Family sees dog attacked, helpless to protect it

Penny Coles
The Local

Rachel Gossen spent last Saturday evening in the office of an emergency veterinarian clinic, waiting for Tyson, the family dog, to be stitched up.

She says Tyson has been attacked by a neighbour’s dog several times. Saturday was the fourth trip to the vets for stitches, but there have been three other attacks, with injuries they were able to handle themselves.

“This is the second time in two months that he has had to be treated under anaesthetic. Gossen feels she tried every route she can to protect Tyson, but her options are limited.

She describes the terror of seeing him attacked, and being helpless to do anything other than make sure her kids are safe.

On Saturday, her daughter Gracynn, nine, was playing on her scooter in the driveway and what is considered the wise move for me. “

She’s used a taxi service and what is considered the wise move for me. “

But when COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the shuttle bus, “I wasn’t going out that often anyway,” she adds.

Widowed eight years ago, Williams, 75, doesn’t drive, and says having a public transit system gives her independence.

“It was a real deciding factor in whether I could stay here, whether I could do this without a car. I hear people say you can’t live in NOTL without a car, but I’m invested in this community. I love it very much. I want to stay, and I want to feel like I can do it on my own,” she says.

The on-demand system “will be a replacement for the local bus system we’ve lost.”

Having public transit could mean the difference between staying in the town she loves, or having to move, she says.

She occasionally gets rides with friends, “but I don’t want people to go out of their way for me.” She’s used a taxi service or Uber in recent months, but they are costly, with trips from her Paffard Street home to Virgil costing from $16 to $20.

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At $3 for a one-way trip, the new service “would be much less prohibitive cost-wise.”

Robert Salewytch, program manager for regional transit services, says there will be two vans coming to NOTL, initially, to cover the Old Town, Virgil, Glendale, and what is considered the Niagara Stone Road corridor.

“The NRT OnDemand pilot project began operating in west Niagara in August, with Via Mobility, an inter-national company, contract-ed to provide a ride-sharing service in Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Wainfleet and West Lincoln, he says, but they also have a component that provides travel across mu-
Rural restrictions hurting businesses

Niagara-on-the-Lake restaurants are trotzting that they’re doing nothing to change anything — it’s four people to a table doesn’t change anything, he says. Paul Dietsch, who, with his brother Matt, owns the Mary Street restaurant.

The recent regional restriction of one household per table "has really hit us hard," he says. Although the provincial move of Niagara from orange to the yellow zone has imposed further restrictions, "we do have to do what we can" with the rising number of cases.

The provincial limit of only four people to a table doesn’t really change anything — it’s what they’ve been doing at the Sandtrap anyway. They’ve also installed plexiglass, have been taking contact information, and are following all the rules to keep their patrons safe.

But he has regular customers, groups of women who don’t live together who come regularly for lunch, and now he can’t sit them together. "They come for some social interaction, but they’re not allowed to have lunch together," he says.

He has customers who come as a group of two couples, and men he knows work together, but can’t eat together.

"What’s the point of being out for a meal if you can’t sit at the same table?" The restaurant has a local beer crowd, men who stop for a couple of beers, they don’t say long. They can’t sit at the bar together so why would they come in?" He has some visitors from out of town stop by for a meal, and he’s sure, when they ask if they are from the same household, that they are, but they say they are and he seats them.

Locals who come in regularly are heroes, and he has to tell them he can’t seat them together.

"The same thing is happening all over town," he says. "This regulation is the most impactful. It’s really hard to turn people away when the restaurant is empty." He doesn’t get the young crowd the regional restrictions are meant for.

He doesn’t get the young crowd he values, staying consistently low, he says Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

And it is allowing for one parent or guardian to lack of attendance. In the fitness centre, the change rooms will be open, but the showers will be closed, and the walking track is not going to open for the gym to the auditorium for allowing all of the participants to take part.

The community centre will be closed on the weekends, due to lack of attendance. In the fitness centre, the change rooms will be open, but the showers will be closed, and the walking track is not going to open for the gym to the auditorium for allowing all of the participants to take part.

The arena will be closed for spectators, with one exception of allowing one parent or guardian per participant to stay and watch, if the participant is under the age of 18. Parks and recreation staff are working to allow for online viewing for parents.

There will be an announcement about the Christmas Parade. It will not be the traditional parade on Queen Street, but Santa will pass through all five villages, "so our citizens who are young at heart can watch from the comfort of their own home," he says, "and we don’t have the resources for enforcement."

Some other updates include closing the washrooms at Queen’s Royal Park and Simone Park, but that’s not to do with COVID, Disero says. They have always closed for the winter months.

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Penny Coles The Local

While the Sandtrap Pub and Grill gets some tourists from Toronto, most of the clientele is local, says Paul Dichter, who, with his brother Matt, owns the Mary Street restaurant.

The recent regional restriction of one household per table “has really hit us hard,” he says. Although the provincial move of Niagara from orange to the yellow zone has imposed further restrictions, “we do have to do what we can” with the rising number of cases.

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OLiV introduces their new fall and winter menu

Hi, this is Executive Chef Alex here at OLiV along with my partner Chef Chris. We are excited to introduce you to our fall and winter menu. As always we used our amazing extra virgin olive oil and balsamic palette to inspire dishes to tantalize your palate. Fall and winter is the best time to come in and enjoy our comfort food created with local ingredients by local distributors, and of course LOVE. This year has been a trying time for OLiV us and this winter OLiV will donate 5% of all takeout sales to Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, a local charity that last year held a fundraiser soup competition that OLiV took first place with 2 Platinum Laddles. Thanks Friends, stay safe and at OLiV you will see that we do our part to keep our restaurant a safe environment for OLiV us.

Submitted by
OLiV

As of this Wednesday, November 18th at OLiV in Strewn Winery we will be offering

15% off of our current FALL and WINTER MENU for TAKEOUT and CURBSIDE PICK UP. We will be implementing delivery asap.

On top of that we will be donating an additional 5% of our total takeout sales until Valentines Day to Bethlehem Housing.

As well we will be offering 10% off all Dine-In Tables Sunday thru Thursday with the purchase of any bottle of our EVOO or Balsamic products.

CALL ANYTIME TO ORDER
905-468-1222

View Takeout Menu at: olivtapasnotl.com

1339 Lakeshore Road, NOTL
OLiV Tasting Room & Restaurant located in Strewn Winery
Christmas season arrives on Queen Street

Town launches ‘Give Back’ Christmas initiative

Local Staff

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is giving back to families and individuals in need this holiday season, with a one-day, three-in-one donation drive benefitting a variety of vital support programs within our local municipality and beyond.

Town staff will be at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, collecting food, warm clothing and gift donations. Curbside dropoff will be observed.

"More individuals and families than ever need help making ends meet this year," says Lord Mayor Betty Deseo. "We want to help ensure that everyone is warm and fed, and that every child has a gift to unwraps this Christmas. Despite this year's unique circumstances, we want to help make this a magical holiday season for all."

Donations of food and Christmas gifts will be collected for Newalk Neighbours' Christmas Food Hamper and Gift programs, new or gently used warm winter clothing will be collected for Newalk Neighbours, Community Care, Hope Centre, and Open Arms Mission, and Christmas gifts will be collected for children and families admitted to the Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto, during the holiday season.

The Town is calling on Niagara-on-the-Lake community members to join in giving back. "If you're able, let's join together to give graciously and generously to our fellow community members who may be struggling, especially during this special time of year. Let's fill their homes, hearts, and tree skirts with gifts of love," says a recent Town news release.

The town is also holding a decorating contest, inviting all NOTL residents and business owners to help make this the most magical holiday yet.

"So dust off your garland, re-tie your bows, untangle your lights and deck out your home in holiday spirit. Once your masterpiece is complete, snap a photo, (day or night - you choose) and submit it for your chance to be one of our winners," says a holiday news release.

The top three submissions per village will be selected by public vote. All first-place winners will receive a holiday prize valued at $150, second place winners will receive a holiday prize valued at $75, and third place winners will receive a holiday prize valued at $50.

For more information and contest details, visit https://notl.com/Christmas.

The NOTL Lions Christmas tree sale begins Friday, in the parking lot of Comeback Church on Niagara Stone Road in Virgil. Lion Terry Flynn is organizing this year's sale, and says he will miss long-time Lion member John Skubel looking over his shoulder. Flynn has himself purchased a large, new sign for the lot, which says the sale is in memory of Skubel. He will also have a framed picture of his friend with him, and Skubel's wife and son will take over John's customary shift on the weekend. A lack of supply means fewer trees this year, says Flynn, and a higher price, but he will have a good selection of four-foot to 12-foot trees, Balsam, Fraser, and a variety called Siberian spruce. Unloading the trees at the lot are Tristen Castro, and Lions Flynn and Erwin Wiens. (Photo supplied)

Christmas trees arrive at Cornerstone

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Brenda McArthur is happy to help in the community in whatever way she can, and says she can’t imagine living anywhere else. “It’s such a feel-good place,” she says.

McArthur and her “team” in charge of the Court House, Lafforgue says there will be decorations along the street as well, in collaboration with the Town and business owners.

The Town will install snowflakes throughout all of NOTL, as well as the traditional decorations in the Heritage District, including planters along Queen Street and King Street, and natural garland and lights on the heritage poles.

A Christmas tree will be placed at the Centenoph, along with 18 trees lining both sides of Queen Street.

Last year, he says, a volunteer built a beautiful arbor for the entrance to Simcoe Park, and it will be installed and lit again this year.

Queen Street businesses are being encouraged to place natural garland, wreaths or swags with ribbons on their storefronts, says Lafforgue.

And although the Candlelight Stroll will be much quieter than other years, with a small ceremony live-streamed at the Court House and residents asked to take part at home, “we are keeping the tradition alive,” says Lafforgue.

Candles are now for sale at local businesses, and residents being asked to purchase them, with the money going to the Temporary Seasonal Agricultural Worker Health Program at Quest CHC, and The Migrant Workers’l Wontbci Packages.

On Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. watch the ceremony live-streamed by Cogeco, and share in the moment “by lighting candles out front of your home,” says Lafforgue, and singing along to a few carols. The chamber is asking residents to post photos and videos on social media, #strollNOTL.

Penny Coles

Brenda McArthur was back up a ladder Friday, helping to bring the Christmas season to Queen Street.

There was a chill in the air, but it was a bright, sunny day, with good cheer and the holiday spirit evident as volunteers helped decorate the Court House.

It wasn’t the decorating party that was held last year, but Christmas hasn’t been cancelled, just scaled back a little, says NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue. McArthur says she has always loved Christmas, has always gone over the top with decorations, and is happy to have the opportunity to put her enthusiasm to work on Queen Street.

“I really enjoy doing this,” she says. “Especially with all that’s going on this year, it’s good to bring out the smiles.”

McArthur and her husband Blair used to come to Niagara-on-the-Lake to visit, and he proposed to her over dinner at the Oban Inn 38 years ago, to visit, and he proposed to her over dinner, “just before it burned down,” she says. “Especially with all the Enchanting Wonderland Stroll.

The McArthurs purchased the beautiful estate and moved to NOTL five years ago. “I feel it as beautiful as Trisha did, for her and for the community. We make it our duty to preserve it,” she says. She has also opened the house to the community, adding it as a special event of the Rotary Holiday House Tour, which has helped raise a substantial amount of money for the service club.

This year, with the tour cancelled, McArthur approached the club and offered to open the grounds of the estate, which are extensively decorated for the holiday, as a fundraising Enchanting Wonderland Stroll.

“I really wanted to do it for Rotary, for the community, and especially for the children.”

That will happen on two evenings in December, with the event quickly sold out.

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Becoming a Mo Bro to raise funds for men's health

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

My brother Joe, a car salesperson for more than 45 years, wore a moustache through most of the 70s and 80s. Back then, almost every car salesperson sported a moustache, and yes, almost all car salespeople were men. Being more than 11 years younger than my brother, I tried to grow my own moustache in high school. In fact, there is a photo in my senior yearbook of me standing in the hallway, proud of my attempt to be as cool as Joe. The photo is in black and white. But that is not the reason why you can’t see my facial hair. I just couldn’t grow a moustache back then.

I don’t recall exactly when Joe shaved off the tache for good, but I do remember thinking it had to be the end of an era. And it certainly was. Even Magnum P.I., featuring Tom Selleck’s glorious moustache as the main character, didn’t make it into the 90s.

Sure, some continued to cultivate the hairy upper lip after the 90s, but for the most part they were accused of being anachronistic, or just blissfully unaware. Then came 2003, when, during a drinking session, Australians Travis Garone and Luke Slattery dreamed up the idea to grow moustaches, to raise funds for mental health issues. The idea caught on, they added the ‘Mo’ to the beginning of the month, and Movember was born.

According to Sam Wilson, Movember Canada Development Coordinator, men’s health is in crisis across the globe. The charity’s efforts are directed to four main areas: mental health, suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Wilson points out that men die on average six years younger than women. In 2018, the movement helped raise $123 million for the mental health and suicide prevention programs.

“On an individual level, the impact of Movember is life changing,” Wilson said. “For men, knowing they’re supported and that they’re not alone is powerful.”

Continued on page 10

Ontario’s Bill 229 will have ripple effects on Niagara’s water

Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

A friend of mine sends me a text message with an attachment to a text message with an attachment to a text message with an attachment to a text message with an attachment. My phone is packed with attachments and I am not able to read the text. I have great concern for the fate of Niagara’s biodiversity and our relationship with nature.

I have great concern for the fate of Niagara’s biodiversity and our relationship with nature.

The solution to COVID-19 is in your hands.

• Wear a face covering.
• Keep 2m apart from anyone outside of your household.
• Limit your close contact to your household only.
• Wash your hands often.

Changing seasons and tides within Ontario’s new Bill 229 could have major implications for our freshwater quality here in Niagara Region, among other issues.
Newest restrictions hard on restaurants

Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls Riding Special to The Local

In early October, the Province released projections indicating it was possible that by December we could see 1,200 new coronavirus cases a day in Ontario.

By Nov. 11, we were hitting that number. The projections have been revised and are now upwards of 6,500 cases a day by December. It is abundantly clear that we are in the middle of a second wave which healthcare professionals tell us threatens to overwhelm our healthcare system, especially in hot spots. It is crucial that we are following health protocols and everyone in our community is following the rules.

At the federal level, through the federal government, through the Canada Recovery Benefit, we have been able to provide critical support to businesses, industries and individuals. We have been able to provide $130 billion in support to businesses and individuals across the country. However, at the provincial level, Premier Doug Ford does have that ability, and he cannot delay using it. During this pandemic, I believe it’s important to show a united front when possible, but also to point out policy failures where necessary. Now is one of those times. According to the Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario, 97 per cent of money spent on Ontario’s COVID-19 recovery program has come from the federal government. Even worse, that same report showed the Premier has been sitting on billions of unused funding earmarked to help struggling communities through COVID-19.

In Niagara-on-the Lake, across Niagara, that money is looked after and they will ensure they get the financial help they need so their staff is looked after and they will be able to reopen eventually. The Province has the money, and has actually spent little on COVID costs, mostly relying on money that has come from the federal government. It may be the only way to bring numbers down, or end up in a province-wide lock-down of everything except essential services. That’s in our future, maybe better to do it now and save lives.

The one thing most of us can do to help is continue to shop local and enjoy a break from cooking with takeout meals, supporting our businesses through this next stage of restrictions.

The other big news, and in this case good news, is the launch of an on-demand transit system in Niagara. It will help those who don’t drive, seniors and everyone in between, at least those from the Old Town, Virgil and Glendale. Hopefully, if it is considered useful and people take advantage of it, we might see it expanded to include St. Davids and Queenston.

For those who need to travel outside the municipality, there are places where it can connect with regional fixed-route buses, to allow travel to other municipalities. And at a real, really reasonable price.

Use it or lose it is the message we’re hearing. It’s a difficult time to judge the need, with many people not moving around as much during the pandemic, but hopefully that will change before the year-long pilot project is over.

And in the meantime, use the on-demand transit vans to shop local, and eat local (with your household). Could there be a better place to live during a pandemic? It’s one of the safest communities in the region, with lots to offer. Make that one the most of it—safety.

Penny Coles
The Local

Provincial government has money to spend on COVID-aid

The Province has money to spend on COVID-aid

WAYNE GATES, MPP

Wayne Gates delivers boxes of KN-95 masks to Dr. Steve Durocher of the Niagara North Family Health Team at the Niagara Medical Clinic Friday. Gates was given the masks from an anonymous donor, who asked him to pass them on. The masks will be used by anybody in need at the clinic, whether it’s a physician, staff member, volunteer, patient, or a LifeLabs representative, says Durocher. Staff at the clinic keep track of the use and inventory of masks, to ensure those who require them in an emergency would get it, such as a hospital, says Durocher. Currently, supply is meeting demand in Ontario, he adds, but there’s no way of knowing what will happen in the future. (Penny Coles)
**Public health should be NOTL’s first priority**

Two weeks ago Eduard Laforgue, the president and CEO of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, launched the “success” of the chamber’s multimedia marketing campaign. That campaign was designed to attract visitors to NOTL from the Greater Toronto Area, including visitors from Toronto and Brampton, the cities with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection in Ontario. Much of it was digital, with Laforgue noting that the chamber’s Google AdWords campaign delivered 3.5-million impressions, 75.9 percent of which were delivered by mobile phones (suggesting that the majority of people reached by the campaign were likely in the 20s to 40s age demographic that currently has the highest infection rates of COVID-19 in the province, and are more likely to be asymptomatic spreaders of the virus).

Laforgue expressed delight at the success of the campaign, noting that Bell Canada advised town council in early November that 90,000 “unique Bell devices” had entered NOTL in 30 days. During that same time period, the confirmed number of daily new COVID-19 cases began an upward trend in Niagara. The region has moved from the province’s yellow zone into its orange zone, bringing with it a new set of restrictions that will make it harder for local businesses to operate successfully.

Based on media reports, the influx of younger visitors attracted to NOTL through the summer and fall by the chamber’s marketing campaigns, but spend much money in local shops while they were here, allowed our restaurants and pubs seem to have fared a bit better.

Still, the question remains: was the minimal gain in economic activity worth the significant increase in the risk of COVID-19 being brought into NOTL from the greater GTA and being spread within our community? I don’t think so.

A campaign targeting an older demographic, marketing NOTL as a safe destination may have had some merit, particularly if the chamber measured the success of its efforts based on the number of people who visit our town, but on the amount of economic activity they generate while they are here.

Instead, there are more restrictions, more COVID cases, and a message from our Lord Mayor asking residents not to visit the GTA’s hot spots for the virus, at the same time as he notes that the town cannot keep people in those zones from coming here.

What could be done is to stop mass-marketting Niagara-on-the-Lake as a go-to destination for all and sundry during the pandemic. If the chamber is unwilling to do so, then the Town should definitely reconsider the annual grant ($118,000 in 2020) that it traditionally makes to the organization. The Town could also reconsider its chaotic approach to Queen Street. If the Town could shut that vehicle traffic to create space for physical distancing, it should at least make mask-wearing mandatory on the section of Queen running between Simcoe and Wellington.

Ultimately, the Town’s first priority during the pandemic should be public health. Working to keep residents safe from COVID-19, and Niagara region in the green or yellow zone, will do much more for our local economy in the short and longer term than having day-trippers from the GTA show up here in droves. Another lockdown, which is almost inevitable unless the incidence of infections levels off in the region soon, would likely force a number of local businesses to close their doors permanently.

As for the chamber’s plea for residents to stay home and shop local, I no longer feel comfortable walking on Queen Street, even on weekdays, even with a mask. I might make a quick dash into the local vale-mart or on rare occasions Nina Gelateria during the week, but that’s it. Even walking the Niagara Parks Commission trails loses its allure when you find yourself constantly looking over your shoulder for approaching bikes or runners.

**Heritage Trail offers community and health benefits**

My husband and I have noted the recent “controversy” over the next stage of the Heritage Trail.

We understand that people whose homes are immediately adjacent to this stage of the trail have expressed concerns about the width, format and catchment groups for the trail, among other things. From what we have read at least, it sounds as if their voices, however many of them there are, are opposed to just about every aspect of the next stage. It all sounds rather doom and gloom, whereas the focus really should be on the positive community and health benefits that the trail project offers the town.

It is human nature to revert to past times of good outcomes. What could be done is to hold dear the fact that we are no longer in the midst of a pandemic.

The Heritage Trail is no one person’s, or neighbourhoods birthright; it is an asset for which we have come, rightly or wrongly, to see as our own. Seen through this lens, none of the opposition to the trail is at all surprising.

The fact that something is unsurprising, however, does not make it right. The Heritage Trail offers community and health benefits. Working to keep residents safe from COVID-19, and Niagara region in the green or yellow zone, will do much more for our local economy in the short and longer term than having day-trippers from the GTA show up here in droves. Another lockdown, which is almost inevitable unless the incidence of infections levels off in the region soon, would likely force a number of local businesses to close their doors permanently.

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**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.
On-demand service provides flexibility for riders

The on-demand service, Zalepa says, “would be part and parcel of that system.” It would have economic benefits and provide better service, he says.

The next step is to go to the municipalities and seek a triple majority to allow the region to move forward on a detailed business plan, sometime in the new year.

Former shuttle service provider offers free deliveries to residents

Penny Coles
The Local

Casey McNab has come to accept he will no longer be providing a transit service to the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As the provider of NOTL Transit’s fixed-route shuttle service, he would have liked an opportunity to bid on the on-demand system that begins next week, but as a regional pilot project, it wasn’t put out to tender.

The contract he had with the Town expired last December, and from then until April, he had a month-to-month contract. When the service was suspended in April due to COVID-19 and residents being asked to stay at home, “our staff was kept on, and our vehicles were kept in a ready state. We didn’t think the interruption of service would be very long. At that point, all municipalities were turning to smaller buses.”

He wanted to keep his staff so they would be available once the service resumed, he says.

He knew the Town was looking at an on-demand system, and understands why it seems like a good option for NOTL — one he would have been happy to provide.

When the Regional pilot project was finalized for NOTL, his service was cancelled, and he doesn’t expect it will ever be renewed, although once students going back to school in the same numbers as before the start of the pandemic, two on-demand vans won’t be enough.

“The shuttles were sometimes full, and when they were, it was always with students, either from Vineridge Academy or Niagara College. But we don’t have those students now, so that won’t be a problem.”

His drivers have been busy on other smaller jobs, and he’s continued to pick up and deliver, free groceries and other necessities, at no cost, for residents who don’t want to go out, or are in isolation, due to COVID. With the number of cases climbing in the Province, he expects to continue that as long as there is a need.

As far as providing a town shuttle, he says, “we’re not expecting to be back in that service, ever.”

Last year, he made a significant investment with the purchase of two new shuttles, “which was terrible timing for us,” he says, but with all municipalities cutting back on transit, he doesn’t expect he can help out, we will. I’m 100 percent sure something else will come along. It always does. There is always a way to move forward.”

Call 905-468-4132 to take advantage of McNab’s delivery service.

Ellen Williams likes her independence, which she’s been missing since the transit shuttle was cancelled in April. She looks forward to using the new on-demand system. (Photo supplied)
It’s been a difficult summer for residents of the Chautauqua area of Niagara-on-the-Lake, with a large influx of visitors impacting traffic, parking and their enjoyment of Ryerson Park.

Residents have seen their neighbourhood change over time, with the proliferation of short-term rentals and Airbnbs, but this summer has seen significant increases to the number of visitors, who on some days far outnumber and leave little room for residents at the park, says a member of a group advocating for solutions to local problems.

Shaun Devlin, one of the neighbours who formed the Ryerson Park Residents’ Group, says their goal is to begin a dialogue with the Town to look at options, and hopefully find some solutions to local problems.

The pandemic hasn’t helped, with borders closed and people looking for places to visit close to home, and a growing number of online sites, including those advertising Airbnb rentals and other rental accommodations, focusing on Chautauqua as an attraction. While historically, in decades past, the beach was a major tourist and swimming destination. It is not considered a public beach, says Devlin. It is not designed for the large numbers of people that now arrive, especially on weekends.

Visitors expecting a public beach find a tiny strip of sand at Ryerson Park. (Photo supplied)

Some are not even seeking the park out intentionally — they have stumbled across it, having driven from Queen Street through to Niagara Boulevard, possibly looking for Lakeshore Road, says Devlin. They can be seen stopping, creating congestion while they look for directions to get to the park.

The report the group sent to the Town was initiated in September, and endorsed by the previous Ryerson Residents’ Group, bringing residents together, Devlin.

Although the CRA, with a decades-old history of bringing residents together, is struggling with issues that have caused five directors to quit, the Ryerson Residents’ Group was not formed to take its place, but rather to enable those most affected to advocate for solutions to the specific problems that are evolving from the online promotion of the park and beach as a major tourist and swimming destination. It is also listed as one of the best places to view the sunset, the report to the Town says.

Without some solutions, the situation is expected to get worse, says Devlin, as interest in the area continues to build, and as COVID restrictions are lifted. Access for emergency vehicles is a concern with the increased traffic and vehicles parked, says the report, and there is also a significant concern with the safety of pedestrians, particularly children crossing Niagara Boulevard on bikes, skateboards or on foot to get to the park.

Sanitation is also a huge

Visitors expecting a public beach find a tiny strip of sand at Ryerson Park. (Photo supplied)

Continued on page 14
Bowron’s fiction moves into realm of fantasy

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Daniel St. Croix, the pro-tagonist of local author Chris-opher Bowron’s next novel, Al-most Immortal, dies in chapter two. Normally that would be the end of the story, but the book title should tell you all you need to know about that particular plot twist coming so soon. Bowron just signed a deal with his publisher, Kehler Books out of Virginia, to pub-lish the book, his fourth, and his first to dive into historical fiction and fantasy. He hasn’t totally abandoned the crime thriller genre of his previous novels, Devil in the Grass, The Palm Reader, and The Body Thieves, though.

Almost Immortal begins much like Bowron’s earlier works, with St. Croix involved in some shady dealings before his untimely demise. But this time he actually dies back to life, Daniel discovers the journals of his father, Pierre, whom he previously thought was his grandfather. Through those journals, the reader is introduced to the life of Pierre Bowron, his father, and his first house. It starts in the Chautauqua neighbour-hood, his mother and new friend Devi are almost taken down at the time of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, just as the French Revolution is about to begin. There are also stops at the ga-ol and prison, and a mention of Fort Niagara across the river and the Niaga-ra-on-the-Lake Golf Club, and a tangle situation where Dan-iel, his mother and new friend Devi are almost taken down at a home on Wyckliffe Avenue in the Chautauqua neighbour-hood, where Bowron bought his first house.

Fitting the old town into Almost Immortal came natu-ral to Bowron. His previous three novels were set in his oth-er home of Southwest Florida, where he loves salt-water fish-ing. “Writing is a bit of an ex-cape to me,” he points out. “So when I was writing here, I was escaping to there.”

This one was also mostly written here, but Bowron credits one of his local boosters for con-vincing him it was time to include the town in one of his books.

“Laura McFadden of the Old Niagara Bookshop, she told me, ‘just write something with a little bit of Niagara-on-the-Lake in it’,” he laughs, “and I’ll sell hundreds of them. And I thought, it’s an interesting town, so why not? When you have a familiarity with something, it comes easy to you.”

Bowron says he has always wanted to move into the realm of fantasy and adventure with his work. He cites J.R.R. Tolkein as one of his all-time favourite authors, and includes American author Steve Berry’s historical fiction as a huge in-fluence. Bowron holds a BA in history from Brock University, and knew he wanted to eventually draw more on that degree in his writing.

Almost Immortal was fin-ished in 2019, and Bowron sent it to his agent about this time last year. His goal to find a place amongst one of the big publishing houses of New York City was almost realized.

“I’ve had a lot of people read it and they tell me this is my best book ever,” Bowron says. “My agent sent it to the big publishers, and Harper Collins held onto it for six months. I think if my name had been James Patterson, I would have been published instantly. But it’s a pretty tough time in pub-lishing right now, and no one’s taking gambles.”

When the pandemic began, Bowron was looking forward to seeing the downtown area con-tinue writing his sequel to The Body Thieves, featuring dis-graced military surgeon Ma-jor Dominic Travano, now known as “Doc Dom”. But he instead found it difficult to get his cre-a- tive juices flowing, while some smaller issues also got in the way.

Once lockdown conditions were lifted, he was surprised to experience a boom in his real estate business (Bowron is the owner and broker for Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty), leaving him with little time for wordsmithing. “Coming out of the pandemic, real estate got re-ally busy” he explains. “I’ve not been this busy before, in 32 years.”

So the timing of the deal with independent publisher Kehler comes at exactly the right time. Over the years, he has racked up sales of about 20,000 copies of his three books via the independent publisher.

Bowron explains the editing process for Almost Immortal still has some way to go, and a release date has not yet been announced. In the meantime, if you haven’t read his first three novels, maybe now’s the time to catch up on Jackson Walker and Doc Dom. And when his new release is available, visit the Old Niaga-ria Bookshop, or the Steele Gal- lery on Mississauga Street, to follow the adventures of Daniel St. Croix and his father Pierre through their brushes with im-mortality.

Continued from page 5

Chris Bowron (Photo supplied)

Raising funds for a good cause

Mike Balsom with his “more salt than pepper” stache. (Jack Gusters)

So about talking about what’s going on, and checking in with friends and family.”

Worldwide since 2003, the Movember Foundation boasts more than six million partici-pants, called Mo Bros and Mo Sisters (yes, women participate too), without the moustache, from 20 countries. Movember is in its 14th year in Canada. To date, funds raised in this country have assisted more than 300 programs geared toward men’s health. In 2019, the Canadian arm raised more than $20.8 million.

Those funds go to endow-ments such as the GAPS’ Testicular Cancer Translational Research Project, and clinical research studies that aim to improve treatment outcomes for men diagnosed with prostate cancer. They also help fund the Men’s Depression & Suicide Network, as well as Kidz Help Phone.

“These days, I am able to “Grow a Mo”. However, like back in high school in 1981, you may have to squint a bit to see it. But that’s because there’s a bit more salt than there is pep-per in my facial hair now. And rest assured, my brother Joe still remains the jars of where the gold came from the last King of France. A thief, who stole some jewelry in 2020, that same secret so-
Residents who live near the corner of Melville and Ricardo Streets have been treated to the sweet sounds of the Avanti Chamber Singers on Tuesday evenings this fall, free of charge.

The music has been emanating from, of all places, the parking garage at the Harbour House Hotel, where the award-winning ensemble has been rehearsing. It was a pair of local residents, Avanti members Jim Reynolds and his wife, Pat Hartman, who approached Harbour House manager Jamie Drummond with the idea of using the space.

“We live right next door,” explains Reynolds. “We approached the Harbour House and asked them, we said their acoustics are lovely. We have a good relationship with them. He didn’t hesitate. As long as we sign a waiver, they’d be delighted to have us use it.”

On this warm November night, 20 of the 30 members are present, each safely spaced eight feet from one another. Their places are marked off ahead of time by Reynolds, using brightly coloured frisbees as place-holders. As the choirmates arrive, they answer the COVID questionnaire, then check the map for their placeholders. As the numbers they’re wearing masks and sing their parts through their vocal warm-ups, it’s clear Reynolds and Hartman were on to something when the idea struck.

Even during the vocal exercises, the acoustics are, indeed, amazing. The garage is clad wall-to-wall and top-to-bottom in concrete, with large openings on three sides. The sound bounces and echoes perfectly, with the side openings allowing just enough sound to seep through. Sure, it’s cold and grey, but close your eyes and you would think you are in a meticulously-crafted concert hall.

Rensink-Hoff loves the space. “It’s great,” she says. “For an outdoor location it’s ideal. If we were regularly outdoors, the acoustics would be difficult. The choir would have a hard time dealing with each other. Here, we get the ventilation, the feeling of being outdoors, and we can space out. And we have the reverberation of the cement all around us so we can get a pretty good sound.”

Even with the eight-foot spacing between singers, each member wears a mask during the entire rehearsal. Believe it or not, it doesn’t seem to take anything away from the power of the voices. “Visually it’s difficult,” admits Rensink-Hoff, who is an associate professor of music at Brock University. “You don’t get the same visual feedback that we normally get. But surprisingly, sound-wise it’s actually amazingly quite clear.”

The Avanti Chamber Singers is a community-based chamber choir founded in September 2006. Avanti provides opportunities for local amateur singers, and the current membership includes chorales from across Niagara and Hamilton. In 2019, the choir was named Most Promising New Adult Ensemble in the Canada Choral National Competition for Canadian Amateur Choirs. Their performances are often held at St. Thomas Anglican Church in St. Catharines.

With the pandemic hitting in March, the group’s final concert of the season, scheduled for May, had to be cancelled. Member Tim Stacey, who also serves as Avanti’s marketing and media coordinator, says like everyone else, they played things week-to-week.

“We switched to Zoom rehearsals, to socially stay connected with one another,” he explains. “We had a message of hope. Rensink-Hoff chanced them because of that theme, and for their inspirational value. ‘The pieces that we’re working on now, we’re hoping to record them before December,’” she explains. “We’re looking at indoor spaces that the choir will feel comfortable with, that we can spread out in. But if that’s not a possibility, we may end up recording here. Worst case scenario we’ll record ourselves at home and do the standard virtual choir.”

For December, they are also offering to bring their music to the people. Via their website, you can make a small donation on behalf of a friend or family member, and a small group from the Avanti Chamber Singers will show up at the door on Dec. 15 to sing some cheerful carols. Visit avantisingers.com for more information.
Technology is such a big part of our lives, and now more than ever, we rely on it to stay connected with friends and family, when working or learning from home. For over 56 years, Thomas TV has brought new technology to their customers in Niagara – yes from those console TV’s that were a fixture in our living rooms to the VHS vs. Beta days, all the way to today with flat screen TV panels and wireless connectivity. A popular choice with our customers are QLED TV’s from Samsung that use Quantum Dots – innovative semiconductor material that emits light according to the size of nanoparticles. What does that mean for you? To start, 100 million shades of accurate colour to enjoy. QLED also uses Adaptive Picture, using a light sensor to adjust TV settings to maintain optimum brightness and contrast regardless of how the light changes around you. Ask our knowledgeable staff on which model is right for you and your space, and our trained installers can deliver and set it up for a seamless experience.

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### Quantum Dot technology from Samsung

Submitted by Thomas TV

“Black Friday pricing is now on. It’s a great time to save.

Visit our showroom at 130 Thorold Rd. in Welland to experience your options that will make spending time indoors even more inviting, visit our website www.thomastv.com or give us a call.”

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### Few options to help Tyson

Continued from page 1

own dog house. Ermanian had to come over and pull Diago out of the dog house, Gossen says, while the family watched in terror.

Saturday night, Ermanian says he was out when he got the phone call about Diago. He went right home, believing it had to be someone else’s dog, because he had left his two penned up. It wasn’t someone else’s dog, he says, and he’s sorry for the trouble Diago is causing the Gossen family.

Gossen, who was happy to tell his side of the story to The Local, says he did consider “to some degree” giving up Diago, trying to find a new home for him, but decided he would keep him, and do his best, as he has been doing, to prevent any more incidents. He compares Diago to a Wayward child, whatever they do, you love them anyway “It’s part of my family,” he says.

He suggests the Gossens should build a fenced area for their dog.

But it’s not their dog leaving his property. Gossen says, calling Tyson a “porch dweller.” And as concerned as Gossen is for Tyson, an eight-year old bondie/ Australian shepherd cross, she is more worried about Diago attacking one of her kids.

“The way we feel safe anymore. We’ve asked him (Ermanian) how he would feel if it happened to one of our kids. The threat is always there.”

Gossen says she doesn’t want to make a scene like a fight between neighbours. Other than the issue of the dog, they’ve always gotten along, and he’s been a great neighbour.

She knows he does try to keep his two dogs contained, but “that will work for a while, until Diago gets out the next time, and he’s over at our house, looking to kill Tyson.”

One was day when the bus driver wouldn’t let Gracyn off the bus, because Diago was in their driveway, and she was terrified, says Gossen. What if one day she gets off the bus, and he’s there? Our kids have watched over and over again, watched the dog they love being attacked. Does it need to be my daughter who gets attacked before anybody does anything I guess I’m scared of what it has to take.”

Gossen says she wants to be a good neighbour.

“Do I want to be peace-maker, to get along with everybody. But it’s frustrating to have to fight for our safety. We want to feel safe in our own home.”

Ermanian always apologizes, and always offers to pay the vet bills. The latest one, she expects, will come to about $1,500.

He told The Local he be going over to the Gossens to pay this, as he has the others, because he knows it’s his responsibility when Diago gets away. He describes in detail how fencing was put together to keep the dog from escaping, and his surprise when he discovered Diago had found a way out. There was a portion of the fencing, “that unknown to me, was not secured properly. Maybe it was the wind Saturday night. I’m not sure what happened, but he was able to crawl out,” he says.

There was a time when Diago and Tyson would play together, he says, and he believes this all started when his other dog, a female, was in heat, and Diago became jealous of Tyson. “My dog has a dislike for their dog.”

He says the thought of Diago hurting children “is my worst fear too.”

But he’s not aggressive with other dogs, and Ermanian doesn’t believe Diago would ever attack a child, or any human. He has no problem with Diago being around his own grandchildren “he has never displayed any aggressive behaviour around them.”

“I still upset,” he says about the Saturday attack.

“I don’t want this to happen to anybody. But I feel strongly he would never harm a person.”

Diago is a mixed breed, a rescue dog, and “not as aggressive as being portrayed. It would be real hard for me to get rid of him.”

Instead, he says, “I make every effort to contain my animals.” Ken Reid, the Town canine control officer, was called out to the Saturday night attack, and is also frustrated with the situation.

“There is very little he can do, and that is hard for him. I’ve been knocking my brain to figure out what I can do to help these people, but there just isn’t an answer.”

He has told Ermanian it’s his duty, his obligation under the law to keep his dog contained, and he knows the dog owner is trying to do that. However, it’s not working.

“I’ve suggested he build a pen in the barn, so if he gets out of the pen he’s still locked up. But he has gotten out of the barn before, so I’ve suggested he has to be chained in the barn.”

On Saturday, he told Ermanian he should have Diago neutered, but he isn’t sure whether he plans to follow through on that.

“He’s a lot of dog, a big strong dog. Neutering might make him less aggressive,” says Reid.

“I keep getting asked, ‘why can’t I do something?’ But other than telling him he has to contain his dog, there isn’t much I can do.”

If they were to find Diago off Ermanian’s property, he could pick him up and take him to the humane society, but Ermanian would just have to pay to get him back, “and we’ll be back where we started.”

Even if Diago were to bite a child or were to get in the middle of a dog fight, which is a real possibility, “I can’t take that risk,” he says.

The humane society requires that a dog who bites a person be quarantined, and could take the dog for 10 days, then when he would be returned to his owner, Reid says.

“The only way to take a dog off of someone’s property is with a court order. That would require the Gossens to press charges, which is a legal process.”

And even if they did, if it’s a fight between dogs, the judge could just tell Ermanian to keep his dog contained, says Reid.

Under the law, the dog owner is “doing his due diligence. He isn’t allowing his dog to run free. It escaped.”

Reid suggested another home should be found for Diago, “but Paul has had him since he was a puppy, and he doesn’t want to do that. It’s just one of those situations that is totally frustrating, and it keeps happening. I know both parties, and it’s difficult to come up with a solution. In the long run, it’s the dog owner who is responsible. I’ve told him ‘you have to do everything in your power to keep your dog contained. And if that’s not possible, you have to find the dog another home.’ ”

“Don’t want to see anybody going through this, on either side of the situation, but there’s nothing more I can do.”
Calling seniors and busy families!

Submitted by Time to Spare

Hello, let me introduce myself. I’m Deborah and several years ago I returned to my hometown of St. Catharines where I left some thirty years ago after graduating from university. Seeking new horizons, Miami, Florida, Victoria, BC and finally Toronto served as home bases over the years.

With my children grown and forging their own careers, I created “Time to Spare” shortly before relocating to Niagara. Gregarious, organized and a stickler for details, I enjoy helping seniors, busy professionals and families simplify their lives by taking on tasks that they could use a hand with or don’t have time to do.

Some of the services I have provided to my older clients include computer help for letter writing, using spreadsheets or Internet research & bill payments. Scheduling household services after inquiries, organizing kitchen cupboards & closets, grocery shopping & meal preparation were other tasks I assisted busy young families with and seniors alike. During the holiday season, I especially took pleasure with my older clients helping with Christmas wrapping, addressing holiday cards or picking up gift cards to tuck inside. Whatever your needs, my goal is to make your life easier!

Free Consultations & Gift Certificates available
Deborah Twomey Brown 905-321-5428 dtwomeybrown@gmail.com Website coming soon!

Please support your Local businesses, especially this year.

Your Christmas list may include gifts, gift cards, groceries, decorations, and many more items.

Your local businesses are ready and eager to help you fulfill that list!
Parking, partying and other issues at park

Continued from page 9

issue, with visitors using several locations in the back of washrooms, including areas within the park, on private property, and even asking to use the bathrooms of residents.

“Many of the visitors change in and out of their swimsuits in the parkette or beside their parked cars, often in public view,” the report says, and there is a safety concern with the number of barbecues being used, with visitors leaving behind hot coals.

Then there is the issue of garbage, which is not always placed in receptacles. “There is often loose and extremely offensive types of garbage on the beach, on the grass and at the side of streets, which residents have often cleaned up.”

The volume of traffic creates not only safety issues, but also increasing noise and exhaust pollution, and problems with headlights shining into homes, the report says. Parking often severely impairs easy one-way traffic, with residents having trouble accessing their own driveways.

There are also issues with people partying into the early hours of the morning, and the report says there is concern about “suspect drug trading deals,” and people in the park “signalizing to boats in the water for suspected illicit purposes.”

The number of visitors often means picnic tables and benches are in use, and there is little room for residents to enjoy their park.

Members of the residents’ group are asking for signs that say no stopping, tow-away zone, and allowing only residents with permits to park on the street.

Welcome signs at the park should say no barbecues, fires or tents, that the park should say no barbeques, fires or tents, that the park should say no barbecues, fires or tents, that the park closes at 10 p.m., with strict enforcement, including fines of $100.

Devlin says the group would also like better signage at Queen Street and Mississauga Street, to direct traffic to the highway and Lakeshore Road, and indicate only local traffic ahead.

The report also asks that markings show the main lane at the intersection as the left turn lane, with the secondary lane going straight through.

Speed limits should be set at 35 kph for all streets in Chautauqua, the report suggests, also asking for a look at changing some streets to one way traffic.

The residents’ group is hoping the Town will develop a communications strategy that, with the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, will get out the correct messaging about the neighborhood, and “de-emphasize” the name Mississauga Beach and its attraction as a swimming destination, says Devlin.

There may be other options Town staff may offer, he adds, but the hope is for a full discussion about the nature of the problems and the ideas the residents have put forward, with the goal of being prepared for the influx of visitors expected to begin again next spring.

A brief mention of the report at the town’s last planning committee said it would be added to the Town’s December transporation and parking committee meeting’s agenda for discussion.

Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

The full week of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca in part II of my podcast. Thanks to AstroButterfly, we get the entire month of November.

Thursday, Nov. 19: Saturday, Nov. 19: Sat- urday is remarkably busy today. First, Venus and the Moon, and that’s not good, and then with the Sun, which is much better. Expect feeling like being torn between a rock and a hard place. Also expect a helping hand from a stern father figure, so long as you are honest with yourself.

Today is the day in 1863 that Abraham Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address. It begins: “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure.”

Saturday, Nov. 21: The Sun moves from watery Scorpio into fiery Sagittarius at 9:39 p.m. Twelve hours earlier, Venus moved from her home sign of Libra into sexy Scorpio. It’s also the day of the first quarter Moon in Pisces, making for challenges as the magical ‘know it all’ Sun in Sagittarius is square to the super-in-tuitive Moon in Pisces. It is a day of ‘Who do we trust?’

When we first heard her on the radio with her innova- tive and catchy ditty, Call Me Maybe, we thought she would be a one-hit wonder. But nine years later she is still writing and selling hit songs. Canada’s Carly Rae Jepsen turns 35 today.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

FISH FRY
Thursday, November 19
4 – 6:30 p.m.
TAKE-OUT ONLY | CASH ONLY
1 or 2 piece
dinner with fries and coleslaw
Drive-thru to order

PRACTICAL GENEALOGY AT NOTL PUBLIC LIBRARY ~14+
November 20 @ 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Join genealogist and local historian, David Hemmings, in this beginner class guiding you through the first steps in researching your family history. Class size is limited. Registration required at https://notlpubliclibrary.org as soon as possible. If you have a laptop, please bring it. Masks are mandatory and physical distancing must be adhered to. This class is for those interested in genealogical research that have never previously attended any of our Practical Genealogy sessions. If you have experience in genealogical research or have specific questions for Mr. Hemmings, please contact him directly.

DIGITAL DOORS OPEN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
November 20 @ 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
A virtual tour of Niagara-on-the-Lake: several sites of historic and architectural significance in NOTL as part of the province-wide Doors Open Ontario initiative. Check out them at https://www.doorsopenonto.on.ca/en/niaagra-on-the-lake

ARTFUL TREASURES 2020 ONLINE SHOW
November 20-24 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Niagara Pumphouse’s 14th Annual Premiere Artist and Artisan Show & Sale. For details please visit: www.niagarapumphouse.ca/events/artful-treasures-2020

ST. DAVIDS FISH FRY RETURNS
Friday, November 20
4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Take-out!
1 piece $9
2 pieces $13
Fish, our famous crispy fries and coleslaw!
Sorry no pan fried fish or baked potatoes available.
LET US COOK YOUR SUPPER!
1462 York Rd, St. Davids, ON
Call 905-893-5611
st davids fionns @ stdavidsfions on Facebook

FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
#NiagaraPerforms
Monday, November 23 @ 7 p.m.
Navigating the Waters of Indigenous Art
Saturday, December 5 @ 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ron Sexsmith
View free online concerts and events via PAC’s Facebook and YouTube channels www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca

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

LOCAL WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE CHURCH
Sunday, November 22nd
10 a.m. Worship Gathering
Speaker: Kevin Bayne
Message: United to Christ
Pre-registration is required to attend in-person worship.
Please be advised that due to the current state of COVID-19, our safety is our utmost priority. If you wish to join us via streaming our service of 11 a.m. will be available.
www.cornerstonechurch.ca

To advertise your WORSHIP SERVICES in this section, please contact: karen@notllocal.com

DAVIDS FISH FRY RETURNS
Saturday, December 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
Fish, our famous crispy fries and coleslaw!
Sorry no pan fried fish or baked potatoes available.

#NiagaraPerforms
Monday, November 23 @ 7 p.m.
Navigating the Waters of Indigenous Art
Saturday, December 5 @ 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ron Sexsmith
HOWARD, RICHARD NORMAN, 1948 - 2020—After being diagnosed with an untreatable brain cancer, Richard passed away peacefully at Hamilton General Hospital on October 26, 2020. His spouse David Johnson and two close friends held him as he ended his short but brave battle with Glioblastoma.

In addition, Richard is survived by three nieces - Heather, Kathleen and Jessica - and his beloved beagle Bogart.

Richard enjoyed a long career in the Canadian Diplomatic Service and Ontario’s Economic Development department, finally settling in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2011. He and David operated a B&B for a number of years during the summer months. Everywhere he went, Richard made many friends across Canada and around the world. It would be a fitting tribute if anyone reading this obituary, would be kind enough to pass it on to others who had the privilege of working with or knowing him. Richard was also a passionate believer in the work that SORE did in its quest to save the heritage of the Rand Estate for the community.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sunnybrook Odette Cancer Centre would be appreciated.

To place your obituary in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040

Deadline: Mondays at noon.
Borscht sale was soup-er!

The Bethany Mennonite Church Borscht and Bread Sale Saturday was a great success. Selling out 248 jars of borscht and 125 loaves of bread in 45 minutes. Serving were Leah Klassen and her aunt Denise Falk, with Ty Klassen (Denise’s nephew), and Scott Falk (her son), showing the event is truly inter-generational. (Photos supplied)

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