



Clean-up finally underway in dock area

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## Poppies left behind

Retired Warrant Officer Al Legal, and behind him his wife Shari pin their poppies to the wreaths laid at the Queen Street cenotaph Friday. Leaving poppies at the cenotaph after the Remembrance Day service is considered a sign of respect to veterans.. For more photos please see page 10 & 11. (Penny Coles)

## Hirji supports province-wide mask mandate

Penny Coles  
The Local

COVID-19 has not gone away — Niagara's acting chief medical officer of health says the number of cases in Niagara is similar to or higher than during previous waves.

On Monday, the province "strongly" recommended people mask up in public indoor settings, including schools and childcare settings, to help children's hospitals overwhelmed with young patients in emergency departments, pediatric wards and intensive care units.

Dr. Mustafa Hirji says he, like most, if not all, of his colleagues in other health units, is in favour of a provincial mask mandate, which the province did not deliver.

"In Niagara we have continued to strongly recommend people wear masks indoors or outdoors in public spaces," he says.

What the province had in place was "a non-recommendation — wear a mask if you like but you don't have to."

However, in his opinion, even better than the current recommendation would be

a provincial mandate that would also include schools, as a way to reduce pressure on hospitals, keep people safe, including children, and reduce the number of deaths from COVID-19 "while still allowing us to go about our normal activities."

Children's hospitals are being seriously impacted across the province, with children admitted for either flu, COVID-19 or RSV, a respiratory virus that affects children. In a news release late last week, McMaster Children's Hospital announced it is reducing in-patient surgeries, and is collaborating with other hospitals within the Hamilton Health System to continue to deliver in-patient care, citing an occupancy rate of 140 per cent.

The emergency department is seeing 190 to 200 patients a day with wait times as high as 12 or more hours, and admitted patients are often waiting more than 24 hours for a bed. The critical care unit is at 100 per cent capacity. There are currently 53 children admitted with

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## Jim Alexander a 'living landmark'

Local Staff

The Niagara Foundation has recognized Jim Alexander as its 2022 Living Landmark, an award given annually to a person who demonstrates an outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara.

At the foundation's Navy Hall event Saturday, past-

president Janice Thomson spoke of Alexander's accomplishments. His "commitment to supporting Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage runs deep," she said. "A few of the organizations, projects and celebrations that have benefitted from his leadership include the War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee, Friends of Niagara National Historic

Sites, the Rotary Club, various Canada Day celebrations, and the Citizens Committee for Ontario Heritage Years. We are very pleased to give this award to Jim."

Alexander's role as president of Old Niagara Workshops, and his expertise, have led to many commissions to restore architectural elements for his-

torical properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Further afield, he has been engaged for projects for Parks Canada sites across Ontario, and the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

"The Niagara Foundation believes that honouring residents who make this town a special place to live should be

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## Niagara Foundation hopes to preserve five-acre property

Penny Coles  
The Local

The Wilderness, as it's been known for more than 100 years, is about five acres of land on King Street, opposite The Commons.

Bordered by King, Mary, Regent and Centre Streets, it is in a residential area bordered by single-family houses on the east and west sides, with One Mile Creek traversing the property.

Most people walking past

the overgrown, deteriorating streetscape on either King or Regent Streets "would be unaware of this remarkable property with tremendous local and national significance," says Niagara Foundation president Lyle Hall.

But while the value of The Wilderness may be hidden from view, "the significance of this land is rooted deeply in the natural, Indigenous, military, political and horticultural history that make this town unique and

distinctive."

The Niagara Foundation has a claim to a half interest in the five acres of Wilderness through the will of Ruth Parker, and is hoping to acquire the other half. Hall explains that when

Parker passed away in 2013, the executor of her estate determined the Niagara Foundation was the organization to respect her wishes that the heritage elements of The

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# Stratus employee celebrates 90th birthday

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Fred Doyle, who turned 90 on Monday, is a testament to the expression that like a fine wine, people get better with age.

His birthday was celebrated at Stratus Vineyards, where he is one of their longest-serving guest relations team members.

Doyle has been a famil-

iar face to many visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake wine country as he has filled their glasses and shared stories for about 18 years — Doyle says he began his new career at Chateau des Charmes, and moved to Stratus about three years later, at the age of 75.

“I have been working with Fred most of my wine career and all of his. He is a legend, says Suzanne Janke,

estate director at Stratus.

“His good humour, mischievous chuckle and boundless energy delight folks every time they make his acquaintance. His colleagues, ranging from their mid-teens to mid-seventies, adore working with him. He has been a dear friend and role model of what it means to live life to the fullest for all of us,” she told about 40 people at a

surprise gathering held for Doyle Monday, and attended by his wife and several family members.

Doyle says he was born Nov. 14, 1932 in the Eastern Townships in Quebec.

Rather than stay on the family farm, he began working at the Domtar paper mill, and after completing a variety of business and engineering certifications, he quickly moved up the

ladder from an office boy to general manager. In 1980, he was transferred to Niagara to manage the Domtar mill in Thorold and soon managed one in Winnipeg as well.

He and his wife Louise moved to Niagara and were soon joined by his three children. In 1986, Fred and Louise gave birth to their daughter.

After retiring from the

paper mill, he consulted in the paper industry; wrote a manual on paper-making and continued to share his expertise throughout several paper mills both in Canada and the U.S.

He recalls being at a swim meet for his daughter when he was approached to work at Chateau des Charmes — they were interested in him when they discovered that, thanks to growing up in Quebec, he was bilingual. “I think that had a lot to do with why they wanted to hire me,” he says.

While he was working at Chateau des Charmes, he had a heart attack, had a stent put in, “and I’ve been fine ever since,” he says — until June, when he was rushed to the hospital with a racing heart. After having an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator and pacemaker, he came back to work at Stratus.

Visitors to the winery seem to enjoy his company as much as those who work with Doyle — in the testimonials written by guests to the winery, words such as warm, welcoming, friendly, funny, and knowledgeable were used to describe the great tasting experience they had enjoyed with him as their host.

These days, the question he gets most often is when is he going to retire. The answer, most days, is that he doesn’t know. He has slowed down somewhat, he admits — he’s gone from working three days a week to two days.

And he still plays golf in the summer, and does all of the repairs around the house.

“I guess I’ve got to retire sometime,” he says. “But I like meeting and talking to the nice people who come in to the winery. And working is much better than staying at home and just fading away.”



Fred Doyle was thrilled with his surprise birthday party, especially the cupcakes, which disappeared quickly. In the background his wife Louise Farquhar chats with Stratus staff members Ben Nicks and Natasha Yorski. (Photos by Elena Galey-Pride)



Suzanne Janke of Stratus presents Fred Doyle with a magnum bottle of red that all his colleagues signed for him.

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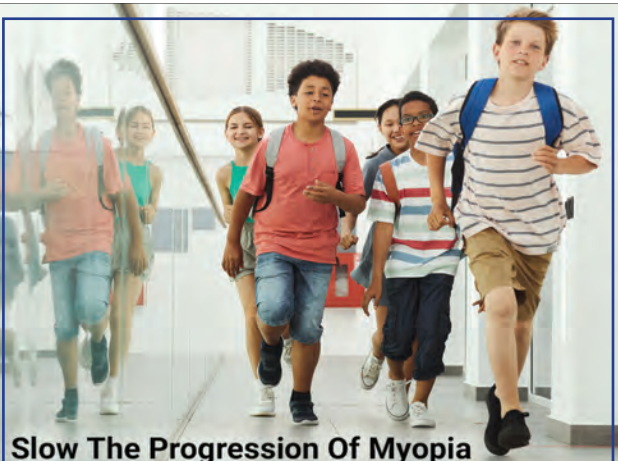
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# Celebrating Advent & Christmas 2022

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**Nov. 27th: 1st Advent - "Watch!"**  
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.  
Celebration of Communion

**Nov. 27th: German Advent  
Celebration, 3 p.m.**  
Carols & Readings to ring in  
the Advent season

**Dec. 4th: 2nd Advent - "Prepare!"**  
German Service, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**Dec. 11th: 3rd Advent - "Tell"**  
Worship service, 10:45 a.m.

**Dec. 18th: 4th Advent - "Trust!"**  
German Service, 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m. with  
a Christmas Play by Red Brick Kids

**Dec. 24th Christmas Eve - "Adore!"**  
Candlelight Service— 5:30 p.m.  
Worship at the manger with music &  
dramatic readings

**Dec. 25th: Christmas Day - "Rejoice!"**  
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**Dec. 31st: New Years Eve - "Reflect"**  
Informal service in the Auditorium, 4 p.m.  
Bring your favourite party finger-food!

**Jan. 1st: New Years Day - "Pray"**  
Prayer Time in the sanctuary, 10:45 a.m.  
Come, begin the year with prayer &  
quiet reflection



# After five-year delay, dock area dirt-moving project underway

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The town has notified residents that long-awaited storm-water grading work is underway in the Dock Area, part of the shoreline stabilization and flood water management plan that was mapped out in 2017.

Retired mining engineer Ron Simkus, who keeps neighbours informed of water levels, and also shares news about anything happening that impacts the Dock Area, often expresses his frustration about what is not happening.

The work this week is long overdue, he says, and is fixing a mess that was made five years ago, when tonnes of dirt dumped in the Dock Area for work that was anticipated was left to sit there, the work, for various reasons, never completed.

The project includes excavation, hauling away “hundreds of tonnes of dirt,” and then grading to level the ruts that will be left. It will create disruption for residents, but “disruption is a way of life in this part of the Dock Area,” says Simkus.

It was “a real mind-bender” to hear this project is finally going to be completed, he says, after talking about it all year — which mostly meant hearing about the need for feasibility studies, until resi-

dents said “enough is enough. When are we going to fix it?”

CAO Marnie Cluckie finally agreed, and “cobbled together some money in the budget to do what was needed,” says Simkus.

He was told the budget for the work is \$20,000, “which seems impossible, but it’s really just an earth-moving exercise — you push some dirt around and take it away.”

When asked how long it would likely take, Simkus says in his world, the mining industry, “it would start on Monday and finish on Wednesday,” but the town is planning on it being about three to four weeks. There is fencing around the area and notices posted to say the park is closed.

In his recent email blast that goes out regularly to more than 100 people, Simkus says the work began as a result of the flooding of 2017, when the level of Lake Ontario shocked everyone by reaching an elevation never seen before in 100 years of record-keeping.

In July 2018, the town received a grant to rebuild the Old Railway Culvert in the parkette, and used that opportunity to invest \$250,000 to install armourestones on both sides of the culvert, “but that’s all they did. The town imported tonnes and tonnes more stone and piled it all over the park, but didn’t do anything



Moving dirt from the Dock Area and hauling it away is a three-to-four week project, the town says. Most of the work is being done by town staff. (Penny Coles)

with it except collect weeds. Why? Because they didn’t have a permit to work in the water to do shoreline stabilization, but they did have a permit to work on the Old Railway Culvert. This is something town staff never told residents about, and became very frustrating.”

As residents waited for the large stones to be placed in the water, in 2019 the Dock Area was “blind-sided by an even bigger lake level problem,” with water levels rising higher than in 2017, “and excavators ripped up the walking

path to create an ill-conceived emergency roadway that collapsed in mud within days.”

Work that followed in 2020 caused more “mess and confusion,” capped off with a structural disaster in 2021 to the groyne,” when part of the wall of large stones that was eventually placed to extend from the shore into the water collapsed, “that was sadly predictable,” and when again a heavy excavator ripped apart the parkette.

Once that was done residents waited to hear “a green light for the decision to go ahead and take the dirt out, and until now the decision has been no, we’re not going to do it. That decision in 2020 was a punch in the face to residents that the town wasn’t going to do it,” Simkus says. “This was part of the mop-up that would include the water exiting in a normal fashion rather than flooding.”

“This will be the sixth year in a row that excavators will have worked in the parkette, and the \$2 million Dock Area reserve fund has evaporated,” Simkus adds.

Council approved the project in February, and the perfect time to haul away the

excess dirt would have been in the summer, but Simkus says he was told it couldn’t be done while the Canada Games were on; in September the engineering hadn’t been done; and in October the town didn’t have the quotes needed to proceed.

He hopes it will be finished before the snow flies, because “as soon as it snows it will be done for another year — it can’t be done in the spring because it’s too wet.”

And until it’s complete, if there is a lot of snow or precipitation, “the water doesn’t have a way to get out.” Instead it sits in a valley in the park, he says, in danger of flooding local homes.

The town says it isn’t responsible for preventing flooding, Simkus adds, “but it is responsible for not doing anything that would cause flooding.”

So his message has been, “undo what you’ve done. Finish what you’ve started, clean up your mess and get out of here.”

The residents, he added, are not asking for anything more than that.

And the town has “decided to finally bite the bullet, and undo what they’ve done.”

Next spring, there will be seeding to finish it off, and a rain harvester, a little pond that looks like a duck pond with stones around it, installed. It will have natural grasses growing in it, “producing a natural condition that removes toxins before they get into the storm drain,” Simkus explains, “the same kind of water that was pumped from Line 5, and would be ideal to get rid of the toxins. Anything nasty will be broken down in the pond.”

The rain harvester is being paid for by a Niagara Community Foundation ecological grant, and requires a commitment from residents to maintain it, he says. “We’ve got people ready to roll up their sleeves and do the work.”

When asked if that would be the end of the Dock Area work, Simkus has to chuckle — there are several large outstanding projects, including work on River Beach Park, across from townhomes by the former jet boat dock. “There is an actual design for that in the plans from 2017,” he says. There is an unfinished part to be completed, and also a part of it falling into the water that needs to be repaired.

The parking lot on River Beach Drive he calls “a hot potato,” with some work that was done that wasn’t to plan, and with a subsequent plan to fix it.

And of course there are the problems that still exist with the groyne shoreline stabilization project, where large stones are installed in the water on a sandbank. It was not surprising that the groyne fell down, “and they still have no idea how to fix it.” So the causeway is being removed, and “when they find a way to fix the groyne, the dirt will have to be put back.”

“But honestly,” he adds, “I don’t think they will find a way to fix it — you can’t put big stones on a sandbank and expect them to stay there forever.”

Instead, what remains, he says, is a huge hole in the sand that is 20 feet deep.

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# B&B Association celebrates 25 years of tourism evolution

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Al and Shari Legal were sitting on a beach in Cuba in February of 2020, toes in the sand and enjoying a rum punch, when the conversation got around to what they were going to do for the rest of their “semi-working” lives, as they ease into retirement.

Shari, Al recalls, looked at him and said she’d like run a bed and breakfast, and so that was what they agreed to do.

They couldn’t know what would come next.

They bought their future B&B on Lakeshore Boulevard, between Oak and Dixie, in the middle of a pandemic, but didn’t open until July of this year. It’s still new to them, but “we’re having so much fun doing this, meeting so many people. It’s been an awesome experience, even better than we anticipated it would be,” says Al, who has become secretary of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Bed & Breakfast Association and a strong advocate of its role in town as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Al grew up in NOTL, met Shari in high school in St. Catharines, and got married last year, he says, laughing about that story being for another day.

The story for today is an opportunity to discuss the

B&B and short-term rental accommodation industry as it’s evolved over the last 25 years, and how the town has evolved since the ’60s, when Al, born and raised in town, lived in Chautauqua and on Niagara Boulevard. He went to St. Vincent de Paul School in the Old Town — it’s long gone now — when NOTL was just “a sleepy little town.” It was great place to grow up, he says, and having moved back from Thorold in his semi-retirement, he loves the town as it is today.

His mother, a member of the Gould family, which has lived in town for many decades, went to Parliament Oak School — his Uncle Hugh and cousin Brandon still run an automotive repair shop in Virgil.

He remembers as a kid that Americans would come for the summer, and when they left “it would get pretty quiet in town.” NOTL in those days was not the tourism destination it is now, and there weren’t the number of B&Bs, villas, and vacation rentals there are today.

Legal mentions the discussion that sometimes comes up of “who we are as B&B owners, inn and villa and cottage owners, people who come from Toronto with big money and drive up the price of houses. I’m proof that’s not the case,” he says.

“I’ve watched the town grow from that sleepy little destination to the vibrant destina-

tion it is today, and I love the evolution.”

He and Shari have hosted some young Gen Zs — typically considered those born after 1995 and into the early 2000s — who had never even considered staying at a B&B before their visit to NOTL, and says he and Shari, and others like them, are providing an important accommodation availability for those who choose an alternative to a hotel.

Rental accommodations offer “the quaint, custom, charm, colour, flavour and history of NOTL. We provide that as ambassadors of the town for people who don’t necessarily want the hotel experience.”

Primarily, B&B owners tend to be empty-nesters, semi-retired like themselves, looking for a way to ease into retirement, he says. “We live here, we shop here, we’re part of the community, and we’re ambassadors for the town. We’re advocates for the town. We host the town’s guests and we want to make sure the tourism experience is healthy and sustainable.”

Rental accommodation owners agree with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce that they don’t want the town to be overrun with tourists, that they want to appeal to high-value visitors who come to NOTL, stay for a few days, and do as much in town as possible while they’re here.

“We want to help everyone

thrive. This is more than just running a business. We’re contributing members of the town and contributing to local businesses.”

Some rental accommodation owners live elsewhere — that’s not new for NOTL, it’s part of the town’s history, he says, back to the days when the Americans came to their summer homes and then left at the end of the summer.

The tourists coming to NOTL now are not only changing the age demographic, they are changing the experience they’re looking for, says Legal.

“We can provide them with the kind of experience we all come here for, the charm and the lifestyle.”

Some are looking for hosted B&Bs, others want guest houses, he adds. “We respect that as well, and want visitors who will come to stay over multiple days and have a great experience while they’re in town.”

With the help of Granicus, a company contracted by the town to investigate and shut down unlicensed rental accommodations, the number of such properties has been reduced, says Legal, although there can still be unruly guests.

He speaks of the short term rental recommendations presented to the last term of council, supported by Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and says he is looking forward to having the new lord mayor and council



Al and Shari Legal love being hosts to NOTL’s visitors. (Photo supplied)

following through, in particular hiring bylaw officers who work after hours and will cut down on any problems guests might be causing their neighbours.

“NOTL is a tourism destination, and we don’t want tourists and residents to have a negative impact on each other. That is absolutely key,” he says.

As hosted and unhosted rental accommodation owners, “we love to please our guests,” says Legal. “We want to give them the holiday experience they’re looking for. We take great pride in looking after our accommodations and also helping guests find what they’re looking for, to keep them wanting to come back.”

The B&B Association, with includes hosted and unhosted accommodation rentals, is recognizing its 25th anniversary with a “celebration of where we’ve been, and where we are going,” says Legal, who organized an upcoming celebratory event.

“We’re doing that with food, wine and storytelling, with the new lord mayor and council there to help us celebrate.”

The association has done a great job of being advocates and ambassadors for the town, he says, “and we look forward to continuing that role going forward.”

For more information about accommodation rentals, the NOTL Bed & Breakfast Association and their celebration at the Court House on Nov. 23, contact John Foreman at president.notlbba@gmail.com.

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION!



**Gary Burroughs**



**Wendy Cheropita**



**Sandra O'Connor**



**Erwin Wiens**

We wish to thank Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, Sandra O'Connor, and Erwin Wiens for running for council this year and for voting in favour of and approving the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT TAX) during the past council year!

Out of every dollar paid in property taxes the NOTL budget receives less than 5 cents from the tourism industry.<sup>1</sup> The MAT Tax is important as the new council faces shortfalls in infrastructure maintenance, inflationary pressures and high home assessments that threaten to significantly increase taxes for home owners.

Thank you for endorsing the Tourism Strategy in your campaigns and listening to residents. We look forward to residents having an equal say in the town’s tourism strategy as it is being developed.

Our suggestion is to reserve the collected MAT Tax as follows:  
50% of MAT Tax to reduce capital and maintenance deficits from the high seasonal demands of tourism.  
50% of MAT tax for the accommodation industry’s DMO to promote low volume high yield tourism. Tourism is good, too much is bad.

1. Sources: NOTL 2022 property tax insert 21.7% of property taxes go to the town levy for its budget. Town treasurer reports only 23.07% of 2021 property taxes are paid by commercial tax payers. Not all commercial tax payers are tourism companies.



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# EDITORIAL

## Can we do it for our kids? Of course we can

The message remains mixed. We should wear a mask indoors, and in crowded outdoor places. It is strongly recommended. But we don't have to.

On Monday, people in Ontario were asked to mask up. Voluntarily. That's the recommendation from the provincial chief medical officer of health.

Sadly, as long as masks are only recommended, we aren't likely to see society responding in any numbers.

It seems there has been a turnabout since we first learned about COVID. In the early days when mask mandates were mandated, vaccines were on the horizon and PCR tests were widely used, with public health units reporting cases daily and putting considerable time and effort into contact tracing. At that time, although we knew COVID could attack anyone of any age, including children, we also quickly learned it did its worst on seniors and those whose health was already compromised.

Now, seniors, immunocompromised and pretty much the majority of every adult age and segment of society has had any number of vaccinations, most at least two, and many up to five.

Except for children. The uptake of vaccinations for younger age groups is not good. And it's the young ones now who are getting sick. If you have kids or grandkids, they've likely missed some school since September, maybe a lot, trading colds back and forth, and COVID going through families and friends, some for the first time, many the second round of infection.

The DSBN, and probably all school boards in Ontario, takes its lead from the province. Board spokesperson Kim Sweeney says "we support everyone's individual choices, whether they choose to wear a mask or not. We have ensured that our school communities respect these choices as well."

Masks are provided to any student or staff who wishes to wear one. "At the moment, masking is still voluntary, however if a provincial mandate is introduced, our schools would make sure that families have all the information they need," she says. "As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to follow the province's and the Ministry of Education's direction on health and safety protocols in schools."

The DSBN has continued with thorough cleaning of classrooms and school areas and has emphasized to all staff and students to continue health and safety protocols such as hand hygiene and proper cough and sneeze etiquette, says Sweeney. And although families and staff are not required to report an absence due to COVID, "we reinforce that when feeling ill, it is best to stay at home."

The head of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children is asking for provincial mandatory masking to ease the pressure on pediatric hospitals, including in schools, and he isn't the only one.

There are more kids in intensive care units in Ontario than there are beds. Sick Kids and McMaster Children's Hospital are cancelling surgeries. Emergency rooms are overflowing, with reports of ridiculous wait times — 12 hours or more for a sick baby. The Ottawa children's hospital is adding a second ICU. Some older kids are being moved to adult hospitals.

It's not all COVID, or even mostly COVID. Doctors are calling it the triple threat — COVID, influenza and RSV, all with similar cold symptoms, until kids get really sick and require hospitalization. And wearing a mask protects against all respiratory illnesses.

Some of you, as members of the Niagara North Family Health Team, might have received a message Tuesday afternoon. It says one in every 18 people in Ontario has active COVID, and recommends we wear masks, get vaccinated, and open windows for better ventilation.

Based on the number of health officials who are asking for a mask mandate, and the number of people, especially children, who are sick, it seems likely the decision to only recommend them is political, one intended to appear to do what is right while trying not to rile those who are against not only masks but pandemic restrictions of any kind.

We can follow the "strong recommendation" and wear a mask. We can also encourage kids to do the same, but it's difficult when not everyone else at school, or even a majority of students, is wearing one, and they know they don't have to. It's not a rule.

Either the number of sick children at over-crowded hospitals will miraculously decline, soon, or the province will have to reconsider. Why not do that now?

These are our kids. It's the job of the adults to make the right decision, the decision that may not be popular, but will keep kids safe.

Until that happens, we need to seriously consider the advice we're being given from health experts — get a booster shot, or the first or second vaccination for kids who haven't had them yet. If we're sick, COVID or not, stay home. And if we can wear a mask without being told we have to, even better.

We're adults. We should be able to do that for the children.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## The joys of winter camping — seriously!



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

For Niagara-on-the-Lake, the first snowfall of this year was Sunday, Nov. 13. Nothing special, nothing

stuck, but it happened.

We are now plunging deeper into winter while the mercury plunges on the thermometer

Once the awkward phase of grey skies and soggy earth passes, I find myself getting excited for winter camping.

I would imagine this is not exactly what you thought on Sunday, as you sat in the warmth of your

dwelling and watched the indecisive precipitation fall to the ground. Snowflakes, slush, and flurries fell from the sky as we hovered around the magical moment of zero degrees Celsius.

Like a good thunderstorm, a snowstorm fires me up. The approach of a heavy snowfall or blizzard feels like every snowflake is trying to meet each of my cells and

hydrate them with happiness, to create an energetic force so indifferent to our cozy human lives. Perhaps it's the scenery it creates in its wake, and the storm's humbling ability to make us adapt our otherwise dominating human lives for a moment. It could be the bleak, blunt, and mysterious solitude following a heavy snowfall which spiritually intrigues us.

I got into winter camping when I was about 20 years old. Naturally, I think the first story I need to share with you is what a miserable failure the initial winter camp-out was, and how such misery had quickly morphed into lessons learned and hilarious memories told.

I became a co-guinea pig for this icy camping experience with my younger brother, Isaac, about 15 at the time. My middle brother, Garrett, must have been at home in his bed laughing himself to sleep about our

naivety this evening, as Isaac and I hiked up the Niagara Escarpment to a sheltered nook to set up camp.

Hiking up at sundown, our backpacks were filled with amateur intentions.

The conversation probably went something like this from my end, "Hey bro, if we just pick our absolute warmest clothes, and then layer them up twofold, that should be sufficient. We'll go into the basement and pick the thickest Canadian Tire sleeping bags we have, and of course our snow pants and winter jacket. We should be good."

Fast-forward through a night of fire, food, good laughs, and -10 C. It is now about 4:30 a.m. I hear Isaac's voice next to me in the tent, but can't even see his face or nose inside the cocoon of pathetic layering.

"Hey, are you cold?" he asks. I could hear his own answer in his voice. I answered, "Yeah, I'm cold, and I've barely slept

because of it."

We decided that we were too frigid to go back to sleep. It turns out that generic clothing and sleeping bags, no matter how many layers, weren't going to cut it.

"We need to pack this tent up, fast. I'm mad and need to get home and get warm," he said. Fair enough. I was feeling the exact same way. We hiked 45 minutes along the Bruce Trail and its associated side trails to get back to our place outside of Queenston and dove into a heated home like it was a super bowl touchdown.

There was a lot to learn from this winter camping experience, which made my next dozen or so in life much more pleasant. As pleasant as a summer camp out, I'd boldly venture to say.

Since then, I have successfully camped in -20 C, gone to bed after falling through an pond ice up to my waist, and have enjoyed intentionally trekking into snowfall or blizzard warnings to sleep in it.

The secret to making a winter campout not only successful, but a positive and rewarding experience, falls under two frozen factors: The joys of winter camping — seriously!

You can buy equipment, but you can't buy attitude.

You can use an ordinary tent with a fly cover, but you need a roll-up thin and thermal mattress to prevent the cold earth from sucking your body heat into the soil.

## View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

*The Good Nurse* (Netflix 2022) is a gripping drama of evil at work. The story unfolds slowly and it is difficult, at first, to discern

who the good nurse is. It is a finely-crafted film with superb performances by Jessica Chastain and Eddie Redmayne, and it is based on a true story.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who

loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.



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Local LETTERS

How many properties does developer need?

RE: Parliament Oak Winery, the former Mori's Nurseries and now the Parliament Oak land?

Randwood Estate, Two Sisters Winery, Stone Eagle

How much land does Mr. Marotta need to own before he requests to

change the name of our town to Town of Marotta on the Lake?

Gerry Beneteau  
NOTL

Local LETTERS

Last letter to town of NOTL from Lord Mayor Betty Disero

As I write this, today, Nov. 14, is my last day.

Thank you, Niagara-on-the-Lake for the privilege of being your lord mayor for the last four years.

I will miss not being part of the newly constructed Village of Virgil next spring, the new Hovercraft to Toronto next summer, high speed internet in the rural areas and the creation of our new Glendale Community to come.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa.

I am hopeful that the collaborative approach and connections that the Lord Mayor has with the Provincial Government will help him protect our town and keep it the town people love.

I am thrilled that there are four new members, representing different geographical areas of our town. I know that these new members will do their very best to represent the community in a caring and transparent manner. I have complete faith in their abilities.

Thank you to the staff of our town for their dedication and hard work. You have taken us through some difficult times with great professionalism.

I wish much good luck to the Villages of Old Town, Virgil, St Davids, Glendale, Queenston and to our wonderful farming community. May you stay united in your vision to remain quaint and to stay strong in your determination to protect our lovely town.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero  
NOTL

Letters! We want letters!

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

Correct equipment, attitude necessary

Continued from page 6

A tarp under the tent helps with that, too. I pack a thin wool blanket to put over this mattress, and then we get to the good stuff — a proper winter sleeping bag.

Many of these are rated with a "proofing" of temperature that a standard healthy adult can withstand

while inside. Mind you, if a sleeping bag says it is -20 C proof, like mine does, that doesn't mean you are going to be perfectly toasty or comfortable at -20. However, you will stay alive and likely get to sleep with some cold chills. Any temperature less than that gets more pleasant.

You've got to wear some base layers inside this sleep-

ing bag, like long johns or a snugly sweater top. Don't forget the toque to prevent heat loss from your head, and you can put tomorrow's clothes inside the foot end of your sleeping bag so your body heat can warm them up a little overnight. No, you do not need to pee in a bottle to keep you warm, but to each their own. If you have the ability to pack extra, throw

another blanket on top of your sleeping bag for insurance temperature trapping.

You also need to adopt a temporary and adventurous attitude.

Winter camping can successfully give an enormous sense of accomplishment and and empowerment, simply knowing you did it. You woke up the next morning, you weren't mis-

erably cold, and you beat the elements while NOTL's other 17,000 plus residents slept inside. It's a really cool feeling, pun intended. It's almost like you've cheated the system while locals slept apart from it and animals hibernated against it.

That is, except, for the hoots and whinnies of great horned owls and eastern screech owls while you fall

asleep in your cozy creation.

Upon wrapping up this article, I yelled down the hall to Isaac. I told him he would make the cut for this week's edition, and I asked him if he remembers the camping adventure, and being cold.

"No, bro. I remember being that (insert expletive) cold."

Yet I bet he would go again with me.



Owen Bjorgan eats tuna by the fire while camping outdoors. (Owen Bjorgan)



Owen shared his first winter camping expedition with his younger brother Isaac.

*Celebrate the Season*

BOOKING DEADLINE:  
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AT 5 PM

We will be publishing an editorial/event calendar to let everyone know what is happening throughout the winter season. Join us in welcoming all residents and businesses in Niagara-on-the-Lake through the NOTL Local as well as the Voice of Pelham and News Now (Grimsby/Beamsville).

Publication date: November 23, 2022

NOTL businesses  
contact Karen at  
905-641-5335 or  
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contact Julia at  
905-934-1040 or  
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The Niagara-on-the-Lake  
*Local*  
The Trusted Voice of Our Community





Lyle Hall, Patty Alexander, Erika Alexander, Jim Alexander, Anna Lee Benjamin and Janice Thomson at the Niagara Foundation Living Landmark Dinner at Navy Hall Saturday. Jim was being honoured, with his sisters Patty and Anna Lee there to celebrate with him. Notice the flag behind them — that’s Erica and Jim. (Ben Taylor)

# Foundation honours people who make town ‘special place’

Continued from page 1

one of our priorities. As development and density pressures continue to challenge the heritage and built form here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we will continue to be a voice that promotes the history, traditions and culture of the Niagara area,” said Lyle Hall, foundation president.

Established in 1962, the Niagara Foundation is a charitable organization with a mission to preserve the built and natural heritage of NOTL and surrounding communities. Quietly and effectively, the foundation has advocated for preservation, undertaken innovative partnerships, fostered knowledge

and appreciation, and been responsible for securing and advancing the very qualities that are now so strongly associated with historic NOTL. Each year since 2006, the Niagara Foundation has chosen a recipient of the foundation’s prestigious Living Landmark Award, giving it to an individual foundation members feel have made an

outstanding contribution to the quality of life in Niagara. Past honourees are: 2021: Penny Coles; 2020: The Citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake; 2019: Gracia Janes; 2018: Judy

MacLachlan; 2017: Dr. Richard Merritt; 2016: Norma Jane Lowrey and Blair Harber; 2015: Gary Burroughs; 2014: Debi Pratt; 2013: Jim Smith; 2012: Peter Stokes;

2011: Christopher Newton; 2010: Joy Ormsby; 2009: John Walker; 2008: Calvin Rand; 2007: Donald Combe; 2006: Norm Howe and Gerry Wooll.

## Goettler Family Foundation donates \$1 million to Wilderness

### Local Staff

Lauren and Vaughn Goettler and the Goettler Family Foundation have pledged \$1 million toward the acquisition, stabilization and protection of The Wilderness. The Niagara Foundation has claim to half of it, and is trying to secure the remaining portion in order to preserve the property. “We love our home in Niagara-on-the-Lake and think heritage attributes like The Wilderness contribute to making this a special place to live,” said Lauren Goettler in a recent news release. “This generous gift will further the foundation’s efforts to acquire the half interest in The Wilderness we don’t already have claim to,” said Lyle Hall, incoming Niagara Foundation president. “We want to acquire this heritage property and honour its unique place in the history and culture of Niagara-on-the-Lake.” The foundation claims its half-interest through the will of Ruth Parker, one of three sisters who owned the property. Ruth passed away in 2013. The executor of Parker’s estate determined the Niagara Foundation was the organization to respect her wishes that the heritage elements of The Wilderness be preserved and maintained for the benefit of the public. The five-acre wooded property and its historic buildings on King Street in the heart of the Old Town was once the home of William Claus, deputy superintendent of the Indian De-

partment, and one of the three trustees of the Six Nations. The Wilderness was originally given by Six Nations to Claus’ wife Nancy Johnson “in token of her many deeds of kindness.” Her father, Sir William Johnson, negotiated the Treaty of Niagara with 24 Indigenous nations in 1764. The treaty formed the basis for the original treaty relationship between Indigenous peoples and settlers in Eastern North America. The town designated The Wilderness a heritage property in 1994. This designation applies both to the heavily wooded land as well as the entire exterior and interior of the house on the site, as well as the carriage house and the archaeological remains. The house was built in 1816. A creek that meanders through the property is protected by a conservation easement. The Ontario Heritage Trust has strongly encouraged the preservation of this property, says Sunday’s news release. The Goettler Family pledge kicks off a fundraising process that will extend into 2023. “This is a great start to a larger fundraising effort,” said Hall. “Acquisition is the first step. Then, we need to determine how best to realize Ruth Parker’s wish of preservation and maintenance of this historic property.” “Our hope is that this gift provides a catalyst for others to step forward and assist the foundation in this worthy cause,” said Vaughn Goettler. “Let’s do something we can be proud of for years to come.” In the news release, the

Niagara Foundation says it is “most grateful to Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens Lauren and Vaughn Goettler, and their foundation, for this most generous pledge” toward the campaign to safeguard The Wilderness. The Goettler Family Foundation is a catalytic, innovative, philanthropic organization that chooses to initiate new projects, fund areas that are ignored by others, sponsor the forgotten and most in need, champion our traditions and history, and step in when projects have been neglected or stalled, says the news release. The family foundation seeks out partners, internationally and locally, who are pivotal for changing the world for the better, acting according to the principles of effective altruism, and chooses to be a change agent, community builder and an active philanthropic leader, whose aim is to challenge and stimulate others to participate in making our world a better place, the news release says. The Goettler Family Foundation has made financial commitments to a range of culture, arts and local history, the young people of Niagara, conservation causes and those most in need including: a Niagara College Scholarship; Yellow Door Theatre; the NOTL Museum; Music Niagara; Niagara Symphony Orchestra; Shaw Festival; Chorus Niagara; Coral Reefs; African Rift Valley; WVASA Initiative (Malawi); Doctors Without Borders (Ukraine); Bolivia Aquaponics Programme; GROW Together; THARS, Burundi.

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# Reid and Foundation say they want property preserved

Continued from page 1

Wilderness be preserved and maintained for the benefit of the public.

Because it is the estate that is selling the property, it has to be approved in court, “but we haven’t been able to get into court” to get that approval, Hall says.

The remaining half interest is controlled by Ken Reid, the former husband of Kea Reid, who was the daughter of Fran MacKay, Parker’s sister.

Both Ken and Kea, known in town as the local canine control officers, lived in the house on The Wilderness property until Kea passed away in 2016. Ken still lives there.

Over the past decade, the property has fallen into a state of disrepair with several signs of deferred maintenance, Hall. Several large trees have come down, with several more requiring attention. An inspection of the buildings by JK Jouprien Heritage Resource Consultant in 2018 uncovered several basic maintenance issues, ranging from the need to replace the roof to moisture problems throughout the building. Jouprien, Hall says, stated in his report prepared for the Niagara Foundation that “the property has not had the benefit of consistent and well man-



Local historian Jim Smith found this photo of The Wilderness in his collection, and although it’s not dated, he thinks it would be from the ‘60s or ‘70s.

aged stewardship.”

Shortly after Kea’s death, Ken initiated legal proceedings to gain control of the entire Wilderness property and sell the land for residential development, Hall says

He points to Reid’s request to the court for an order that the property be sold at fair market value, and that Reid is asking for appraisers to be assigned in order to determine value, and says “this does not sound like the actions of someone looking to pre-

serve the property. The only way to ensure preservation is to own the land and set about doing the preservation and stabilization work required. This is what the foundation is looking to do,” he says.

“The challenge now is to value this piece of property,” says Hall. “We’re going to have to arrive at a number.” That is why a recent announcement of a fundraising campaign and a \$1 million donation is so important, he adds, “so we’re

prepared to do that.”

Reid says the property is not in a poor state of repair, and that he has tried to keep up with maintenance, doing a little bit each year, but it was difficult when he was left without an income after the town decided to go with the Lincoln County Humane Society for animal control services.

He has no intention of selling the property to a developer, he says. “All I’m asking for is fair market value. My ideal buyer would be

someone who is intending on preserving it as an undeveloped oasis, to preserve the property as it is.”

Reid wants to make enough money from the sale to buy a house to live in, or a piece of property that he can build on — and these days it would be difficult to do that in NOTL for less than \$1 million, he says. He also wants enough money left over for his retirement. “I’m not going to give it away.”

The issue, he says, is that he believes the foundation

is “low-balling” the value of the property, and he is afraid they may do the work to restore it and then sell it for a profit.

Hall denies that is their intention, and points to the many properties the foundation has purchased, restored and “put back in public use.” The foundation, he says, “has a track record of preserving buildings,” and if they are able to acquire this property, it will be with the aid of donors, who will be watching with interest what happens to it.

The Wilderness could perhaps, once the landscaping and buildings are restored, be put in a public trust, such as with Parks Canada, that would allow the public areas and buildings to be maintained, he says.

“It is not our intention to sell it to make money,” he says, stressing “it is categorically false” that the foundation plans to make a profit from it.

The foundation has responded to Reid’s request for a “fair market value price” by proposing to purchase Reid’s half-interest at an appraised value “that considers both the heritage and environmental restrictions, to prevent the sale and redevelopment of this heritage asset and remain true to Ruth Parker’s wishes.”

The matter is now before the courts.



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# Remembrance Day draws good crowd to honour veterans

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Despite a deluge of rain that continued throughout the day, there was a good crowd huddling under umbrellas at the Queen Street cenotaph Friday, there to honour all those who have fought for their country, and those who died for it.

In addition to readings by two local pastors and the reciting of *In Flanders Fields* by Holy Cross Secondary School student Nadia Raso, perhaps one of the highlights was the failure of

the sound system, when it was intended to broadcast O Canada. When the crowd realized it wasn't working they raised their voices in song — it was a more enthusiastic rendition than usual, and so appropriately moving on Remembrance Day.

There was only one speech from a dignitary, MP Tony Baldinelli, who spoke of Canadians “who so selflessly gave their lives while serving in uniforms,” and veterans and current members of the armed forces.

In November, he said, “we

come together like this — poppy on our lapel, pride in our heart — to show respect for those who've sacrificed so much to safeguard our peace and security. It is the duty of every Canadian to take a moment to remember.”

The free and democratic country we live in “was born of the sacrifice and service of those who came before us,” he said, “built by the thousands who left for war and never returned, and those who returned but were never the same.”

And it was bolstered by

every new generation of soldier to which “failing hands would throw the torch, theirs to be held high.”

Canada today exists because from 1914 to 1918 more than 650,000 men and women volunteered to serve, “knowing full well that crossing the Atlantic could mean never coming back.”

It exists because for six long and gruelling years, between 1939 and 1945, “our people would answer the call again, this time to help defeat a regime in Europe that tried so desperately to rule by division and hate.”

He spoke of Canadians who fought valiantly for peace and democracy in the Korean War, those who served in the Middle East and Afghanistan, all those who have been instrumental in restoring and maintaining order and security as peacekeepers, and those who have “always been there for us here at home, going to all parts of the country to respond to natural disasters or other difficult situations that require military intervention. In the service of these missions, hundreds of thousands of our own have given their lives.”

They are buried in military cemeteries all over the world, said Baldinelli, in places that draw thousands upon thousands to meander “between the crosses, row on row, in silent tribute to those who rest for all eternity in the shadows of the sacred grave markers that commemorate them.”

To veterans, to families of veterans, and to current members of our armed forces, he said, “on behalf of the government of Canada, please accept our profound gratitude for your service and sacrifice.”



The flag is raised at 11 a.m. after two minutes of silence to honour the fallen. (Photos by Penny Coles)

As the Remembrance Day service ends, those on parade march off.



Royal Canadian Legion president Al Howse lays a wreath at the cenotaph.



Lord Mayor Betty Disero lays a wreath with Councillors Sandra O'Connor and Gary Burroughs on behalf of the municipality.



## Annual St. Mark's concert fundraises for veterans

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Newark Neighbours and a fund to recognize Indigenous veterans will benefit from the return of Music Niagara Festival's annual Remembrance Day concert held Friday.

A moving, solemn performance of selections from Handel, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Ennio Morricone and more was featured in the program held at St. Mark's Anglican

Church after the Queen Street Remembrance Day service. Performers included Music Niagara founder Atis Bankas on violin, oboist Colin Maier, and Elina Kelebeev on piano.

Local resident Gary Hatton, a retired Royal Canadian Navy veteran, spoke on behalf of the Last Post Fund, whose mission is to provide a dignified funeral and burial, including a military gravestone, to any veteran who may not possess sufficient funds at their time of death.

Hatton has been involved with the fund since his days stationed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he volunteered in the veterans' hospital.

The Indigenous Veterans Initiative was begun by the Last Post Fund in 2019 to provide grave markers to Indigenous veterans deceased for more than five years and lying in unmarked graves.

It also works to add traditional names of Indigenous veterans to existing military

grave markers.

“They initially didn't have the same rights as Canadian soldiers did when they came back from war,” the former Ontario branch president said of Indigenous veterans. “They weren't British subjects. They weren't treated fairly, but as time went on, the soldiers who they fought with pushed the issues. They were recognized by their military comrades, but it took time for the government to catch on.”

Through the Indigenous Veterans Initiative, explained Hatton, traditional Indigenous symbols are etched onto existing gravestones to recognize the culture of many late veterans. They have also provided new military markers for veterans who were buried without any formal recognition of their service.

Shaw actor Julie Lumsden also performed during the noon hour performance Friday. Lumsden, a member of the

Manitoba Metis Federation and a graduate of the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music, read excerpts from the letters of Private George Stonefish, a member of the Delaware First Nation from Ontario's Moraviantown Reserve. Stonefish's letters to his friend John Orvall Hubbell during the First World War are housed in the Canadian War Museum.

Private Stonefish survived

**Continued on page 11**



Veteran Gary Hatton speaks at St. Mark's on behalf of the Last Post Fund. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Julie Lumsden from the Shaw Festival read excerpts from the letters of Private George Stonefish, from Ontario's Moraviantown Reserve, to a friend during the First World War.



Elina Kelebeev on piano with Atis Bankas on violin at St. Mark's.



# Cadets have role to play in Remembrance Day service

**Ben Foster**  
Special to The Local

Last Thursday I went to visit the 809 Air Cadet Squadron at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 as they were getting ready for the Remembrance Day Vigil and Ceremony. They were busy practising their drills in preparation for Friday morning. The squadron has a sleepover at the Legion as cadets get ready for the vigil that starts early in the morning of Nov. 11. The air cadets were looking forward to the morning vigil, completing the rifle drill, the parade, and showing the community that the new and younger generation care about Remembrance Day. The most important parts of the ceremony for the cadets,

they agreed, were standing at and by the cenotaphs, laying the poppy wreath, and the moments of silence to reflect on what Remembrance Day means. Taking part in Remembrance Day was important to the cadets, they said, because it enabled them to show respect and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can have freedom. They also thought Remembrance Day gave them an opportunity to show a special appreciation to all those who have served and those who still serve, and that attending the service is something small everyone can do to show remembrance. I asked several cadets what Remembrance Day meant to them personally, and some of the answers were: “Remembering the lives

lost and the sacrifices made.” “Remembering others who have fallen during war.” “Remembering those who fought for us.” “Remembering the cost of war and the benefits we reap today.” “Remembering all those who have laid down their lives for the greater good.” “Remembering and honouring the sacrifices that people make on the home front and overseas.” I didn’t get long to spend with the cadets, but I could see they were proud to be part of the 809 squadron, they were committed to getting ready for the Nov. 11 ceremony, and to doing their very best on Remembrance Day. “I’m really proud of the effort put in by the cadets of 809 squadron for this year’s



Air cadets stand vigil at the cenotaph during the Remembrance Day service on Queen Street Friday. (Penny Coles)

Remembrance Day parades at both Old Town and Queenston,” said Lt. Dan Couroux after the ceremonies. “We had 15 cadets participate as both an honour guard and a marching contingent. Even though the weather wasn’t the best, they persevered through it to honour Canada’s fallen.” “The relationship we have with 124 Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion is important to our unit,” he added. “It was our privilege to stand by them in remembrance.” Thank you to squadron 809 for the respect and dedication you showed on Remembrance Day, especially in the pouring rain! For more information about the squadron visit <https://809cadets.ca>. Ben Foster is an Eden High School co-op student at The Local.

# Musicians donate their time, money goes to good causes

Continued from page 10

the war and returned home to Ontario. Little is known of his life following the war, but he died of exposure near his home in February 1920, and was buried in the Moraviantown Cemetery. Lumsden, a classically-trained soprano, also delivered a powerful a capella performance of *Kimeyootootin*, a song written by Metis singer-songwriter and actress Andrea Menard for the

play *You Used To Call Me Marie*. *Kimeyootootin* is one of 12 “giveaway songs” Menard wrote for the play. Menard’s website describes it as both an honour song and a love song, offering deep respect and love to the recipient, elevating the relationship between singer and listener to the sacred. Lumsden’s performance seemed to reach those heights. Her flawless, emotional delivery was a highlight of the concert,

transfixing the 80-plus attendees who brought cash donations to the Indigenous Veterans Initiative as well as non-perishable food products as donations to Newark Neighbours. “It’s really great to have a representative from the Metis Federation,” Bankas said following the performance. “She did such a great job. We talked a lot, and she would like to come back and do the show next year as well.”

After delivering the Remembrance Day concert virtually the last two years, Bankas was pleased to return to St. Mark’s in person for the moving program. “The musicians all donate their services,” he said. “Everything goes to really great causes. It’s an important date, and an important tradition to remember. It happens to be one day, but my poppy is always in my violin case.”



Colin Maier on oboe and Atis Bankas on violin perform in Music Niagara’s Remembrance Day concert at St. Mark’s. (Mike Balsom)

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# Sponge Cola to play at Central Community Centre

Mike Balsom  
The Local

One of the biggest bands from Asia is set to play Niagara-on-the-Lake's Central Community Centre on York Road this Saturday, Nov. 19.

Filipino pop/rock group Sponge Cola is making a stop here on their Jeepney Tour, which began in Calgary on Nov. 4 and has seen them make stops in Red Deer, Lethbridge, Regina, Saskatoon and Fort McMurray. The popular four-piece band has played to sold-out houses, and Niagara's Filipino community is excited to welcome them here.

Maki Makins of the organization Filipinos in Niagara Region Ontario estimates that there are almost 9,000 people of Filipino descent living in Niagara. Most of them will recognize Sponge Cola, who are celebrating their 20th year as a band in 2022.

"This will be their first time in Niagara," Makins tells *The Local*. "They are one of the top 10 bands in the Philippines. And one of their songs is the theme song for one of the longest running TV shows there."

That show is a soap opera called *Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay*. Roughly translated to English it means "waited for you a long time." As Ronald Allan Turla of Petmalu Concerts and Events explains, that's an appropriate subtitle for this



Sponge Cola has a huge Asian following, and 2.5 million followers on Facebook. (Photo supplied)

Canadian tour.

"We planned this since before the pandemic," explains the promoter of the tour, "but we had to cancel it. This is finally our time to showcase the band to Canada."

Sponge Cola has released seven albums to date, the most recent of which was 2019's *Sea of Lights*. Lead singer Yael Yuzon sings most of the band's songs

in their native Tagalog, but numbers such as 2015's *The Answer* and *Pick Your Poison* from their 2019 album *District* are sung in English.

Their earlier work had a harder, alternative edge to it, while acoustic guitars feature more prominently in their most recent releases.

To Filipinos of a certain age, says Makins, who runs a local production company

and works as a DJ, they fit in with the music of bands such as the Beatles, the Eagles and the Scorpions.

Sarah Pritula, Central's director of community relations, is excited to host the first pop concert at the new community centre, after having hosted a country music concert and a Christian band earlier this year.

"They're hitting all ma-

jor cities," she says of Sponge Cola, who have 2.5 million followers on Facebook. "They're playing our smaller venue, which holds about 500 people. It's a great space to host events like this."

At Sunday's sold-out Fort McMurray show, Sponge Cola had the audience singing along to their well-known hit songs. In Regina they screamed continuously

as drummer TedMark Cruz smashed away at the skins. At an Asian grocery store in Calgary, Yuzon, Cruz and bass player Gosh Dilay sang a song while Armo Armo-vit strummed an acoustic guitar for an impromptu promo session in the bakery section.

Pritula says the band was planning to arrive in the region Wednesday, giving Makins and his friends some time to escort them around Niagara to see the sights before heading to Toronto for a Friday show at the Korean Canadian Cultural Auditorium on Leslie Street.

"They have a big following on social media," Makins says. "It helps to market the Niagara Region to their followers. The more people who see what is in Niagara, the more people who will come here. Hopefully that translates into economic gain."

Following Saturday's Niagara show, Sponge Cola travels to Montreal for a Nov. 25 concert, then flies out to Vancouver to conclude their Canadian sojourn with a performance in Vancouver.

Tickets for their appearance Saturday at Central Community Centre, 680 York Rd, are available at locations in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines that sell Filipino products and food, including La Familia Grill, J & B Filipino Store, Pinoy Grill and My Choice Asian Grocery.

## Where is Ben?



Ben Foster, The Local's co-op student, is having fun finding new locations in NOTL. He wonders if other teens are already familiar with them? If you know where this photo was taken, let Ben know. Email penny@notllocal.com

## It's starting to look a little like Christmas



Paul MacIntyre of Vintage Hotels says Don Dawson of Dawland Farms, NOTL, steps up each year to source out the tree for the gardens at the Pillar and Post Inn and Spa. This year's tree is bigger than last year's at 30 feet high. Dawson delivered it to the garden with his team on a flatbed truck, and Monday it was being placed into position with the help of a crane. "The tree keeps getting bigger and harder to get into position in the garden," MacIntyre says. "It's going to complement our skating rink that we're getting ready to open soon. We spend a lot of time investing in and getting ready for the holidays." After spending the entire day Monday erecting the tree, the team spent Tuesday and much of Wednesday decorating it to get it ready for the season. (Mike Balsom)



# History in the Vineyard dinner at Ravine

Local Staff

The Friends of Fort George, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and Parks Canada are hosting a special fundraiser dinner at Ravine Vineyard.

The evening will include historical speakers, gourmet food, a silent auction, and a firepower demonstration.

Featured speakers and topics include: Peter Martin, on the Weapons of the War of 1812; Megan Gilchrist, on Breweries of Niagara; Scott Finlay on The Life and Times of Sir Isaac Brock; Rick Meloen will share Things You Didn't Know about the Queenston Quarry; Barbara Worthy will dish Scandal and Gossip; and Amanda Balyk will talk about Bad-Ass Women of Niagara.

Guests may pick two 20-minute presentations, or simply enjoy cocktails before dinner.

"We are very excited to be highlighting different aspects of Niagara's early history at this special event," says Amy Klassen, finance and marketing

director for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum. The event is Nov. 30, at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale at <https://www.notlmuseum.ca>. Tickets are \$150 each, with \$50 eligible for a tax receipt.

The evening includes great food, wine, history and merriment. Contact The Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621 or [admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca](mailto:admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca); or the museum at 905-468-3912 or [contact@nhsm.ca](mailto:contact@nhsm.ca) for information.

All proceeds from the evening will help support projects of The Friends of Fort George and the NOTL Museum.



Paul Harper of Ravine, Tony Chisholm of The Friends of Fort George, Amy Klassen of the NOTL Museum and Amanda Gamble of The Friends of Fort George are excited to be hosting a fundraising event at Ravine. (Photo supplied)

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# Queenston Women’s Chorus to perform Christmas concert

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

The Queenston Women’s Chorus will be presenting its traditional Christmas concert, Here We Come A-Carolling, at a different location than where the popular annual event has

traditionally been held. Formerly known as the Queenston Ladies Choir, their first performances were at St. Saviour Church in Queenston, and when that closed they moved to St. Mark’s Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, says founder and conductor Lisa

Cosens Brillon. But this year that didn’t work out. St. Mark’s was booked in the days leading up to Sunday Dec. 4, the date of the concert, and they wouldn’t have been able to rehearse in the space. Instead, this concert will be held at Trillium United

Church, 415 Linwell Rd., in St. Catharines, at 3 p.m. The Niagara Star Singers, a group of young performers aged eight to 15, will be special guests for the event. Trillium is a wonderful space, says Brillon, everyone has been very helpful, and a reception will be held after the concert. And as an added bonus, the church will hold a larger audience.

The name of the choir, says Brillon, was changed to reflect “a broader spectrum of women and ages. It just seems more current.” Formed in 2003, it has attracted locals and also women from across the region, she says.

It has always had a good group of women who like to

sing, but during the pandemic membership declined. They were holding Zoom rehearsals so everyone could join in from home, she says, “but the choir is a very social group. The women are from different walks of life, but they’re all good friends. We tried Zoom and had a little concert for ourselves, and it was fun. But we lost about 10 members who decided to retire. Some were trying new things, some were just taking a break. But we have about 12 new members, with a total of 30 singers.”

Membership has typically been around 28 to 32, so it hasn’t really changed, Brillon added, but they always welcome new members — there are no auditions, and “it’s not

a big time or financial commitment. We understand people have lives. We like it to be accessible to everyone, and it’s worked well for us for the last 20 years.” The women are now practising every Tuesday night at St. Davids-Queenston United Church on York Road.

Their Christmas concert will include some old favourites, popular Christmas songs, say Brillon, and some classical selections — “the songs everyone wants to hear.”

Net proceeds will go to Newark Neighbours and the Niagara Festival of Performing Arts Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are available at the door or email queenston womenschorus@gmail.com.



The Queenston Women’s Chorus will perform Sunday, Dec. 4 at Trillium Church in St. Catharines. (Photo supplied)

## NOTL Gives Back this season

**Local Staff**

The town is once again teaming up with community partners to ensure those in need enjoy their holiday season.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, Revel Realty and Team MAC are working with the town on NOTL Gives Back, an event to collect donations for vital support programs within the municipality and beyond, says a news release from the town issued Friday.

NOTL Gives Back will take place Saturday, Nov. 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mary Snider Room at the Meridian Credit Union Arena (1567 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil).

The town is asking residents to donate new or gently used clothing, non-perishable

food items and toys. Donated food and clothing will support Newark Neighbours’ Christmas Food Hamper and Gift program, while toys will be donated to McMaster Children’s Hospital.

“NOTL Gives Back has become a fabulous annual event that we are proud to offer year after year,” said Lord Mayor Betty Disero. “A special thank you to the NOTL Minor Hockey Association, Revel Realty and Team MAC Inc, for partnering with the town to host the event this year. NOTL is lucky to have many wonderful community partners eager to promote a spirit of generosity, especially during the holiday season.”

“The kindness and thoughtfulness of our community is truly demonstrated in this season of giving,” said CAO Marnie Cluckie. “NOTL’s residents always

come together at this time of year to support our community and others. I am confident that this year’s event will again be filled with an abundance of generosity, allowing us to make a difference for individuals and families in need.”

Those donating new and gently used clothing are asked to please identify which items are new and gently used. Participants are encouraged to come dressed in festive wear to help get everyone in the holiday spirit.

For more information, please visit [www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events](http://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events). Anyone who wishes to donate but is unable to during the event is invited to participate by dropping donations off in advance at Revel Realty (1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil) or the community centre during regular operating hours.

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# Anchor Niagara offers another way to help youth campus

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**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Maria Mavridis, local businesswoman and a member of the new council being sworn in next week, has just added another layer to her focus on giving back to the community.

The founder of Anchor Niagara, an events company created to partner with charities and organizations on fundraisers, Mavridis was looking for a shower gift on Amazon when a lightbulb went off — she hit on what she thought might be another way to help with funding, and quickly realized she could make it work.

The first organization to benefit from her eureka moment is the NOTL Youth Campus in Virgil.

Mavridis has been having conversations with organizer Caroline Polgrabia about her vision for kids for about six or seven years now — the youth campus has been that long in the making.

Polgrabia is asking for donations to cover operations, including supplies, but to ask businesses to help, especially post-COVID is

tough, says Mavridis.

“As a business owner I would rather purchase something as a business expense, rather than make a financial donation,” she says.

Mavridis has created a

wish list for the youth campus on amazon.ca, using its gift registry. Anyone can purchase an item, have it sent to Anchor Niagara, and it will be delivered to the youth campus in the Cornerstone Community

Church building in Virgil.

Mavridis says when she was at the recent open house of the youth campus she spoke to several kids about what they hoped to do, and focused on those conversations when making a wish list — there are lots of craft items to choose from in a wide

range of prices, a few items of furniture, some snacks, and supplies that will be needed, such as hand sanitizer.









Her next initiative is to create something similar for Newark Neighbours, she says.

“Items donated will be delivered directly by our team to the charity, and all donors

will be listed on the thank you page of Anchors of our Community, as well as the individual charity’s website and social media.

To check out the wish list for the NOTL Youth Campus, visit <https://www.amazon.ca/registries/custom/2839UX-ZSCHVTP/guest-view>

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Donations of supplies can be made to the NOTL Youth Campus on Amazon. (Screenshot)

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# Jazz Festival closes out 2022 at Hare Wine Co.

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

The TD Niagara Jazz Festival announced three shows between now and the end of the year in their third Twilight Jazz and Blues Series, all of which will take place on Mondays at the Hare Wine Company in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Executive artistic producer and co-founder Juliet Dunn addressed a crowd of supporters and the media Monday afternoon, using the occasion to announce an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of more than \$65,000 from their Resilient Communities Fund, the largest grant ever received by the Jazz Festival.

“Our mission is to build healthy, more vibrant communities,” said Henry Dort-

mans of Trillium’s Niagara grant review team Monday. “This grant will allow the festival to buy new equipment and hire new people which will allow the festival to bring the joy of music to a lot of people for a long time.”

“This funding has allowed us to take the festival to the next level,” Dunn wrote in a press release announcing the grant. “We were able to hire a general manager for a period of six months and it is making a world of a difference. This came at a perfect time as we enter our 10th season. We are truly grateful for the continued support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.”

Last season’s Twilight Jazz and Blues Series was held at Spirit in Niagara

Distillery on Lakeshore Road. For Dunn, the first order of business for the move to Hare on Niagara Stone Road was to ensure the piano could be moved to the new venue.

“It actually is owned by my late husband Peter’s father,” she explained. “I contacted him and asked if we could continue to use it. He said ‘absolutely.’ And as a special treat, he’s agreed to play an opening set for our first show. He’s a lawyer, but he’s a pretty wicked piano player.”

Peter Shea lost his battle with cancer this past August. As co-founder of the Jazz Festival with Juliet, they have presented many jazz shows and unique experiences for the past 10 years. Along the way the husband-and-wife duo re-

leased their own CDs and mentored many young musicians and singers in Niagara and beyond.

The Twilight Jazz and Blues Series kicks off Monday, Nov. 21 with Michael Shea opening for the Mark Eisenman Trio. The New York City-born Eisenman has lived in Toronto since 1972. The in-demand jazz pianist is on the faculty of music at the University of Toronto and has also taught at York University and Humber College. He’ll be accompanied by Neil Swanson on bass, and Terry Clarke on drums.

The Genevieve Marentette Quartet takes the spotlight on Monday, Dec. 5. Marentette, known as Gigi, promises a mix of songs from many eras and styles, from the 1930s to the 1980s. The vocalist is known for moving smoothly from the blues to Brazilian sounds, and will also throw a few appropriate seasonal tunes into her set. Marentette’s quartet will include George Koller on bass, drummer Ben Wittman and Michael Shand on piano.

The three-show series wraps up on Monday, Dec. 19 with the return of the Music of Charlie Brown’s Christmas.

The annual performance was always a favourite of Shea’s. The pianist and drummer was a huge fan of Vince Guaraldi’s music. In past years the show was performed at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St. Catharines.

The smaller winery venue will only make the seasonal favourite more intimate. Musicians will include Duncan Wilson on piano, Tyler Wagler on upright bass and Adam Bowman on drums. As in the past, Dunn promises that some special surprise guests will pop in as well.

Tickets can be pur-



Genevieve Marentette takes the spotlight at Hare on Monday, Dec. 5. (Photo supplied)



Monday, Nov. 21 Mark Eisenman and the Mark Eisenman Trio will perform at Hare. (Photo supplied)

chased for single shows or in a three-pack for \$99. Food and wine are available at each event.

In a related event, on Sunday, Dec. 18 the TD Niagara Jazz Festival presents St. Catharines native James Bryan with Emma Rush for a special Christmas Guitar duo performance. Bryan, known for his work with the Philosopher Kings and Prozzak, as well as his songwriting and production for the likes of Nelly Furtado, James Blunt and the Back-

street Boys, will be appearing as part of the Twilight Jazz Series, the rest of which will be announced in the new year.

Bryan and Rush will be teaming up for a Candlelit Christmas edition of their popular Guitar Magic show, featuring a mix of holiday favourites and other classics in a jazz/fingerstyle/classical guitar mashup.

Tickets and information for all four shows can be found at [niagarajazzfestival.com](http://niagarajazzfestival.com).



Lord Mayor-elect Gary Zalepa was at the Hare Wine Company Monday with Henry Dortmans from the Trillium Foundation, who was presenting a cheque to Juliet Dunn. (Mike Balsom)

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**Local**SPORTS

# Niagara Thunderhawks contribute to Brock playoff run

**Mike Balsom**  
**The Local**

Head coach Vince Longboat has nothing but praise for the group of former Niagara-on-the-Lake Thunderhawk players who contributed to the Brock Badgers successful 2022 season.

“We lost 15 players from last year,” Longboat says of the Badgers’ 2021 championship team. “And we had some key injuries this year. These guys stepped up. We put systems in place and these guys got it.”

Trent Hunter, Joe Fragnito, Hunter Ostromecki and Jordan Wiens were all on the undefeated NOTL Under-22 team that won the Ontario box lacrosse A division championship in Whitby this past August. Along with fellow former Thunderhawks Aidan Buis, Jaden Patterson and Nathan Fehr, they can add a Canadian University Field Lacrosse Association silver medal to their accomplishments in the sport.

After finishing the season with seven wins and four losses, the Badgers went into the Baggataway Cup playoffs in Peterborough Nov. 4 to 6 with few expecting them to challenge for the championship.

They edged the Bishop's Gaiters 8-7 Friday to advance to the semi-final game against the Guelph Gryphons, whom they beat in last year's championship game. The Gryphons had beaten the Badgers twice during the regular season this year.

"We could have won (the second regular season game) against them," Longboat recalls. "We lost that one (8-7) in overtime. After that game, it was pretty clear sailing the rest of the way. We had confidence heading into Saturday's game."

Brock punched their ticket into the final with an 8-7 victory over the Gryphons. Both Buis and Hunter contributed goals in the win.

On Sunday, they faced the host, Trent Excalibur, for the title. Though Brock scored first, Trent roared back with a relentless attack, cruising to a decisive 12-3 victory.

To both Longboat and fourth-year player and team captain Aidan Buis, though the loss stings hard, the Badgers stand to learn much from the experience. And Buis will likely be leading the charge for 2023.

"We know we can always improve," Buis tells *The Local*. "That was a big thing



Brock Badgers Jordan Wiens, Jaden Patterson, Hunter Ostromecki, Thunderhawks coach Andy Boldt, Aidan Buis, Trent Hunter and Joe Fragnito. *(Photo supplied)*

throughout the season. Guelph beat us 11-6 the first time, then we took them to overtime. And finally we beat them. Now we see this Trent team, that is our next goal. We're going to try to get there next year so we can be the ones holding the cup instead of them."

"Aidan was a great leader," Longboat says. "Not overly vocal, but he did what he had to do and said something when he had something to say. He's a fantastic team guy. He will be an offensive star for us next year."

The eldest of the NOTL contingent on the Badgers, Buis watched many of the others play at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena through the years, and had the chance to play with some of them for the Holy Cross Raiders in high school.

"I watched them develop, specifically Patterson," the third-year oenology and viticulture student says, "going from such a little kid when I played with him last time, to being a starter on a university team. And Hunter Ostromecki, seeing him around the arena as a younger kid, and now seeing him playing well in these really big games. It's cool to see them progress as much as they have."

Second-year kinesiology student Patterson tried out for the Badgers in 2021 but didn't make the cut. His father, Gino, says Jaden took it personally, and focused on getting bigger and stronger for 2022.

"I just worked out, kept the stick in my hand, and improved on the things I thought I should improve on," Jaden says. "Like my shot. I worked out, ate a lot,

and I was much more confident coming into the tryouts. I had a different mentality, to just go out there and play.”

“He had the skill set,” Longboat remembers, “but he was small. I remember having that tough conversation with him. He packed on some muscle (in the off-season). Jaden did the work he needed to do. I watched him in the summer, playing box lacrosse for the St. Catharines (Junior B) Athletics. He had a bit of an adjustment coming into the field game, but you could see the difference in his confidence.”

Second-year sports management student Ostromecki did make the cut in 2021, but didn't get a lot of playing time. He credits the undefeated summer with the Thunderhawks for his improvement heading into this season.

"It really helped me to get ready for the season," says Ostromecki. "We were a solid team. And there were four of us playing for Brock. About half of the team were from the Niagara Region, and I either played with them or against them in the past. We gelled well."

Longboat saw a big change in Ostromecki in the fifth game of the season, a 12-4 victory over the Toronto Varsity Blues, during which the midfielder picked up his first goal.

"He did some things in that game that we had never seen from him," says Longboat. "It's amazing to watch him play. He has developed that swagger that I would love to see from everybody. He's a grinder, but a quiet presence, and really coachable, too."

Trent Hunter, an assistant captain on the Thunderhawks team this past summer, was in his first year with the Badgers.

"He's another grinder type," says Longboat of the first-year humanities student. "We used him on de-

fence. He would be on the field about 95 per cent of the game. He's a great addition to the team. He showed a lot of leadership potential and had a great on-field presence. He'll be a captain by year three."

It was also the first year

on the Badgers for Joe Fragnito, Jordan Wiens and Nathan Fehr. For Longboat, the prospect of potentially having all seven former Thunderhawks back, as well as all but five of the rest of the roster, bodes well for another run at the cup next year. But he says there is no sure thing.

"I checked my emails Monday and I had 15 new recruits asking me if they could play next year," Longboat says. "There's interest in the team, they know we are real. I've told all my returning guys that no spot is safe. They need to put in the work to stay on this team."

“That’s definitely motivating,” Patterson says when told what Longboat said. “It pushes you to work that much harder in the off-season. Every training session has a purpose. Every time in the weight room you have to remember someone could come in there and work harder than you. You have to be prepared, be ready, and really want that spot.”

"I'll put the work in," Patterson adds, "and once I get that spot, I'll continue to work hard. I won't take any time off."

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## Special BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years

### Niagara Motors celebrates 75 years

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Left: Mike D'Amico (right) congratulates Dave Smith at Niagara Motors' celebration 75 years in business.

and allowing the company to continue to grow. The company's products are used by a wide range of businesses, including government agencies, schools, and hospitals. The company's products are used by a wide range of businesses, including government agencies, schools, and hospitals. The company's products are used by a wide range of businesses, including government agencies, schools, and hospitals.

Niagara Motors has always been a leader in the commercial vehicle industry. The company's products are used by a wide range of businesses, including government agencies, schools, and hospitals. The company's products are used by a wide range of businesses, including government agencies, schools, and hospitals. The company's products are used by a wide range of businesses, including government agencies, schools, and hospitals.

Right: Dave Smith, David Smith, cutting the ribbon.

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# LocalSPORTS

## Predators improve but still drop two

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Last weekend ended with two losses for the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's Niagara Predators. Though the results were almost the same standings-wise, they were miles apart when it came to effort and attitude.

The Predators played what was probably their most complete game of the season Friday

night, a 6-5 overtime loss to the North York Renegades. In light of the fact that the Preds had been outshot 50-35 in a 9-0 loss to the same team the previous week, it was the highlight of their season thus far.

North York's Ryan Fritz opened the scoring 2:36 into the game when he was left alone in front of Niagara goaltender Cameron Huff and beat him with a shot to the top shelf.

But the Predators had come to play a physical, dominating brand of hockey Friday. The Preds used their bodies throughout the game, surprising the Renegades with check after check on both ends of the ice. They outshot North York 11-7 in the first period.

Niagara tied it up before the midway point of the first, when North York goaltender Christopher Thompson couldn't cover up the puck in the crease, giving forward Tyler Gearing a chance to knock it in for the goal.

Dawson Walker put Niagara up 2-1 in the second period when he capitalized on a turnover at the North York blue line and beat Thompson on a slap shot. But Nikolai Salov quickly responded for the Renegades, and four minutes later Christopher Rende put the first place team up 3-2.

After a contentious fight early in the third that resulted in North York's Niko Andreopoulos being thrown from the game and Niagara's Riley Ellis receiving

both fighting and fight instigator penalties, the two teams got busy trading goals back and forth.

In the most exciting period of hockey from the Preds all season, Nick Savoie tied the game up with a power play goal, his first goal of the season. Leo Savin made it 4-3 Predators when he shot from behind the Renegades net, bouncing the puck off the back of Thompson's leg and across the line for the go-ahead goal.

But Joseph Lioni tied it up less than three minutes later, before Anthony Tropea put Niagara back on top 5-4 with a picture-perfect break-away goal. Unfortunately, Salov's second of the game knotted the score up 5-5, and it remained that way through the end of the third period.

Then, two minutes into the overtime frame, Maurizio Reale sealed the 6-5 victory for the Renegades.

Despite the overtime loss, Predators head coach Kevin Taylor was all smiles after the game.

"They were doing every-



Anthony Tropea's break-away goal wasn't enough to put Preds on top.



Coaches Kevin Taylor and Connor Shipton with October's player of the month, Ryan Santini. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

thing we wanted them to do," said an obviously pleased Taylor. "What I'm happy about, we lost last time 9-0, and we came back and took them to overtime. We got a point that I don't think anybody expected. We lost the game, but the fans were clapping when we came off the ice. I think they got their money's worth today."

Taylor praised goaltender Cameron Huff for allowing Niagara to compete with North York.

"He made the saves he needed to make," Taylor said. "He kept us in the game. He played great tonight. But the whole team, everybody put the effort in. They came to work. For a week we sat on that 9-0 loss. That was an embarrassing loss. This game could have gone either way."

Unfortunately, the Predators weren't able to take Friday's momentum into Sunday's game against a depleted Aces squad in Windsor. Their lackluster performance in a 4-1 loss had Taylor frustrated once again.

"I can't explain how they laid an egg after Friday's game," said Taylor. "They probably made maybe 20 hits all game. It's another embarrassing loss, against a team that had only ten skaters and three goalies."

Anthony Tropea scored the lone Predators goal, while Samuel Senft and Ryan Patterson each netted a pair for the Aces. The shots on goal were even at 30 for both teams.

"It should have been a cakewalk," Taylor lamented. "The fourth line guys and the back-up goalies should have had a chance to show me what they could do. It's frustrating. I need my top six to be better than their top six."

Despite the loss, leaving the Preds with a record of 5-8-2, eight points up on the 2-15-0 Aces and in seventh place in the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's nine-team South Division, he feels the team is missing just one or two key players.

"There's a lack of hockey leadership on the team," he says. "We're missing that guy that knows how to win, that knows the importance of each minute. They need their brother-in-arms beside them to push them. It can't be the coach all the time."

The Predators have a chance to exact some revenge this Friday as the Aces visit Virgil's Meridian Credit Arena at 7:30 p.m. Taylor promises his young team will not play the way they did Sunday.

"We'll be making some changes this week," he tells The Local. "We have a new player coming for Friday who will hopefully bring some leadership to the team. I think they went in there Sunday and just took Windsor lightly. They won't be doing that Friday."

### PREDATORS NOTE:

At Friday's game, goaltender Ryan Santini was presented with the Predators Player of the Month award for the month of October.

"My company, Trista's Place Mental Health Services, is sponsoring the award," Taylor said Friday night. "This award is from the team's perspective. He's way up there in save percentage and he's kept us in so many of the games."

Santini leads the GMHL in saves with 364 made in ten games for the Predators. He's faced 408 shots, by far the most in the league, and has a save percentage of 0.892.

## LocalHAPPENINGS

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## LocalWORSHIP

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- Across:  
1 Pistols  
5 Police heavy brigade  
9 Unexpected turn of events  
14 Long song for one in an opera  
15 Cairo/Pittsburgh river  
16 Totaled  
17 Of the present month (Abbr.)  
18 Traditional knowledge  
19 Cosmetics mogul Elizabeth ---  
20 Monk's title  
21 Job-discrimination watchdog (Abbr.)  
22 Plumping  
23 Moonshine maker  
25 Liable  
27 Journey's end forecast  
28 Swedish aircraft maker  
30 Astonish  
32 Take for granted  
34 Hearth  
38 Radiation absorber  
39 "I shall not find myself so --- die" (Antony, in "Julius Caesar")  
41 One up on a deuce  
42 Catholic  
44 Accuse  
46 Wide river mouth
- 47 Flying toy  
48 Batter essential  
51 Fashion reminiscent of the past  
53 "What happens in --- stays in ---"  
56 Short stops  
58 Decree  
60 Web site ID  
61 The first Mrs. Trump  
62 Singer --- Simone  
63 Split  
64 Well mannered  
65 International trade org.  
66 Stripe  
67 Breaks  
68 Raised  
69 E.g. Levin, Gershwin and others
- Down:  
1 Short attacks  
2 Ripley's slogan finishers  
3 Firing  
4 Posed  
5 Only  
6 Cry of exultation  
7 Battle group main feature  
8 The very end of a golf club  
9 Swing in a circus  
10 Skin blemish  
11 Self-published author
- 12 Surgically implanted tube  
13 A k a the Friendly Islands  
21 Gunslinger actor Jack ---  
22 Duck ---, medieval child's game  
24 Exalted  
26 Leave out  
29 Fab Four  
31 Personal assets  
32 Top-fermented beer  
33 Moderately dry  
35 Unorthodox  
36 Angular meas.  
37 Peeper  
40 British Prime Minister when the Constitution was signed  
43 Food grasses  
45 Honey factory  
48 Sagas  
49 Singer-songwriter --- DeGraw  
50 Yellow tropical fruit with pink pulp  
52 Token amount  
54 Center of an amphitheater  
55 Snow vehicles  
57 Saucy girl  
59 "Shane" star Alan ---  
62 Toff  
63 G-men

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OBITUARY

DOUG JAGGS  
NOVEMBER 3, 1929 – OCTOBER 15, 2022

With gratitude for a warm and kind person, and sorrow in my heart, I must share the sad news that Doug slipped away after a brief illness and will be missed by everyone who knew him.



Doug died October 15 at St. Catharines Hospital. He was predeceased by his late wife Joyce and survived by his loving wife Anne of 24 years, children David, Gordon and Lesley, Papa to Dakota, Sierra and Everest, and his sister Sandy.

Family was most important to Doug, loving and supporting them unconditionally.

I would like to thank Dr. Bastedo for his endless kindness and caring, and Sheila from Care Partners.

Cremation has taken place.

Rest in peace  
Anne

SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from  
November 9, 2022

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

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Rods, 5 S W A T, 9 Twist, 14 Aria, 15 Ohio, 16 Ran to, 17 Inst, 18 Lore, 19 Arden, 20 Dom, 21 E E O C, 22 Opting, 23 Still, 25 Prone, 27 E T A, 28 Saab, 30 Amaze, 32 Assume, 34 Fireside, 38 Lead, 39 Apt to, 41 Trey, 42 Ecclectic, 44 Charge, 46 Delta, 47 Kite, 48 Egg, 51 Retro, 53 Vegas, 56 Pauses, 58 Rule, 60 U R L, 61 Ivana, 62 Nina, 63 Flea, 64 Civil, 65 O E C D, 66 Band, 67 Snaps, 68 Bred, 69 Iras.  
Down: 1 Raids, 2 Or not, 3 Dismissal, 4 Sat, 5 Sole, 6 Whoop, 7 Aircraft carrier, 8 Toe, 9 Trapeze, 10 Wart, 11 Indie, 12 Stent, 13 Tonga, 21 Elam, 22 On a rock, 24 Lauded, 26 Omit, 29 Beatles, 31 Estate, 32 Ale, 33 Sec, 35 Irregular, 36 Deg, 37 Eye, 40 Pitt, 43 Cereals, 45 Hive, 48 Epics, 49 Gavin, 50 Guava, 52 Ounce, 54 Arena, 55 Sleds, 57 Snip, 59 Ladd, 62 Nob, 63 F B I.



