New revenues a challenge for sustainable budget

Penny Coles
The Local

The 2020 budget will be a challenge, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero, likely the most difficult one for years to come. It’s a budget that may change the way the Town collects revenue, as council considers moving to a more user-pay system.

And to ensure it reflects as much as possible the priorities of taxpayers, there is an extra push to give residents a voice, to be sure their priorities are understood. “A lot of taxpayers have concerns about how their money is spent, but they don’t have an avenue to find the answers,” says Disero.

“Last year, when we had a public meeting at the start of the budget process in January, not a lot of people came out. We’re hoping, through Join the Conversation, they’ll be more likely to ask their questions from the comfort of their home.”

There is a survey online designed to discover what residents want in the way of service delivery, and also a section for residents to use to ask questions about the budget, with an answer guaranteed in two business days.

The response in the first few days was good, Disero says. “People seem to be happy to be asked their thoughts.”

When the newly-elected council began budget discussions for 2019, members were a little overwhelmed learning about the budget process and the issues that needed to be addressed — short-term and long-term rentals, the noise bylaw and cannabis were all concerns of residents.

“If we’re going to build the community in a way that keeps the community together, we need to put money into those issues,” says Disero.

Hiring bylaw officers and giving them the resources they need would cost about $300,000, but are taxpayers going to be happy to fund that, she asks.

“We’ve had a year to learn, a year to get feedback. Now we really have to give resources to those issues, but how do we get those resources? From taxpayers, or should we be looking at a user-pay system?”

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a town of about 17,500 people, but many of the issues are a result of the 2.5 million tourists who visit each year, Disero points out.

Parking revenue has been counted on to fund tourism-related issues in the past, but parking revenue isn’t enough to cover the rising costs.

“Every year there is a new group, a new festival or event, asking for support...
Penny Coles  
The Local

Regional Councillor Gary Zalepa presented council with a new option for public transportation that could be an attractive solution for residents not on a current shuttle route.

The Region is working on a program to provide on-demand transit, which “presents exciting opportunities” for municipalities such as Niagara-on-the-Lake, with its lightly-populated areas that make fixed transit routes a challenge, he said.

The Region has been offering inter-municipal transit for several years, with a goal of offering seamless transit throughout the region, Zalepa said. This will take that a giant step forward, and it’s “where we could be very soon.”

Partnering with a private company contracted to the Region could provide complete area coverage, as easy as hailing a vehicle on a mobile device for pick-up at your door within an hour.

With a six-passenger vehicle, “there may be a few folks in between,” he said.

The intention with the regional project is that it would take passengers to a transit hub, but in NOTL residents could go “from point to point, from St. Daveids to Queenston, and get to wherever they need to go.”

It’s a model that is being used in more than 80 locations around the world, Zalepa said, and data shows ridership on public transit increases, and time of arrivals and cost decreases.

He cited two places in Canada, Sault Ste. Marie in Ontario and Longueuil in Quebec, which have adopted the system, “with some pretty spectacular results.”

There could be vehicles of different sizes for different demands, he said, but the one the Region is considering is a six-passenger accessible vehicle.

While the cost has not been worked out, the passenger would pay a fare, with cost-sharing by the municipality, Zalepa said.

Councillors agreed to ask Town staff to work with Regional staff on an implementation plan to bring back to council.

Exciting opportunity’ for on-demand local transit

Soup’s on

Lori Sawatzky serves up borscht soup to hungry locals at Bethany Mennonite Church Saturday, at a lunch and bazaar. (Fred Mercnik)

Increased licensing fees one option to consider

Continued from page 1

from the Town. It’s difficult to say no, but where is the money coming from?

We literally give up the Old Town to tourists every summer. Should the tourists help with the cost of upkeep for the Old Town?”

Revenue alternatives include looking at licensing fees and a Municipal Accommodation Tax.

By December, a report is expected on an accommodation tax, in time to be part of 2020 budget discussions. Disero says, “Revenue alternatives such as what residents and business owners may also be a part of the 2020 budget discussions. In 2019, a new council had a short amount of time to digest the budget proposal, hear and discuss all the applicants for discretionary grants, and make their decisions on a budget that would get them through the year while they developed their strategic direction for the next few years, says Disero.

Council is now working on a sustainable budget to deliver the services “you want and need for years to come,” and is committed to ensuring tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively, and keep property taxes as low as possible, she says, however as the town grows, “this proves to be no easy task,” Disero says in the video.

Staff has been asked to take the base budget, including increases for staff and prepare business cases for any new item being proposed.

“This year is probably one of the most difficult budget challenges we have had for many years and are going to have for years to come. We’re dealing with challenges we’ve never had before. We will come through this on the other side, though, knowing the budget will be sustainable and that we won’t have to struggle like this in the future.”
Town approves extra funding for nursery school expansion

Penny Coles
The Local

Following deputations from two parents about the need for more daycare spaces in town, council has approved spending an extra $83,200 on the daycare addition beside the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.

Community Care collecting clothing

Local Staff

The Town has put bins out to collect gently-used winter clothing.

Community Care is asking you to check your closets for gently used winter clothing, and drop them off at the Town Hall or the Community Centre. The bins are accessible at Town Hall weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and at the Community Centre Monday to Friday 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Originally the collection was set to end Nov. 14, but has been extended to Thursday, Nov. 21.

An Emterra garbage truck was prevented from continuing its route Monday when slippery roads caused another truck to plow into the rear of it on East and West Line at about 1:30 p.m. Jim Dowling watched a firetruck and Niagara Regional Police arrive, as well as a supervisor from Emterra, and snapped this photo for The Local.

Caroline Cellars Winery

Tasting Bar
& Wine Boutique
Open 10 am to 6 pm Daily

The Farmhouse Café
Open for Lunch Daily
11:30 to 4 Monday to Friday
11:30 to 5 Saturday & Sunday

Bring this ad in for a 10% Lunch Discount
Valid Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in November

The Farmhouse Café

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.Carolincellars.com

More garbage issues

An Emterra garbage truck was prevented from continuing its route Monday when slippery roads caused another truck to plow into the rear of it on East and West Line at about 1:30 p.m. Jim Dowling watched a firetruck and Niagara Regional Police arrive, as well as a supervisor from Emterra, and snapped this photo for The Local.
The second phase of the Region's Glendale plan, to create a community that will develop over the next 20 years or so, includes a public meeting, before the plan is finalized.

Phase 1, which was presented to the Town at a council meeting in September 2018, was the visioning stage, says Glendale resident Steve Hardaker. One of four residents invited to be part of a focus group looking at the details of the plan, including land use policies. Hardaker attended the third and final meeting of the second phase, which began about a year ago. Next week the public meeting will be held in preparation for the completion of that stage.

In addition to the residents, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, Coun. Gary Zalepa, regional and town planning staff, Glendale businesses, Niagara College, and developers who own land in Glendale were included in the focus group, which commented on strategic planning that will help build a neighbourhood from the ground up, says Hardaker.

Details in this phase will include urban design, commercial land needs and transportation on “400 hectares of developable land, with some low density, but more medium and higher density, and mixed land uses. There will be an influx of a lot of people into this community over the next 20 years, and we have to make sure we get the mix right, and the heights right.”

One of the most important decisions to be made, in respect to the impact on residents of Glendale and elsewhere in town, is the height limits for new development, which will become part of the Region’s Official Plan and the Town’s second-ary plan for Glendale.

While the Region is looking at three to eight storeys for some areas, Hardaker, and Lord Mayor Betty Disero, said they would be more comfortable with three to five storeys, both to preserve views and streetscapes in Glendale, and to discourage expectations for increased height to creep into other neighbourhoods. “It’s important to get the density right,” says Hardaker. “We want to keep the views of the escarpment. I think it’s important for the community to have a say, and to make sure the Region gets it right.”

Disero is concerned about the density along what is for now being called the main street, leading from Glendale Avenue, across from the Niagara-on-the-Green homes, to the outdoor mall. Emphasis on the plan are commercial uses at street level, with apartments above. “I think they should be limited to three to five storeys, not three to eight,” says Disero.

“With five storeys, you can look up and see the sky, and the buildings don’t create a wind tunnel. It has a much more quaint feeling, more like the streets of Europe. I think the maximum they should build to is five storeys.”

Eight storeys give a completely different look and feel to a street, says Disero, but also of concern to her is the lack of information at this point about what density is required. “I’d like more information on the numbers, to understand what our target is and what we need to get to.”

While Disero says the Region has done a good job on the overall plan, she also has a concern about the community hub designated for the corner of Glendale Avenue and Taylor Road. The plan for this particular parcel of land includes commercial uses that she doesn’t see as being compatible — a school, a community centre, a park with playground, and a transportation centre for buses, including GO buses, as well as a parking lot.

“I think we have to look at other locations for some of these land uses,” she says. Although the neighbourhood growth will be great, the need for a school may not be that far off, says Hardaker.

“When I look at my neighbourhood, I see two or three school buses coming in and out of it. Our neighbourhood is transforming, with more young families, and it will continue to grow. We have to take into consideration the size of residential units, including homes for singles and families, and also affordable housing has to be considered.”

As the population grows, so will the amenities not lacking in Glendale, such as a grocery store, he says. Also included in the discussion of transportation is the future possibility of a GO station, says Hardaker, somewhere along the tracks.

Two locations that have been mentioned are near Woodend Conservation Area on Taylor Road, and by the canal.

Much of the future development of the area, and the timeframe for development, depends on the population growth, that target that is hard to pin down.

Hardaker says he’s heard numbers such as a 10,000 increase in population for Glendale, and other figures that say 13,000 to 15,000, in the next 20 to 50 years, in a town that is currently less than 18,000, spread over five distinct communities. “I may not see that, but it’s exciting to think about. We’re planning a community of 400 hectares of land, a development of a complete community from the ground up. That’s what makes this whole process so exciting.”

The final public information meeting before the plan is finalized will be held Nov. 20 at the Holiday Inn Express on York Road, at 6 p.m.
Nobody likes to get sick! We can all agree on that! There are a few things we can do naturally to boost our immune system to help prevent colds and flu.

**VITAMIN D3 (cholecalciferol)** is known as the “sunshine vitamin” because it is easily synthesized by the body when the sun’s UVB rays strike the skin. Vitamin D helps with the absorption of calcium and phosphorus to keep bones and teeth strong and protect against disease. Sufficient levels of Vitamin D reduce our risk of infectious disease by strengthening our innate immune system. Vitamin D turns on key peptides in our immune system that trigger a strong antimicrobial response, allowing us to quickly and effectively fight off invaders before they can develop into a full-blown infection.

**PROBIOTICS** may help boost our immune system, nerves, muscles, brain, and help keep our heart and bones strong. Magnesium is incredibly important for many functions in the body, involved in more than 350 reactions used by the body. Vascular calcification can develop if magnesium levels are not adequate. Magnesium is commonly depleted, there will not be enough friendly bacteria on the job to keep us healthy, leading to issues like viral, bacterial, and yeast infections. Lifestyle choices can throw the balance off, such as poor diet, stress, lack of sleep and an overdose of antibiotics, all can tip the scales and let bad bacteria take over. Good bacteria patrol the gut (gastrointestinal tract) and keep harmful microorganisms in line by helping with food digestion and nutrient absorption, maintaining a healthy immune system and synthesizing vitamins and minerals.

**HAVING A DIET RICH IN VEGETABLES, FIBER, PROTEIN AND SOME FRUITS** while keeping the sugary and highly processed foods consumption low, is ideal to maintain our immune system strong. Just a small amount of sugar can significantly interfere with our ability to kill bacteria for up to 5 hours. Our immunity can be 40% less effective at killing germs after consuming sugary foods. Lastly, GETTING THE YEARLY FLU SHOT AND WASHING OUR HANDS FREQUENTLY can prevent us from getting the flu.

If you need help beating the bug during this season, come talk to us in store.
The offer that Regional Councillor Gary Zalepa brought to council to increase public transit seems tailor-made for Niagara-on-the-Lake residents. It’s no wonder he was excited about the opportunity.

Those who rely on public transportation but don’t live on the current shuttle bus routes, which are very limited, are now out of luck. Their only option is to get to the community centre or one of the bus stops on the route, and that’s not reasonable to expect in a municipality as spread out geographically as this one. It makes sense that if there is an on-demand service that could connect to bus routes, especially to an inter-municipal route, ridership would increase.

It sounds almost too easy — kind of like Uber, and other similar taxi services, which are super-convenient. But also not cheap to use.

The advantage with this system, at least for cost-savings, would be if there is a possibility of car-pooling, so six-passenger vans are not going out with one rider.

It’s great that council agreed to have staff look at this — it could be a life-line for seniors contemplating leaving their rural or village homes due to lack of transportation. It would certainly provide the independence that seniors hold so dear. We hope it comes at an affordable cost.

Penny Coles
The Local

Incredible kindness in our community

No doubt many of you have read the front page of the Oct. 17 issue of this newspaper. The story, written by Penny Coles, was about my amazing wife Diane and her battle with end stage liver disease. The story has been met by our community with unimaginable kindness and support. More than 1,200 people have visited the website www.donordiane.com and 68 people have connected to the living donations link.

Our family first embarked upon the living donation journey when we discovered that Diane would have to become much sicker, perhaps near death, to qualify for a deceased donor transplant. There are far too few donor livers for those with end stage liver disease. When the liver transplant group at the University Health Network (UHN) first made us aware of their living donation program, I naively thought it would be a battle and perhaps selfish pursuit. With all our family members ineligible to donate, I thought, how could we possibly ask a perfect stranger to donate part of their largest internal organ?

The kindness from the NOTL community and beyond has proven me wrong. It has become clear how infectious human kindness can be. We are optimistic a donor may already be under evaluation and others may be waiting. (To ensure confidentiality the UHN Liver Transplant Program does not share potential donor information.)

As it turns out, a single donation could result in saving multiple lives. A life-saving space on the deceased donor waiting list is freed and the awareness of living donation that the community, Penny and The Local have created will almost certainly help save more lives. In addition, there are lives that are enhanced by living donations. In our case, we have two daughters (one in NOTL) and their families and Diane has three sisters (two in NOTL), and their families. Diane is incredibly close to our daughters, her siblings and their families, all of whose lives will be further enhanced by Diane living a long, healthy life. Most of all, our granddaughter Olivia (and any future grandchild) will have the benefit of their beloved Mimi to share in their upbringing and care.

Penny Coles, the editor of this newspaper, was the antithesis of the reporters we have all seen in movies who abandon all morality to “get the story.” Throughout the interview with our family, she was kind and understanding, yet thorough and highly professional. At the conclusion of the interview, she asked if she could hug all of us. Her compassion was palpable. I sincerely believe Penny’s story will play a key role in saving Diane’s life.

Diane and I have lived in several communities over our lifetimes, but none can compare to the kindness, generosity and happiness we have experienced here. Of course there is much to be improved in our community, but kindness, empathy and understanding are a great way to start.

Thank you all,

Michael Peirce
NOTL

Bravery in battle

Benjamin Handley 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. 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 the light of flares where the enemy were coming on. He was severely wounded, losing the sight of one eye, and the other was seriously impaired. He retired from the army in 1919 with the rank of captain, and took Holy Orders. In 1927, he emigrated to Canada, and during the Second World War served with the Canadian Army as a Major. After the war, he was Sergeant-at-Arms in the Ontario Legislature for 24 years, returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1972, where he became an active member of St. Mark’s Anglican Church.
Newark Neighbours helps kids around the region

Suzanne Vaillant
Special to The Local

Newark Neighbours is expanding its mandate to help children in need in our community through a donation to Food4Kids Niagara.

The organization works with Catholic and the public school boards to identify children from Kindergarten to Grade 8 who do not receive the required access to food.

Newark Neighbours donated a cheque for $3,000 recently to help towards putting together Christmas stockings which will have treats, hot chocolate and gingerbread cookies, as well as a toothbrush, socks and mittens.

Laura Gibson, chair of Newark Neighbours, is happy we are able to reach out further in the Niagara community to provide a bit extra for our children in need.

Suzanne Vaillant, Newark Neighbour’s vice-chair, Jonathan Charron, Food4Kids treasurer, Newark chair Laura Gibson and executive director Food4Kids Niagara, Amber Hughes celebrate a donation to help kids at Christmas. (Photo Supplied)

Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

This week is a look at the week of the third Quarter Moon on Nov. 19 and at Mercury turning direct from retrograde motion on Wednesday Nov. 20, and more.

Thursday Nov. 14: The Moon is moving through the constellation of Gemini, bringing a quick stepping and light emotional tone to a day where stress and challenges abound and where Venus in the constellation Sagittarius is bumping square into Neptune in her home sign of Pisces, much like a T-bone car accident at an intersection. This may be more impactful for Sagitarians and Pisceans but for everyone it puts values and relationships against imagination and dreams for the future. On this day in 1993, Don Shula, Coach of the Miami Dolphins, became the winningest coach in NFL history with 328. The record stands to this day.

And French Master paint- er, Claude Monet, was born Nov. 14, 1840.

Friday Nov. 15: The Moon moves from the constellation Gemini into her home group of Cancer at 11:14 in the morning. Breezy emotions turn more sensitive and protective. With a favourable connection to Uranus in Taurus early in the evening, a surprise for everyone may be especially good for both Taureans and Cancerians. The hugely successful film, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, opened on Nov. 15, 1977. TV star Ed Asner, who also voiced the old man in the animated film UP, is 90 today.

Saturday Nov. 16: With the Moon in her home sign of Cancer in opposition to Saturn in its home sign of Capricorn, this is a day of challenges. Facts cannot be changed. But we face either too sensitive a response or sensitive to the point of overcoming a situation that refuses to budge. Saturday is a day where we have nothing to fear but fear itself. It was on Nov. 16, 1896 that Nikola Tesla flipped the switch in Niagara Falls to begin sending AC electricity to Bethlehem Steel in Buffalo, New York. Tours of the Hydro Station have been underway in the past few weeks. Both Maggie Gyllenhaal and Ok- sana Baiul turn 42 today.

Sunday Nov. 17: The Moon leaves its transit of Cancer today and moves on to the constellation Leo late this afternoon. So a sensitive Sunday turns passionate to- night. And stresses that have lingered all day may enjoy a surprise turn of events this evening as the Moon bumps into Uranus for better or worse. Be ready for a surprise and you will fare bet- ter. Baseball Hall of Famer, Tom “Terrific” Seaver, turns 75, and the computer mouse was patented Nov. 17, 1970.

Monday Nov. 18: Retro- grade Mercury still in the constellation Scorpio has a lot going on today with con- nections to Jupiter and the Moon. Big ideas may leave you feeling insecure. A lack of confidence emotionally doesn’t help much either. If possible, hang in for a few days because Mercury turns direct on Wednesday. CFI and NFL Hall of Famer, Warren Moon is 63 today and we were first treated to The Blues Brothers on Sat- urday, April 22, 1978.

Tuesday Nov. 19: The third Quarter Moon in Leo is at 4:10 p.m., suggest- ing a day where passionate emotions are challenging passionate situations or pas- sionate people and events. The Moon winds up her tour through Leo for this month today and moves into discriminating Virgo tonight. Mars moves from airy Libra into sexy Scorpio early in the morning, setting up a month of more intense physical intensity. The Moon makes a couple of very pos- sitive connections, first with Venus and then Jupiter, both in Sagittarius. Perhaps this will take the sting out of the Quarter Moon for now. Ac- press Meg Ryan turns 58 and Jodie Foster is 57 today.

Wednesday Nov. 20: At long last, Mercury is no lon- ger retrograde beginning at 2:11 p.m. Communications begin to improve. Lost ob- jects reappear. Computers and cell phones stop hav- ing glitches. It begins to seem better. And with the Moon and Mercury making a friendly connection after Mercury goes direct, it will feel like helping hands are on deck. Check out my website for an explanation of why planets go retrograde from time to time. U.S. vice-pres- ident, Joe Biden, celebrates number 77 today. And the astronomer they named a telescope after, Edwin Hubble, was born Nov. 20, 1889.

Next week we look into the sky as the Sun moves from sexy Scorpio into all-knowing Sagittarius. We also get a New Moon in Sag- itarius on Tuesday, Nov. 26. It’s all new with a new pod- cast featuring the connections between the planets, the astrological signs and the houses of your horo- scope. As well as the cosmic news for all seven days of the week.

We are all stardust. So shine on!

Bill Auchterlonie lives in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He studied Fine Arts at Univer- sity where he became curi- ous about arcane knowledge, such as the Egyptian Pyra- mids, Stonehenge, the Mayan temples of Mexico – and as- trology. He has been studying astrology, learning as much as possible about classical as- trology and its history. Every week he presents a look at what is going on in the solar system for the week ahead, and on his website, five to 10 minutes on some aspect of what he has discovered about astrology over the years. On his website you’ll find a podcast with an explanation of the names of the days of the week and how they are de- rived from the names of the planets as well as a few other bits of astro-trivia. The web- site is lookingupwithbill.com.
Dave Wall was most proud of his community accomplishments

November 14, 2019

The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake has lost a husband, father, grandfa-
ther, businessman and dedicated volunteer — a man without whom this community would not be what it is today.

Dave Wall died at the Niga-
ra Falls hospital site Nov. 2, after a short illness, at the age of 91.

Wall, husband of Helen and father of Sharon and Rich-
ard, was one of the original six members of what was then called the Virgil Businessmen's Association. He was also one of the founders of the Virgil Stam-
pede, which has donated more than $1 million to community projects, the founder of Wall's of Virgil, and a successful busi-
essman who built a furniture store that competed with na-
tional chains for 60 years.

Dave lived a full, healthy life almost to the end, says Richard, who says he and his family have had the opportunity in the days leading up to last week's funeral to share many family memories.

A meeting was held in Manit-
oba in 1927. The family moved to Niagara in 1926, where his father worked as a farmhand. It wasn't an easy life, at the age of 12, Dave lost his father. An insurance policy allowed him to purchase a small farm, which he worked on with his older brother as well as going to school, and after

high school, he worked on the farm and at General Motors. This was during the 1940s and 50s, when the automotive plant was called McKenzie's, recalls Richard.

Dave married his first wife, Lillian, in 1950, and in 1954, he became a father, with the birth of Sharon. He took a Dale Car-
negie Course, considered good training for business, which was sponsored by McKenzie Industries, says Richard, and was so successful Dave went on to become not only a con-

sidered himself a successful busi-
sinessman who had the opportunity in the days leading up to last week's funeral to share many family memories.

Dave Wall was most proud of his community accomplishments. He was also putting his efforts into supporting their community. He was also putting his efforts into the establishment of the Wall-
bergers hockey team in 1984, and also in recognition of his father. He could be tough, espе-

cially at work. He had high ex-
pectations about school, sports, church, but not unreasonable. He was a great

He recalls from family conversations the troubled time of the

early 60s. Lillian, who was known to have a heart problem, was suf-
fering from declining health, and required an operation in 1964. Even though her doctor was considered the best, she died during open heart surgery, which was new at the time and considered risky.

After her death, Dave made a conscious decision that in or-
der to move forward, he would rebuild the farm, and he went on to court, and marry Helen, Sharon's Grade 1 teach-
er at Virgil School, in 1965. In 1966, Richard was born.

"He did some soul-search-
ing, and decided he wasn't

When Dave Wall was inducted into the Town's Sports Hall of Fame in August, Richard was by his side. (Jennifer Chorney)

“Never say never to my dad — that's when he would dig in and do his best.”

Richard Wall

Dave Wall was most proud of his community accomplishments. He was also putting his efforts into supporting their community. He was also putting his efforts into the establishment of the Wall-
bergers hockey team in 1984, and also in recognition of his father. He could be tough, espe-

From the centennial, to encour-
age legacy projects that would open in 1967. As president of the VBA, Dave made the de-
cision and took the lead on the arena project, committing to raising $100,000, “a lot of money in those days, says Richard. “Some people were in favour of building the are-
a, but others thought they would never be able to raise that much money in such a small community. But never say never to my dad — that's when he would dig in and do his best.”

He went to local business-
es, and within 14 days had $23,000 pledged. Within a few short months, Richard says, they had achieved their goal.

Wall was named Citizen of the Year in 1967, and was also famously a proud of a telegram from then-prime minister Lester B. Pearson congratu-
ating the VBA on the Cen-
tennial Arena, opened that
year, and the largest per capita project built to celebrate the centennial.

His community dedication continued with decades of projects built at least partially from funds raised by the VBA, including ball diamonds, foot-
cer fields, tennis courts, and the addition of property to the Virgil Sports Park, which would look very different to-

day without his father’s input, says Richard. “That’s one of the things I heard from sev-
eral people at the funeral who knew my dad — without him we wouldn’t have the sports park we have today.”

Most recently, in August, Dave was celebrated with his induction into the Town's Sports Hall of Fame, for his ef-

dents to get the first arena built and also in recognition of his love for hockey, which led to the establishment of the Wall-
bergers hockey team in 1984, originally a multi-genera-
tional father and son team that played pickup hockey at 6:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. When the second arena opened, also with a large donation from the VBA, Dave, Richard and his son Brandon were the first to step on the ice, for a Wall-
bergers game, the first event to take place at the new arena. At the Sports Wall of Fame induction, Richard was there to speak for his father, who had become frail, but “he got up and told a few stories, and then he recited a poem he had remembered as a young man. He mustered up his best Dale Carnegie voice and recited it all from memory, at the age of 91. It was his final public speaking event, and his health was fal-

ing, but he did it perfectly. I think that sums up who he was as a person.”

Dave also loved tennis, golf and baseball, spent time with Helen and family at a cottage they purchased in Muskoka, and winters at a Florida retreat. In the 1990s, Dave turned the running of the store over to Richard, who had begun his retail career at a very young age and was the beneficiary of many life and business lessons from his father.

He and Helen also played

cards often, an activity Sharon and Richard could enjoy with them in recent months, in the Pleasant Manor apartment they had moved to after their Virgil home burned in 2016.

And his love of Scrabble was legendary. He and Helen never went anywhere without a Scrabble board, and to relieve the boredom of long drives in their motorhome, across Cana-
da to Florida, Dave would put the board on the engine compartment between the two seats, his tile holder on the dashboard in front of him. He’d work out his words and then hand his tiles to Helen and tell her where to place them. “I’m sure nobody ever thought that the distracted driving law should include Scrabble,” says Richard.

He recalls Dave as “a great father. He could be tough, espe-

cially at work. He had high ex-
pectations about school, sports, church, but not unreasonable.”

At the store, “business was business.” He could turn on the “family mode at home, and the business mode at work.”

Some of his life-lessons were hard, “but as you get older you learn to appreciate these lessons.”

Randy Klaassen, who wrote and published Dave Wall’s biography at the request of Helen, told one of his favo-

te stories about Dave’s leg-

endary ability to make a sale. “With the verbs, “taste” and “see,” we are invited to “try God. We are invited to experi-
ice of God, as though to drink deeply, and to trust. Taste and see that the Lord is good … “ says Klaassen, quoting from Psalm 34.

“With the verbs, “taste” and “see,” we are invited to “try God. We are invited to experi-
ice of God, as though to drink deeply, and to trust. Taste and see that the Lord is good … “ says Klaassen, quoting from Psalm 34.

Dave Wall was a sales-
man. It did not matter if the product was 1,400 umbrellas, or a reindeer to advertise in a Christmas parade. Dave was always looking for an angle to make a sale at Wall’s,” says Klaassen.

In the early 1970s, Dave became the top independent retailer of “speed broiler”

Continued on page 9
Air search and rescue volunteers receive provincial service awards

Randy Klaassen
Special to The Local

At a ceremony held recently, six local air search and rescue volunteers were recognized for their service to the Province.

They are members of the Civil Air Search And Rescue Association (CASARA) Niagara, which operates out of the Niagara District Airport, and with a combined total of years of volunteer service, the six have contributed 100 years of dedication to search and rescue.

Leading the award recipients for CASARA was (John) Michael Daniels, who founded the organization more than 40 years ago. Recognized with a provincial service award for 30 years of dedication was Ron Guenther; for 20 years each Terry Nord and Jennifer Hay, both emphasizing the importance and value to the local community when individuals volunteer their time and skills in service to others.

In the past year CASARA Niagara has been involved in a number of major searches. As a registered charity, CASARA relies on donations to operate its training facility, vehicles and aircraft. For information, contact care@lastminuten.ca or the website, ontario.casara.ca.

Special to The Local

Randy Klaassen, Ron Guenther, Michael Daniels, Alex Cuberovic, Stewart Harris (CASARA Niagara President), Terry Nord and Ian Casey attended a provincial award ceremony recently. Harris was representing the organization, and the others were receiving recognition for the time they have volunteered with it. (Kassandra Kearse)
Royal Canadian Legion member Al Howse fixes a poppy on one of the wreaths placed at the Cenotaph Monday. (Fred Mercnik)

Second World War veteran Doug Garrett speaks to the crowd on Queen Street Monday. (Randy Klaassen)

Royal Canadian Air Cadets, Squadron 809, stand watch on Remembrance Day at the Queenston Cenotaph. (Fred Mercnik)

Royal Canadian Air Cadets, 809 Squadron, and First Responders from NOTL parade at the Remembrance Day service on Queen Street. (Randy Klaassen)

Cpt. Cicely Sparks plays the bagpipes at the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Queen Street Cenotaph. (Randy Klaassen)
Remembrance Day celebrated at Crossroads

Fire Chief Nick Ruller, Sgt. Brigid Parvos, Cpl. Jeff Powell and Crossroads teacher Michele Zoccoli hold hands to a song, We’ve got the Whole World in our Hands. (Penny Coles)

Penny Coles
The Local

Every year, Crossroads teacher Michele Zoccoli finds a new way to teach her students about Remembrance Day, and to allow them to demonstrate what it means to them, through art, music and words.

She’s been doing that for the last 25 years, first at Virgil Public School, and now at Crossroads.

It’s an emotional time for her, driven by a visit to many national memorials in Germany and France as a student — visits that made her realize, whichever side of the war soldiers were on, how many young lives were lost.

She promised herself as a young teacher she would make sure her students would understand the importance of Remembrance Day, and she is still keeping that promise.

This year at Crossroads, there was the traditional laying of wreaths by each class in remembrance, the placing of little lights at the front of the gymnasium, by students, cadets, girl guides and brownies, cubs and scouts, and moving music provided by the school choir. Piper Gary Cooper led the processional, which included dignitaries, and the Lament.

Students sang, recited poetry, strummed some music, and expressed their feelings through art.

In a tribute to veterans, through music and photos, Zoccoli referred to a “very special group of local Sec- ond World War veterans.” She calls them the “Virgil boys,” a group of men who were students at the one-room Virgil school house, went to war, and were fortunate to return. As long as they were able, they attended Remembrance Day ceremonies at Virgil and Crossroads, presenting students with real faces, names and stories to help them understand the reality of war, and repeating their message, that they hoped young students would never experience what they had to, and would strive to keep peace.

Each year, the small group of Virgil veterans dwindled, until this year, there was one, 95-year-old Cpl. Jeff Powell.

He wasn’t one of the original Virgil boys, says Zoccoli. He turned up at a Remembrance Day ceremony in 2009, and kept coming back, and was soon accepted as an “honorary member.”

The others, including Jake Froese, George Soulden, Harold Clement, Don Clement, Tom Quinn and Jack Hunter, have died.

Zoccoli spoke of a wall in France where people can leave names and messages, and in the Crossroads gym, she had Grade 8 students create their own version, with a giant poppy and words such as love and peace.

Another group of students put together a little book, describing peace, through the five senses.

Peace, they said, “is beautiful in all languages,” and shared the word for peace in several others, including ‘paix’ in French, ‘shalom’ in Hebrew and ‘soil’ in Farsi.

Peace looks like a field of flowers on a warm sunny day, said students in Grade 5, it sounds like a waterfall trickling into a koi pond, and everyone’s favourite: it tastes like a homemade cinnamon bun drizzled with dark chocolate and raspberry syrup, while sipping a cup of hot chocolate with melting marshmallows.

Coun. Norm Arsenault, at his first Crossroads Remembrance Day service, took the microphone out into the audience of children, and spoke to them directly. He told them “there is never anything good about war, that it should always be an ‘absolute last resort,’ and that conflict should be settled by diplomacy.

He told the students that because they live in a democracy, they have the right to go to school, and the choice to be anything they want to be.

“That’s what freedom is,” he said. “That’s what Cpl. Powell fought for,” he said. “I want you always to remember the sacrifices veterans made for us. We’re here today because of Cpl. Powell and others who sacrificed so much for us.”

Sgt. Brigid Panos of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, a serving member of the military, also spoke to students, on a personal note.

Her voice breaking with emotion, she told the students that as difficult as it was for Cpl. Powell and others who sacrificed so much for us. We’re here today because of Cpl. Powell and others who sacrificed so much for us. We’re here today because of Cpl. Powell and others who sacrificed so much for us.

In addition to the differences in the conditions under which they served, and the great number of sacrifices made in the Second World War, she said, “I had Facetime. I had the opportunity to talk to my husband and kids. Cpl. Powell and other veterans did not.”

Zoccoli shared some words from Governor General David Johnston during a Remembrance Day speech in Ottawa: “At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, when the guns of the Great War at last fell silent, the fury of conflict was replaced by a deafening silence. In that fragile gap between the sounds of dying and the cries of relief, we were faced with all we had done, all we had lost, all we had sacrificed. In that silence, we met a truth so obvious and so terrifying, we swore we would never take up arms again.”

He spoke of communities building monuments, and placing them at the very heart of our towns and cities, “so they might stop us daily in our tracks. We collected names, wrote these names in books and carved them into walls in a constant effort to save those we failed from the faultlessness of anonymity,” he said.

“And we pledged to gather in our communities each year at this hour on this singular day of Remembrance so that we might fall silent, again and again and again.”
Local history, gourmet meal fundraiser at Ravine

Topics include history of wine, and bank robberies

Penny Coles
The Local

Learn about local history, including the history of wine, at an event that includes a gourmet dinner with a spectacular view of vineyards, a silent auction, and a show of firepower from Fort George.

The event, History in the Vineyard, is being held in the new conference centre at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery in St. Davids, which has been designed and constructed with huge, floor-to-ceiling windows to take advantage of the view.

Scott Finlay of Parks Canada is tasked with speaking about the history of wine, and says in his research he has discovered it goes back to Eastern Europe, 8000 BC.

"Wine, like beer, might have been someone’s mistake, as simple as two guys sitting around and saying, ‘I dare you,’ says Finlay. Topography and climate have a lot to do with how it developed, and in Niagara, can be found mentioned in Lady Simcoe’s diary, made from peaches grown locally. Officers stationed in Niagara would also have enjoyed imported wine, likely shipped from Spain, Finlay said.

Laws were passed to ensure social responsibility — there was prohibition in Upper Canada for a time in the 1860s, although it didn’t last as long as prohibition in areas of the U.S., which led to “running across the river” with alcoholic substances.

"We are very excited to be working with these organizations in highlighting different aspects of Niagara’s early history at this special event,” says Amy Klassen of the Niagara Historical Society & Museum. Tickets are on sale through the Niagara Historical Society, 905-468-3912 or contact@nhsm.ca.

For an evening in the vineyards with food, wine, history and merriment, call The Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621 or admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca, or the Niagara Historical Society, 905-468-3912 or contact@nhsm.ca.

November 23 | A SING-ALONG MESSIAH
November 24 | THE VESNIUK & VOLUNGE CHOIRS
November 24 | THE LAURA SECORD CONCERT CHOIR
November 25 | THE HAMILTON CHILDREN’S CHOIR
It’s been about 17 years since Ted van der Zalm and his wife Miemie decided to deliver clean water and improve the lives of the poorest of the poor in the mountainous region of Guatemala. They bought a small truck and opened the wallets of many Niagara residents, businesses and clubs.

Their plans were, and continue to be, ambitious, but nobody who knows them doubts they will accomplish what they set out to do. There are at least 80,000 people in Guatemala who now have fresh, clean water at their doorsteps, thanks to Wells of Hope.

Some in Niagara-on-the-Lake may remember the early days of Wells of Hope, when Ted van der Zalm drove a small truck to local schools to collect pennies from students, the large fundraising campaign to buy expensive, well-drilling equipment, the building of a permanent camp for volunteers, and the development of annual events to help fund not only the wells, but houses, schools, and even a medical centre now under construction, which will be staffed by Guatemalans when it’s complete.

There are also selling lessons, adult education and health and hygiene programs provided by the Guatemalans for the lives of the Guatemalans they reach.

Van der Zalm sees need, not numbers. “I can’t and Miemie react to what needs to be done when they arrive in Guatemala each January, staying until the rainy season begins. And since that first year they travelled to the region, he says, “we’ve seen a huge difference when children have been served.”

Wells of Hope, a Niagara-on-the-Lake-based inter-denominational charity, has drilled wells in the region of Jalapa, in communities where previously women and children walked for miles to a source of water, dirty and bacteria-ridden, then carrying heavy jugs back to their homes, mostly rudimentary huts and mud brick, and sometimes made of just branch and plastic.

Over the years, Wells of Hope has built and equipped 20 primary schools, and about 40 homes.

Many children, especially under the age of two, die every day from bacteria in the water, says van der Zalm. But with nearby wells, families not only have accessible clean water to drink, but don’t have to depend on the rainy season to grow one vegetable crop a year; each season hope’s garden will be so much, rain vegetables will rot, or so little they will die in the drought.

The environment contains water, 12 months a year, families can grow their own food, and some will grow enough to take to those in need of van der Zalm.

But he said he was satisfied until he was given the Guatemalans the tools and knowledge they need to develop a sustainable life that doesn’t depend on others for help. His next goal is for seeds to be planted in Guatemalan greenhouses, transported from Niagara, to then be planted outdoors to produce sufficient fruits and vegetables to develop an export industry to Canada, where the growing season is short and we grow good food in costly, heated greenhouses. With clean water and a year-long growing season, “third world countries like Guatemala could be feeding the world,” he says.

But for now, this weekend, van der Zalm’s attention was focused on Packs for Hope, the backpack program developed in Niagara about a decade ago and started at the end of the year, a 40-foot shipping container will go by ship to Montreal, and then by ship to Guatemala.

Included in the container will be about 200 backpacks — about 2,000 have been shipped in the last 10 years — to be distributed to children in need. Shapping of the container is timed so that it arrives when van der Zalm is there, so he can personally ensure all the supplies get to the people “who need it the most,” he says.

With five children of their own, the van der Zalms understand how much a backpack and school supplies mean to children, he says. Wells of Hope at one time collected filled shoeboxes to be shipped, “but in short order we realized how inefficient they are.”

The boxes, all different sizes, didn’t ship well, and the contents were not always useful to children who received them. The boxes and the contents were often damaged, and a lot of space was taken up by excess packaging, some of it for “trinkets and toys” that really weren’t helpful.

Backpacks are flexible and stack well together, protecting the contents inside. They can be new or gently used, and filled with school supplies (binders, notebooks, pens, pencil crayons, erasers, markers), hygiene products (toothbrushes, hair brushes, toilet paper), clothing, and possibly a toy or ball — nothing with batteries and no plastic. He, his mother and siblings built houses for those in need of food items in costly, heated greenhouses.

“Backpacks themselves are a huge gift to the children of Guatemala,” says van der Zalm, some of them donated by supportive families who will purchase a dozen or more at a time when they’re on sale.

“And their site allows you to pack them with things of real value to the Guatemalans,” he adds.

Some of the backpacks will be distributed by Niagara high school students who will travel to Guatemala, in groups that stay 10 days at a time, to work on building houses and schools, pitching in to help wherever they’re needed. Van der Zalm likes the idea of Niagara teens seeing the need of others in a developing country, and realizing at an early age they can be part of the solution. About 150 to 200 students volunteering each year can have a huge impact, he says.

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Scott Maxwell has been with the volunteer project from the beginning, and is its chair. He is charged with fundraising and the day-to-day operation of the Wells of Hope, and as a recently retired high school teacher from Dennis Morris, where he met van der Zalm, who has also taught at the Catholic high school one semester a year, leaving him free to travel to Guatemala from January until May.

Maxwell now works full time with Wells of Hope, and season begins, will be connecting with the public school board, hoping to get more of them participating, both in backpack programs and volunteering.

“The work is fun,” says Maxwell. “This is a joyful program. We love to see the look on the kids’ faces when they receive their backpacks.”

Theo VanderKaay is now in his first year of high school, but last spring, as a Grade 8 student at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, he travelled with his parents and sister to Camper, where volunteers with Wells of Hope stay in Guatemala.

While there, they helped move the mud bricks used to build houses for those in need of food items in costly, heated greenhouses, but not all the kids had — this little boy was wearing filthy clothes, and boots full of holes that were too small, but “he was just so happy. I made it realize how much we have, and the things we complain about, when somebody who has little….”

Katharine VanderKaay, Ted VanderKaay, Scott Maxwell, Ted van der Zalm and Theo VanderKaay were in the van der Zalm garage Saturday to help prepare backpacks for shipping.
**November Membership Specials**

- **Peninsula Flooring Ltd.**
  - 15% off Antrim, Stanton, Rosecore and Hibernia factory-finished area rugs.

- **SWAG Hair Co.**
  - 20% off any regular priced Esthetics service

- **Creek Road Paints**
  - $15 off Aura line of premium paints

- **Simpson’s (Virgil)**
  - Virgil only — 20% off all vitamins, supplements and natural health products plus 2X Rewards points

- **Evolve**
  - $25 off Floatation Therapy

- **Sandpoint**
  - 10% off shareable sandwich

- **Exchange**
  - 10% off food Sunday to Thursday (excluding specials)

- **Mori Gardens**
  - Buy one admission to Mori Gardens Christmas Pazoza Nov 15-17, get one free.

- **In Touch Day Spa**
  - 25% off a full set of eyelash extensions or an eyelash lift and tint

- **Corks by 99 Byes Greatest Estates**
  - 1/2 price appetizer with purchase of entree

- **Exchange**
  - 10% off shareable sandwich

- **OliV**
  - Free dessert with purchase of any entree

- **Southbrook Vineyards**
  - Buy one Southbrook Organic Vineyards Grand Tasting and get one free

- **Peller Estates**
  - Buy one, get one free, tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

- **Valumart**
  - 10% off Deli party tray orders of $50 or more

---

**3 easy ways to pay**

1. **Online**
   - Visit or call our office. We’re located at 1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil.
   - Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. You may also call us at 905-641-5335 to pay by credit card.

2. **In Person**
   - Visit or call our office. We’re located at 1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil.
   - Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. You may also call us at 905-641-5335 to pay by credit card.

3. **By Mail**
   - Send a cheque for $39.95 + HST (= $45.14) made payable to The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
   - Mail the form below to:
     - NOTL LOCAL, P.O. Box 430, Virgil L0S 1T0

---

**November Membership Specials**

- **Regal Carpet & Cabinets**
  - Spend $50 before tax on regular-priced merchandise, receive 10% off your purchase

- **Scottish Loft**
  - 10% off regularly-priced merchandise (except seasonal)

- **Greece**
  - 10% off on all regularly-priced items

---

**Membership Bonus**

- 2 FREE CLASSIFIED ADS PER YEAR. Value $40!
Library event with Kumalo ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ experience

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A little bit of South Africa came to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library last Thursday.

As part of the Voices of Freedom Festival, hosted by Bravo Niagara!, bass player Bakhti Kumalo, best known as a key member of Paul Simon’s band for more than 30 years, introduced a film about the landmark Graceland album to an audience of about 70 people.

Under African Skies follows Simon on a trip back to Johannesburg in 1985 to record his much-awaited album. The result was Graceland, released in 1986, which became a turning point for Simon in his career. The album featured collaborations with South African musicians and helped the singer reach new audiences worldwide. It was a turning point for Simon and for those involved in the recording process.

The film includes footage from the sessions and interviews with artists who were involved in the recording of Graceland, including Bakhti Kumalo. The event allowed attendees to experience the story behind the making of Graceland and the impact it had on the music world.

Kumalo’s bass playing on a bootleg cassette of South African township music from the late 1970s caught Simon’s attention, leading to his meeting with Dali Tambo, the president of the African National Congress. This meeting was one of the highlights of the film, and it underscored the power of music to bring people together and make a difference.

The event was part of the Voices of Freedom Festival, held annually in Niagara-on-the-Lake to celebrate the的声音 of freedom. The festival brings together artists, activists, and audiences to explore the power of music and art in promoting social change.

The film screening was followed by a discussion with Bakhti Kumalo, who shared insights into the making of Graceland and his experiences working with Paul Simon. The event provided a unique opportunity for attendees to connect with the artist and gain a deeper understanding of the album’s significance.

The event concluded with a Q&A session, where attendees had the chance to ask questions and engage with Bakhti Kumalo. The evening was a powerful reminder of the impact music can have on the world and the importance of connecting with our global community.
IT’S Holiday PARTY TIME!

Toast the season with Konzelmann

Add some sparkle to your holiday party by holding a one-of-a-kind event at Konzelmann Estate Winery. It is our pleasure to provide you and your guests with an exclusive, intimate and fun atmosphere. Our experienced event and hospitality team will assist with the planning and delivery for your holiday gathering. After 6 p.m. our winery is closed to the public and the space is available for you and your guests to enjoy privately.

Book with Konzelmann by November 29 and receive a complimentary sparkling wine reception for all guests and wine voucher for your group! Trust our expertise, attention to detail and customer service to create your ultimate holiday experience.

Konzelmann’s newly renovated Ice Hall festively set for a holiday party.

submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

Eat, drink and be merry

Book your Christmas party or gathering now. We have a private room that can accommodate up to 40 people. No charge to book! Come and enjoy the warmth of great service and great food at Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

Open seven days a week from 11 a.m. till 2 a.m. for serving food and drink, we are located at 358 Mary St. near Dorchester St. in the historic and beautiful old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

And even a shuttle bus home (NOTL address only).

submitted by Sandtrap Pub & Grill

Looking for a fun New Year’s Eve Party? $60 includes night time buffet, DJ and dancing, excellent music catered to the crowd, sparkling wine toast at midnight, party favours and 3 beverage tickets.

The private room at the Sandtrap can accommodate up to 40 people.

submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

Add some sparkle to your holiday party by holding a one-of-a-kind event at Konzelmann Estate Winery. It is our pleasure to provide you and your guests with an exclusive, intimate and fun atmosphere. Our experienced event and hospitality team will assist with the planning and delivery for your holiday gathering. After 6 p.m. our winery is closed to the public and the space is available for you and your guests to enjoy privately.

Book with Konzelmann by November 29 and receive a complimentary sparkling wine reception for all guests and wine voucher for your group! Trust our expertise, attention to detail and customer service to create your ultimate holiday experience.

Konzelmann’s newly renovated Ice Hall festively set for a holiday party.

submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

Eat, drink and be merry

Book your Christmas party or gathering now. We have a private room that can accommodate up to 40 people. No charge to book! Come and enjoy the warmth of great service and great food at Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

Open seven days a week from 11 a.m. till 2 a.m. for serving food and drink, we are located at 358 Mary St. near Dorchester St. in the historic and beautiful old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

And even a shuttle bus home (NOTL address only).

submitted by Sandtrap Pub & Grill

Looking for a fun New Year’s Eve Party? $60 includes night time buffet, DJ and dancing, excellent music catered to the crowd, sparkling wine toast at midnight, party favours and 3 beverage tickets.

The private room at the Sandtrap can accommodate up to 40 people.

submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

ADD SOME sparkle TO YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY

Konzelmann Estate Winery infuses classic architecture with diverse event space ensuring that your festive holiday party will sparkle.

SPECIAL BONUS! Book your holiday party by November 29 and receive a Complimentary Sparkling Reception and Konzelmann Gift Card.

Konzelmann’s newly renovated Ice Hall festively set for a holiday party.

submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

Eat, drink and be merry

Book your Christmas party or gathering now. We have a private room that can accommodate up to 40 people. No charge to book! Come and enjoy the warmth of great service and great food at Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

Open seven days a week from 11 a.m. till 2 a.m. for serving food and drink, we are located at 358 Mary St. near Dorchester St. in the historic and beautiful old town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

And even a shuttle bus home (NOTL address only).

submitted by Sandtrap Pub & Grill

Looking for a fun New Year’s Eve Party? $60 includes night time buffet, DJ and dancing, excellent music catered to the crowd, sparkling wine toast at midnight, party favours and 3 beverage tickets.

The private room at the Sandtrap can accommodate up to 40 people.

submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

ADD SOME sparkle TO YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY

Konzelmann Estate Winery infuses classic architecture with diverse event space ensuring that your festive holiday party will sparkle.

SPECIAL BONUS! Book your holiday party by November 29 and receive a Complimentary Sparkling Reception and Konzelmann Gift Card.
Celebrate the Holidays at the Oban

Submitted by
The Oban Inn

Enjoy great food, local wines and beers, and warm hospitality this Holiday Season. All decorated for Christmas, the Oban has the perfect space for groups of 4 to 40.

Whether it be Shaw’s Corner with its plaid carpet (a reminder of our rich histo-ry), our classic Library or the Milloy Room – perfect for larger groups, we can accommodate your private Holiday celebration.

Our culinary team led by Executive Chef Jesse Prior and Restaurant Manager Mark Yuhaz will provide you and your guests with delicious food and the best wines in Niagara. Three course lunch starts at $35.00 per person and dinner from $60.00 per person (exclusive of alcohol, service charge and HST).

Call our sales team at 905-468-2165 to book your party today.

Reserve for your Holiday Party!

Submitted by
OLiV Tasting Room & Restaurant

Looking for a unique experience for your Holiday Gathering? Whether you are hosting Friends, Family or Co-Workers, OLiV Tasting Room & Restaurant offers something everyone will enjoy!

Located inside of Strewn Winery, OLiV offers a variety of outstanding experiences. For example, you can choose to start with a wine tasting at Strewn’s Tasting Room followed by a unique and personal sample of flavours at OLiV’s Tasting Bar. From there your culinary adventure continues with the exceptional creations by our talented chefs. Whether it’s a tapas, entrée, dessert or even a cocktail, all dishes are infused with our flavours of our Extra Virgin Olive Oil and True Balsamic Vinegars.

Don’t forget while visiting, be sure to stop in our Retail Boutique for gift ideas. We offer a wide selection of Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oils and True Balsamic Vinegars as well as Gourmet Food items, Porcelain Tableware and Olive Wood Accessories.

Book your holiday party for November or December to receive a special holiday offer:

4 Course Lunch $42pp +tax +gratuity
4 Course Dinner $62pp +tax +gratuity

4 course lunch and 4 course dinner will include an Amuse Bouche prepared and delivered by our Head Chef to your table.

All guests will enjoy a glass of Strewn Sauvignon Blanc Sparkling upon arrival and receive a gift of Holiday Treats prepared by our Pastry Chef.

Looking for the perfect venue for your Holiday Party? We are happy to offer a unique experience that is full of flavour from start to finish.
Kim Wade Special to The Local

Taste of the Season is the November event to enjoy wine and food pairings from the bounty of Niagara-on-the-Lake wineries.

Participating wineries offer seasonally-inspired wine and food pairings to tempt your taste buds and excite your palate.

More than 20 wineries are participating in the annual event that takes place every Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the month.

Many wineries are offering an array of featured wines exclusive to the event. One such wine from Ravel Vineyard Estate Winery is not sold online or at the LCBO. To get a taste of this particular 2018 Sand & Gravel Chardonnay, you need to participate in the Taste of the Season pairing of this wine with Chef Matt Payne’s five-piece roasted pork shoulder with a sweet and sour squash salad. The ingredients for the salad come from their organic vegetable garden. More than 6,000 pounds of organic vegetables are harvested each year for use in their farm-to-table restaurant.

Adèle Shenna, retail manager and certified sommelier, is responsible for pairing this lovely wine with the food. The tasting notes of pear and apple in the Chardonnay complement the warm spice of the pork. She explained that she decided which wine to use based on the ingredients in the chef’s recipe.

For some people, mainly groups, it has become a different mindset to make it a “mission to hit as many wineries as possible in a day,” she said. She would like to see people slow down and take the time to experience the wine, the food and the atmosphere of the winery that they are visiting. She suggested participants spread out their visits over more days and limit them to three or four a day to get the most from the event.

While Adam Hughes, gallerist at Queenston Mile Vineyard, agrees with Shenna’s observation, he said he has observed the winery is either the first or the last stop on many of the participants’ list. He told the story of how he helped a group of Taste of the Season participants by staying after closing and offering a balsamic drizzle and take in the art and atmosphere.

Nadine Bobko and John Hare are ready for the busy days at The Hare Co. Winery during Taste of the Season.

Mile Red with Chef Ross Midgley’s Mexican turkey mole and ancient grain salad, and take in the art and atmosphere.

Also in the St. Davids Bench area is Château des Charmes, which offered their 2017 Pinot Noir paired with thyme-roasted woodland mushroom pasta with Ontario goat cheese. This was one of the vegetarian options offered by participating wineries.

Other vegetarian options were offered by the Niagara College Teaching Winery and Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery. Niagara College Teaching Winery paired their 2018 Tom Thomson Algonquin Red with a tomatillo Parmesan galette with a balsamic drizzle from Benchmark restaurant.

Wayne Gretzky’s Estates Winery paired their 2016 Estate Pinot Noir with Chef Dodd’soutine, advertised as a duck fat fryoutine which features fresh cut fries with a hearty vegetarian and gluten-free gravy and curds. Next to Wayne Gretzky’s, Chef Frank Dodd offered participants another exquisite vegetarian option, a 2017 Barrel Fermented Chardonnay with a butter-nut squash soup with maple cream and candied walnuts. If the sample was not enough, this aromatic soup is also available at the Trius Winery Restaurant or the Trius Brut Bar.

Jackson Triggs Estate Winery offered their 2017 Grand Reserve Pinot Noir with a flavourful black pepper and rosemary grilled chicken. Pillitteri Estates Winery paired their 2017 Team Canada Red with traditional Italian meatballs inauthentic marinara sauce and garlic crostini. In addition, $1 from the purchase of this special red will be donated to the Canadian Olympic Foundation to support Olympic athletes.

The Hare Wine Co. offered their 2017 Crown Land Red (Cabernet Franc) paired with grass-fed chopped beef brisket sliders with Crown Land Red composite. Taste of the Season participants are encouraged to sit back and enjoy the pairing of their 2016

At the time, as a new small batch winery, they produced almost 6,000 cases. Owner John Hare showed his dedication to the winery and the event by working hard behind the counter, helping customers with their purchases and supporting his staff. He stopped only for a quick photo for The LO-CAL as the staff worked to accommodate the bus tours, a wedding, and Taste of the Season participants.

With two more weekends to go in November, there is plenty of time to explore these and the other 16 participating wineries. Passes are still available for the remaining weekends. So take your time and enjoy what each winery has to offer. Savour the wine, the food and the atmosphere.

Tickets are $55 (plus taxes and fees) for the regular pass which includes the wine and food and $30 (plus taxes and fees) for the Designated Driver pass. The designated driver pass includes a non-alcoholic drink with food. The passes are valid for Nov. 15 to 17 and 22 to 24 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit wineriesofniagaraonthelake.com/event/taste-of-the-season/.
Queenston ready to fill tourtiere orders

Penny Coles
The Local

There’s nothing like a tasty, home-cooked meal over the holidays.

And to make sure it’s also quick and easy, the Queenston Residents’ Association is accepting pre-orders for its annual sale of tourtiers, made from scratch by members.

The tourtiers are ready to be picked up at the Christmas bake and decor sale, held at the Queenston Library, Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will be coffee and muffins ready to enjoy, Christmas decorations, and lots of baked goods at the event.

About 20 QRA volunteers have made the pastry, prepared and cooked the meat, and this weekend, filled 168 pie crusts.

About half are already spoken for, and they will sell out before the day of the Christmas sale, says organizer Marilyn Armstrong.

Although the group has traditionally made and sold chicken casserole, the dwindling number of volunteers was a deciding factor in eliminating them this year.

Tourtieres are $20 each. Orders can be emailed to Armstrong at armstrong@bellnet.ca or at 905-262-0268.

Queenston Ladies Choir to perform Christmas concert

The Queenston Ladies Choir will be presenting a Christmas Choral Concert, Home for the Holidays, on Sunday, Dec. 1, at First Grantham United Church. The concert, featuring new arrangements of Christmas favourites, at 3 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door ($15 for seniors/students and $20 for adults). Net proceeds from the concert will go to the Niagara Music Theatre and Voice Festival Scholarship Fund for young musicians. For more information about the choir visit www.queenstonladieschoir.ca. (Photo supplied)

Glendale Niagara District Plan-Phase 2 Public Information Centre (PIC) #3

The Glendale Niagara area is intended to accommodate a significant number of new residents and jobs over the next 20+ years. The study area has all the key ingredients for a successful urban experience, such as higher education, easy highway access, residential and employment opportunities, green spaces and destination retail. A pro-active development strategy will help to appropriately direct this growth and transform the area into a vibrant, compact, mixed use urban environment.

Niagara Region, in cooperation with the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the City of St. Catharines, initiated a two-phase Glendale Niagara District Plan study:

- **Phase One** Visioning Exercise and Conceptual Plan: Endorsed by Council in Oct 2018
- **Phase Two** - Creation of the District Plan:
  - To be completed in house by Regional staff with input from a technical team and the community
  - The preferred land use concept, demonstration plan and associated urban design renderings; and
  - Key directions and strategies to implement the District Plan

**Please join us on:** Wednesday, Nov. 20 2019
**Time:** 6 to 8 p.m. – A brief presentation will be made at 6:30 p.m.
**Location:** Holiday Inn Express, 524 York Rd., Niagara-on-the-Lake

For additional information visit: niagararegion.ca
Or contact:
Kirsten McCauley, Senior Planner
Planning and Development Services, Niagara Region
905-980-6000 ext. 3532
kirsten.mccauley@niagararegion.ca

Additional public feedback will be collected via an online commenting platform that will be linked to the project webpage.
Crossroads celebrates Remembrance Day

After another beautiful Remembrance Day Service organized by Madame Michele Zoccoli at Crossroads School Monday, principal Gerda Klassen closed with thanks to all who participated, and to Madame Zoccoli for her leadership.

She also thanked all the students who participated in any way. “We appreciate each one of you,” Klassen said, and ended with these words, “We have focused, today, on what Peace feels like and sounds like. The right word, in the right place, at the right time, can inspire, can calm, and can heal. So, this Remembrance Day, and every day, let’s show our thankfulness, by offering the right word, by being the light in someone’s day, by sharing unexpected kindness to others.”

Candles are lit as a silent tribute to the fallen Canadian veterans, with dignitaries, including Cpl. Jeff Powell, in the background.

Teacher Michele Zoccoli has been organizing Remembrance Day services for 25 years. (Photos supplied)

Candles are lit as a silent tribute to the fallen Canadian veterans, with dignitaries, including Cpl. Jeff Powell, in the background.

Grades 4 and 5 Choir performed several moving songs.

Charlotte Broughton & Neil Marsden emceed the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Arwin Kirker and Viktor Vassiliev are ready to lay a wreath in the Crossroads gymnasium.

Grade 8 students Annika Janzen, Sienna Browning, Sarah Laughton, Lauren Davidson, Sawyer Neufeld, and Wesley Nickel gave a moving performance, decorating a wall of the gym with their messages of love and peace.

Graeme Rifkin & Stella Coles carry in the Grade 2 wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Rami Stewart & Maggie Forsyth prepare to carry the class wreath into the ceremony.
Midget Wolves win Harvest Classic

Tracey Frena
Special to The Local

The NOTL midget Niagara Lions Club BB team captured gold in their home tournament, the Harvest Classic.

The Wolves’ season is off to a great start, in first place in the Niagara District Hockey League’s Midget rep division. They have continued performing their best and were outstanding in the Harvest Classic tournament.

The team gelled, with terrific passing, fantastic scoring chances and great sportsmanship. The Wolves were led by the stellar defence team of Bruce Delicia, Hunter Ostromecki, Joel Gula, Jaden Patterson, Mitchell Berg and Avrian Billy were solid throughout the tournament, with clever defensive plays and stopping the opposition offence. They were also key in offence, blasting shots from the point, making good passes and end-to-end rushes.

Keeping the team upbeat was the outstanding play of goalies Cameron Huff and Tyler Lawrence-Howard. They have kept the team in a lot of games with their diving saves and quick gloves.

The Wolves are led by coaching staff Justin York, Trevor Lord, Brett Willis, Rob Alexander and Toby Gula.

The team was led by tournament MVP Jake Kocsis, who was on fire and showed amazing stick-handling skills. Jordan Wiers’ speedy play and hustle earned him a hat trick. Ian Rush was flying on the ice and was great on the penalty kill. Brett Wilson was excellent as centre and on the power play. Angelo Orzini showed great back-checking skills and stole the puck many times. Austin York was solid on forward, making great passes.

The line of Tristan Alexander, Tyler Cullen and Josh Frena played smart hockey. They read well off each other, making good passes, exciting moves and contributing nice goals.

The stellar defence team of Bruce Delicia, Hunter Ostromecki, Joel Gula, Jaden Patterson, Mitchell Berg and Avrian Billy were solid against Owen Sound. Playing at home, with a large crowd from the community out to support the Wolves, the team did not disappoint. Tight checking saw Owen Sound to a spectacular game. Tight the team did not disappoint.

Up against a strong team from Penetanguishene in the final game, NOTL kept the pressure, showing great tenacity and winning 4-1 to capture the championship.

Peewees earn win against Reeve

The NOTL peewee Wolves had two match-ups against the Reeve Thunder in the Harvest Classic, winning both, Saturday’s game 6-2 and Sunday’s contest 3-1. (Fred Mercadich)
Help Wanted

Seasonal Farm Workers
needed from approximately March 25, 2020
to the end of September 2020.

No education or experience needed but 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 also include pruning, weeding, hoeing and picking strawberries (8 weeks), thinning and picking plums and peaches. Pay is minimum wage ($14.00 per hour) and own transportation is a must.

Call or fax resume to 905-682-0417 only candidates to be interviewed will be contacted.

Full Time Farm Workers
required for fruit farm April-Oct. Must be available 7 days/week in all weather conditions. Job entails pruning, thinning, harvesting fruit plus heavy lifting and considerable ladder work. Must have own transportation, minimum wage $14.00/hr. Please mail resume with references to
K.L. Farms, 100 Wall Rd., R.R. #3
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0.

Call or fax resume to 905-682-0417

SEASONAL

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Is your attic overfull? Do you need to make space in your basement or garage? Advertise your GARAGE/YARD SALE here! OR if you have a larger item to sell that won’t fit in a garage sale, call or email for classified advertising details.

905-641-5335 or classified@notllocal.com
Deadline: Mondays 3 p.m.
Friesen wins berth in NASCAR championship race

Second first-place finish takes him to Florida for outdoor truck series

Mike Balsom
Special to the Local

A first-place finish in Friday night’s Lucas Oil 150 has earned Niagara-on-the-Lake native Stew- art Friesen a berth in the NASCAR Gander Outdoor Truck Series Championship 4 next weekend in Miami. His second Series victory of the season, and his career, didn’t come easily, though. Friesen was hit with a penalty at the start of the race. “I let (pole-sitter Austin Hill) fire first, and then he spun his tires or something,” says Friesen. “I lifted to not beat him to the line, but then got hit from behind. I had no choice but to go back to the gas to avoid wrecking the whole field.”

It was a controversial call, one that Friesen and his team didn’t agree with. “Thanks to great team work between Friesen, crew chief Trpp Bruce and spotter Ric Cardelli, he caught the caution after being shown the black flag. That pushed him to the back of the field to start the race, forcing him to overcome all drivers to claim the checked flag, Friesen methodically climbed to the front position, and ended up leading the field for the final 44 laps. “The biggest key,” he says, “was not overheating my tires and being able to work the track in turns 1 and 2.”

With the win at ISM Raceway in Phoenix, Friesen and his Halmar Chevrolet team now won on both dirt and pavement. Reached while on his way to Florida for the championship race, Friesen said the win on the hard track is “very important, very validating for our team.”

Having grown up on Niagaran dirt tracks, many have speculated that he needed to prove himself on pavement, and the Phoenix victory does that. The championship race is the Ford Eco Boost 200, running at Homestead-Miami Speedway this Friday. It’s a 1.5-mile loop that Friesen knows well, having finished fourth there last year. “It’s a highly abrasive track,” he says. “Tire conservation and a good balance will be key.” He will be trying to capture the title against last year’s champion, Brett Moffitt, Ross Chastain and two-time Series champion Matt Crafton. “It’s anyone’s race. Hopefully we can capitalize and carry our momentum from Phoenix as a team.”

The race starts at 8 p.m. and can be seen on Fox Sports 1.
Welcome to the big league.

Embodying the spirit of quattro, the Q7 offers superior performance and rugged good looks. The cutting-edge technology onboard ensures the Q7 is truly unstoppable.

2019 Audi Q7 Komfort

Lease from $598 per month for 48 months with $5,000 due at signing.

Receive a complimentary 5-year / 80,000 km Maintenance Package.

Road Home

2019 BMW X3 xDrive30i

Monthly payments starting from $528 Down payment $56,190

Lease for only $2.99 per 48 months includes a credit of $3,000

Includes NO CHARGE SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE 4 Years/80,000 km

Performance BMW

266 Lake Street | St. Catharines | 905-934-3356 | 1-877-737-3269 | performancebmw.ca