon
16. Do without
17. Customary
18. Crab catcher
19. Put back to zero, for example
20. Impressionist
21. Extra interest
22. Possessor of “I hearth symmetry” (Blake)
23. Hall, crier
24. “Black Widow” lead
25. Polish
26. “Out with it!”
27. Loose
28. “Out with it!”
29. Movie medium
30. Pay grounds
31. Polish
32. Polish
33. Polish
34. Polish
35. Polish
36. Polish
37. Polish
38. Polish
39. Polish
40. Polish

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Sudoku solution from November 3, 2021

3 5 1
2 7 6
9 4 8

1 8 9
6 3 5
4 7 2

5 6 4
3 9 2
7 8 1

8 2 6
9 5 4
1 7 3

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 Tuesday 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

OCCUPATION

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

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Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.
Teen headed to Spain for world darts championship

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 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 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. They 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 Moffett of Guelfh 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 trey house jdc.