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 benefited 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 historic 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 acknowledged,” she said. “A few of the accomplishments 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.”

Continued on page 8

Niagara Foundation hopes to preserve five-acre property

**Penny Coles**

The Wilderness is a 500-year-old, 5.6-acre nature preserve, and is adjacent to one of the most unique and historically significant properties in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The property is rich in natural and cultural history, and is home to a variety of plant and animal species.

The Wilderness is bordered by King, Mary, Regent and Centre Streets, and is a residential area bordered by single-family homes 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,” 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,” says Niagara Foundation president Lyle Hall.

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Continued on page 9

Hirji supports province-wide mask mandate

**Penny Coles**

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 40 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 COVID-19 or RSV.

Continued on page 3

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WHEN YOU CALL GREG, YOU GET GREG!
Fred Doyle was thrilled with his surprise birthday party, especially the cupcakes, which disappointed team members.

Doyle has been a familiar 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.

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 sever al 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."

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 Paired with Back Alley Black Lager

Dessert: Maple Whiskey Bread Pudding
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how much COVID-19 is going on, says Hirji. Also wastewater data, which tracks what gets flushed down the toilet, and shows how many people have the infection, is relatively high, “similar to past waves.”

And COVID-19, he adds, “is sadly still causing people to pass away.”

Hirji explains current statistics are similar to the seventh wave in July and August. “COVID-19 has never really decreased by much, and remained at a fairly high level. So there has been less of a clear wave, and more just persistently high COVID-19, which has further increased of late,” he says.

“Some people characterize the current situation as a new wave, some as a continuation and resurgence of the seventh wave, and some as a baseline endemic level of high COVID-19.”

Regardless, he adds, “many people are being hospitalized with COVID-19, and more have been hospitalized in recent weeks with hospitalization numbers that have closely resembled our second and third waves in early 2021.”

Looking at national numbers, there have already been more deaths from COVID in 2022 than in 2020 or 2021, Hirji says. “This is unfortunately the worst year of deaths from COVID-19, although put into context, in the first two years, we were doing lots and lots of things to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to prevent people dying.”

“We’re not doing that any more, so infection is spreading and more and more people are getting infected. The good news is despite not doing anything, there is not a massive amount of deaths, but still more than in 2020 and 2021,” he says, clarifying the numbers reflect people who died directly from COVID or with it playing a role in their death.

However, despite more than 47,000 deaths across the country since the start of the pandemic, it could have been worse, says Dr. Theresa Tam, the federal chief public health officer.

She co-authored a report with other federal medical officials that was recently released, estimating, going by figures up to the end of April 2022, if there had been no public health measures and no vaccines, 800,000 people would have died from COVID-19 in Canada.

The report presented several scenarios, including looking at what would have happened if Canada had used public health measures and not vaccines, estimating that would have resulted in about 360,000 deaths. Relying only on vaccines, with no other measures, would have probably ended in about 325,000 deaths.

Hirji compared COVID numbers in Niagara alone with cases just across the border, where there were fewer regulations on social activity, business lockdowns or mask wearing, saying 1,400 lives in Niagara were saved with local measures and vaccinations.

In 2022, he says, COVID was the third-largest cause of death after heart disease and cancer.

To reduce infections and deaths, “vaccinations and masks are the two most important things everybody should be thinking about,” Hirji says.

Kids 12 and older should get a booster shot — no matter how many they have had in the past. “Get one this fall,” he stressed, adding that the newer vaccines are better at protecting against variants.

Children five to 11 can get a booster as long as it’s been six months since their second dose. And children six months to four years old should get their first or second dose — only about 4.1 per cent have even had a first, he says.

Last spring, Hirji was encouraging improved ventilation and filtration systems in public buildings, including schools, but that didn’t happen.

“If we don’t want to keep going through what we’re going through right now,” he says, “that is one way to do that.”

Although there are no scientific tests at this point to prove it, “definitely the predominant opinion is that it will help with COVID-19, with influenza and other respiratory viruses. We could actually emerge a healthier society for the future if we make those changes. We didn’t make them this summer but hopefully if we do for next fall and winter we could really reduce a whole bunch of illnesses.”

In addition to the importance of boosters, Hirji says, “get your flu shot. Influenza season has started. You can go to a pharmacy or your family doctor and make one visit for both doses. Mask indoors and in crowded settings outdoors, and stay home if you’re sick.”

To look for public health vaccination clinics, visit www.niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination clinic-schedule, or call or check the websites of your local pharmacies.
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)
The 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’s 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 Deer, in the middle of a pandemic, but didn’t open until July of this year. It’s still new to them, but didn’t open until July of this year.

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 20s, 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 Thornold 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 — has Uncle Hugh and cousin Brandon still run an automotive repair shop in Virgil. He remembers a laid 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 today.

Legal mentions the discussion that sometimes comes up of “who we are as B&B owners, and 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 destination 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 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 tourists and we want to make the tourism experience healthy and sustainable.”

Rental accommodation owners agree with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce that tourism owners live elsewhere — many of them came to NOTL and says he and Shari “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.

THE NOTL LOCAL
November 16, 2022

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

Top right: 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.

For more information about B&B’s in NOTL, visit notlbba@gmail.com.
The joys of winter camping — seriously!

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 the movies.
How many properties does developer need?

RE: Parliament Oak property sold to Two Sisters for $8 Million (NOTL Local, Nov. 2)

Randwood Estate, Two Sisters Winery, Stone Eagle Winery, the former Mori’s Nurseries and now the Parliament Oak land.

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

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 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 comfortable at -20. How-ever, you will stay alive and likely get to sleep with some cold chills. Any tempera-ture less than that gets more pleasant.

You’ve got to wear some base layers inside this sleeping 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 yourself warm, but to each their own. If you have the ability to pack extra, throw another blanket on top of your sleeping bag for insur-ance temperature trapping. You also need to adopt a temporary and adventurous attitude.

Winter camping can successfully give an enor-mous sense of accomplish-ment and and empower-ment, 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 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 hi-bernated against it.

That is, except for the 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.

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 Glen-dale Community to come. I would like to extend my congratulations to Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.

I am hopeful that the collabora-tive approach and con-nexions that the Lord Mayor has with the Provincial Gov-ernment will help him protect our town and keep it the town people love.

I am thrilled that there are four new members, rep-re-senting 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, Glen-dale, Queenston and to our won-derful farming community. May you stay united in your vision to remain quaint and to stay strong in your determina-tion to protect our lovely town.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero
NOTL

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 (Grimbsy/Beamsville).

Publication date: November 23, 2022

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

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

Correct equipment, attitude necessary

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.

Celebrate the Season

Booking Deadline: November 16 at 5 PM

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local Business Association
NOTL Businesses contact Karen at 905-641-5335 or karen@notllocal.com
Businesses outside NOTL contact Julia at 905-934-1040 or julia@notllocal.com

November 16, 2022
7
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.


The family foundation seeks out partners, internationally and locally, who are pivotal to 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 family foundation is “most grateful to Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens Lauren and Vaughan 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, find 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 Goettler Family Foundation has made financial commitments to a range of conservation causes and those most in need including: a Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens Lauren and Vaughan Goettler, and their foundation, for this most generous pledge” toward the campaign to safeguard The Wilderness.

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 donates $1 million to Wilderness

In the news release, the Niagara Foundation says it is “most grateful to Niagara-on-the-Lake citizens Lauren and Vaughan 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, find 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.

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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 Wildness 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 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 preserve 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 stop funding the park. "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 property was once the land-scaping 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.
Remembrance Day draws good crowd to honour 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 Han德尔, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 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,” said John Tonefish, who worked for 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’s 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 Orrall Hubbard during the First World War are housed in the Canadian War Museum.

Continued on page 11

Annual St. Mark’s concert fundraising for veterans

Penny Coles
The Local

Despite a deluge of rain that continued throughout the day, there was a good crowd braving the downpour at the Remembrance Day service. Those paying tribute included under umbrellas at the Queen Street cenotaph Friday, to honour all those who came before us, he said, “built by the thousands who left Europe that tried so desperately to save Europeans.”

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.

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.

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

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.”

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

The Local resident Gary Hatton, traditional Indigenous 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’s 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 Orrall Hubbard during the First World War are housed in the Canadian War Museum.

Continued on page 11
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 slew of events 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, continuing 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 honoring the sacrifices that people make on the homefront 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 Remembrance Day Vigil and Ceremony. As a representative of the Indigenous Veterans Initiative, the contemporary war and the benefits we reap today matters,” said Penny Coles.

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. “Every- thing goes to really great causes. It’s an important date, and an important tradition to remember.”

“Remembering all those who have fallen during war.” “Remembering those who served and sacrificed.” “Remembering the cost of war.” “Remembering the sacrifices made.”

Ben Foster is an Eden High School co-op student at The Local.

Musicians donate their time, money goes to good causes

The musicians all donate their services, “he said. “Every- thing goes to really great causes. It’s an important date, and an important tradition to remember.”

“Remembering all those who have fallen during war.” “Remembering those who served and sacrificed.” “Remembering the cost of war.” “Remembering the sacrifices made.”

Colin Maier on oboe and Alias Bankas on violin perform in Music Niagara’s Remembrance Day concert at St. Mark’s. (Mike Balsom)
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 Togal 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 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 Chris- torian band earlier this year.

“They’re hitting all major cities,” she says of Sponge Cola, who have 2.5 million followers on Facebook. “They’re playing our small 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 consistently 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 Armovit 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.
The Friends of Fort George, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery and Parks Canada are hosting a special fund-raiser 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; 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.notl museum.ca. Tickets are $150 each, with $50 eligible for a tax receipt.

All proceeds from the evening will help support projects of The Friends of Fort George and the NOTL Museum.
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 Caroling, at a different concert, Here We Come A Caroling, 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 Liswell 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 large 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 practicing every Tuesday night at St. Davids-Queenston United Church on York Road.

Their Christmas concert will include some old favourites, popular Christmas songs, says 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.

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 every 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 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. 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.

NOTL Gives Back will support Newark Neighbours’ Christmas Food Hamper and Gift program, McMaster Children’s Hospital and the Niagara Festival of Performing Arts Scholarship Fund.

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.

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Anchor Niagara offers another way to help youth campus
Visit amazon.ca gift registry to shop

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-ZGC1VTP/guest-view

Donations of supplies can be made to the NOTL Youth Campus on Amazon. (Screenshot)
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 Resilience grant. Dunn thanked the Trillium Foundation who was presenting a cheque to Juliet Dunn.

“Our mission is to build healthy, more vibrant communities,” said Henry Dortmans 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 up-and-coming 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 Geneviève 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 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 purchased 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 Backstreet 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 Candlelight 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.

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

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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)
Nicki buses will likely be leading from the experience. 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 Frag- nito, Hunter Ostromucki, 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 Buys, Jaden Patterson and Nathan Felch, they can add a Canadi- an University Field Lacrosse Association silver medal to their accomplishments in the sport.

After finishing the sea- son with seven wins and four losses, the Badgers went into the Baggateway Cup playoffs in Peterbor- ough Nov. 4 to 6 with few expecting them to challenge for the championship.

They edged the Bishop's Gaits 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,” Long- boat says. “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 Buys and Hunt- er 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 Buys, though the losses are hard, the Badgers stand to learn much from the experience. And Buys will likely be leading the charge for 2023.

“We know we can always improve,” Buys tells The Lo- cal. “That was a big thing throughout the season. Gareth beat us 11–6 the first time, then we took them to overtime. And finally we beat them. Now see Trent, 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 is a great leader,” Longboat says. “Not overly vocal, but he did what he had to do and said some- thing when he had some- thing to say. He’s a fantastic team guy. He will be an of- fensive star for us next year.”

The eldest of the NOTL contingent on the Badgers, Buys watched many of the others play at Virgil’s Me- ridaian 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 year, to being a starter on a university team. And Hunter Ostromucki, seeing him around the arena as a younger kid, and now see- ing 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 fa- ther, 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 con- fident coming into the try- outs. I had a different men- tally, just to go out there and play.”

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

Second-year sports man- agement student Ostromec- ki did make the cut in 2021, but didn’t get a lot of playing time. He credits the unde- feat ed summer with the Thunderhawks for his im- provement heading into this season.

“It really helped me to get ready for the season,” says Ostromucki. “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 Ostromucki in the fifth game of the season, a 12–4 victory over the To- ronto 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 Long- boat. “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 coach- able, too.”

Trent Hunter, an assis- tant captain on the Thun- derhawks team this past summer, was in his first year with the Badgers.

“He’s another grinder type,” says Longboat of the first-year humanities stu- dent. “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 pres- ence. He’ll be a captain by year three.”

It was also the first year on the Badgers for Joe Frag- nito, Jordan Wiens and Na- than Felch. For Longboat, the prospect of potentially hav- ing all seven former Thun- derhawks back, as well as all but five of the rest of the roster, bodes well for anoth- er run at the cup next year. But he says there is no sure thing.

“I checked my emails Monday and I had 15 new recr uits asking me if they could play next year,” Long- boat says. “There’s interest in the team, they know we are real. I’ve told all my re- turning guys that no spot is safe. They need to put in the work to stay on this team.”

“That’s definitely moti- vating,” Patterson says when told what Longboat said. “It pushes you to work that much harder in the off-sea- son. 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.”

Trent Hunter, Joe Frag- nito, Hunter Ostromucki, Thunderhawks coach Andy Boldt, Aidan Buys, Trent Hunter and Joe Fragnito. (Photo supplied)

Mike Balsom
The Local

Head coach Vince Longboat has nothing but praise for the group of for- mer Niagara-on-the-Lake Thunderhawks players who contributed to the Brock Badgers successful 2022 sea- son.

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

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

North York tied it up before the midway point of the first, when North York goaltender Christopher Thompson couldn’t cover up the pack in the crease, giving forward Taylor 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 Savov 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 Andreadopoulos being thrown from the game and Niagara’s Riley Ellis receiving a picture-perfect break-away goal. Unfortunately, Savov’s second of the game knocked the score up 5–3, and it remained that way through the end of the third period.

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 everything 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 Smith 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 cake-walk,” 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.”

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

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 play-for coming Friday for 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 Players Player of the Month award for the month of October.

“My company, Tristan’s Place Mental Health Services, is sponsoring the award,” Taylor said Friday night. “This award is from the team 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 faced 418 shots, by far the most in the league, and has a save percentage of 0.892.
Across:
1. Pests
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
20. Monk’s title
21. Job-discrimination watchdog (Abbr.)
22. Plumping
23. Moonshine maker
24. Of the press (Abbr.)
25. Liable
26. Radiation absorber
27. Fashion reminiscent of the past
28. What happens in an opera
29. Heat trademark
30. Fashion reminiscent of the past
31. What happens in an opera
32. Raised
33. Fashion reminiscent of the past
34. Fashion reminiscent of the past
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45. Fashion reminiscent of the past
46. Fashion reminiscent of the past
47. Flying toy
48. Better essential
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69. Fashion reminiscent of the past
Down:
1. Short attacks
2. Ripley’s slogan finishers
3. Firing
4. Posed
5. Only
6. Of the press (Abbr.)
7. Battle group main feature
8. The very end of a golf club
9. Saving in a circus
10. Skin blemish
11. Self-published author
12. Surgically implanted tube
13. A k a the Friendly Islands
21. Gundlinger actor Jack
22. Duck —, medieval
23. A k a the Friendly Islands
24. British Prime Minister
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26. British Prime Minister
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Sudoku solution from November 9, 2022

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

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

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

To place your classified ad, contact Karen: classifieds@notllocal.com
Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.
A Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre project undertaken with NOTL Hydro has been completed — three hydro boxes have been beautified, displaying the work of local artists. The installation was finished just in time for the Remembrance Day ceremonies last week. The hydro box (right) located in front of the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on King Street was decorated with *D-Day*, by Philip Wormwell. A hydro box (top right) located at the golf course by the path to Fort Mississauga is *Courage and Sacrifice*, by Jane Morris, and the box (top) at Fort George is *Fire at Will*, by Nancy Wardle.

“Today happens to be Remembrance Day, so this year’s hydro box wraps really resonate. Once again the artists’ imagination and skill are superb,” said Tim Curtis, NOTL Hydro president, last Friday. This was the fourth year for the program, and locations for the boxes were selected as part of a theme, with a preference for submissions of artwork that would reflect the military history of the locations. (Photos supplied)