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tickets for  
Icebreakers  
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notllocal.com NOVEMBER 30, 2022 Volume 4 • Issue 48

## Upper Canada Christmas may be its last

This may be the end of an era — Upper Canada Lodge, the long-term care home owned by the region, is expected to be closing by December 2023, when the regional Gilmore Lodge redevelopment project, a significant expansion, is slated to be completed. The lodge on Wellington Street has started to ask families where they would like their family member placed when it closes. (David Gilchrist)



## Seeger's tribute to Adele coming to Ravine Vineyard

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Though she's been making a living portraying some of the biggest names in rock and pop music at tribute shows, one-time Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Angela Seeger knows exactly who she is.

The mother of two pre-teen girls says she's always had a bit of a chip on her shoulder. That chip has served her well, and perhaps it's what has continued to give her the confidence needed to take on the personas of the likes of Janis Joplin, Amy Winehouse, Annie Lennox, Barbra Streisand, Patsy Cline and Agnetha Faltskog of Abba.

On Friday, Dec. 16, she'll be stepping into the shoes, the clothes, the cockney accent and the multi-

octave singing voice of British singer-songwriter Adele for a special performance at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery's Ravine Event Centre.

Seeger has been singing for about as long as she can remember.

As a young child she would wow her family by emulating the anthem singers while the football game was on TV.

During her short time living in NOTL, she attended Laura Secord Memorial School in Queenston, where her Grade two teacher Ken Lamb recalls her playing the white rabbit in *Alice in Wonderland*.

A couple of years later the family moved to Niagara Falls, where she attended Simcoe Street Public

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## NOTL gives back to Newark Neighbours, children in hospital

Penny Coles  
The Local

An outpouring of generosity at an event held Saturday will ensure families who rely on Newark Neighbours for help, and children in the hospital during the holiday season will feel remembered at Christmas.

The town, teaming up with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, Revel

Realty and Team MAC, were behind the very successful NOTL Gives Back at the Mary Snider Room in the Centennial Arena to collect donations for Newark Neighbours and McMaster Children's Hospital.

Food items and new or gently used clothing were collected for Newark Neighbours, with president Cindy Grant on-hand to witness the generosity displayed by the community.

The not-for-profit organization has been seeing an increasing number of families and individuals in need that began through the pandemic and is still growing. At Thanksgiving, Grant says, they helped about 50 families, which included individuals, moms, dads and children, and she expects there will be about 55 to 60 who register for Christmas dinner, which includes food and gifts.

There are about 20 organizations and events already offering assistance, including the Candlelight Stroll, churches, wineries, schools, real estate agents, local businesses and many others, says Grant, who is grateful for the amazing support Newark receives every year at this time.

Jessie MacDonald of Revel Realty and Team MAC, says she has been committed to collecting

toys for children at Christmas for many years. It began when she was a teacher in St. Catharines 12 years ago, and realizing not all children experienced the same joy on Christmas morning that others take for granted, she decided to make a difference in their lives.

"We get very used to the idea that we have food on the table, new clothes and toys at Christmas, but it's a challenge for some people,"

she says. She organized collections first at her school, and expanded it with donations to Community Care.

Then, after having two babies in the neo-natal unit at McMaster, where she saw first-hand how hard it was for children in the hospital over the holiday and parents struggling to juggle jobs, driving back and forth to be with their kids,

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# Four great shows planned for Icebreakers Festival

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

Now in its ninth year, the Icebreakers Comedy Festival promises a weekend of great comedy, with the opening night sold out and tickets for the other shows, still almost two months off, at about 50 per cent sold.

The annual event, held in January during the Icewine Festival, was started by Jeff Paul, a Saint Michael and Niagara District Secondary School graduate who is executive producer and organizer of the three-day, four-show event, booking the performers and taking to the stage himself for one of the shows.

This February marks the 10-year anniversary of his first show at Corks Winebar & Eatery, the success of which was the launching point for the festival in 2014. That 2013 show was called Corks Comedy Hour, which is the name of the early Friday night show for this year's festival. Paul is already planning a two-weekend Icebreakers for 2024 to celebrate the festival's 10th anniversary, saying he will "take it to the next level."

The popular event has grown significantly over the years, becoming a multi-venue production which this year includes Oast House Brewers

Jan. 26, with Joe Pillitteri hosting; Corks Comedy Hour Friday night, Jan. 27 and a second show, The Meltdown, with Paul "pushing the boundaries" of good taste with a later crowd that is given advance warning of what he calls "the more vulgar, dirty jokes," with nothing off-limit.

Paul, by-day a TV program coordinator with CTV, says the later show at Corks is adult-themed, uncensored and always a little more vulgar, going a step further than earlier shows, for an audience that knows what to expect.

"Most comedy is uncensored. You never know what you're going to get — it could cross those lines and it could be vulgar," he says.

"At The Meltdown, we purposely cross those lines and it will get vulgar. It's just a couple of weird people saying some weird things."

The festival wraps up Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery with CBC's Laugh Out Loud Gala and a great lineup of comics, hand-picked by Paul, who will be performing for live recordings for CBC Radio in the winery's beautiful event space. Rob Pue hosts a lineup of some of Canada's top comedians, including NOTL's own Joe Pillitteri.

Tickets for the Oast show

sold out in six days, says Paul, which even surprised him. "It was the quickest sellout ever," for a show with tickets that are always snapped up quickly.

With tickets for shows across the board are more than 50 per cent sold almost two months before the festival begins, "they're all selling well," including the gala.

Paul says Pillitteri is a big draw, and Rob Pue, MC for the gala, "is one of the best comedians in Canada," and is hosting an amazing lineup of top comedians.

As executive producer, Paul's job each year is to book the performers, and he says he never has a hard time convincing them to come to NOTL. "I always get teased by my comedy friends that I get to do it every year. I tell them it's my festival and my home town."

They know they'll be treated well, and they'll have a good time while they're here, which means a lot to them, he adds. As well, comedians who are enjoying themselves tend to put on a better, more energetic, enthusiastic show. "They bring their A game," says Paul.

He credits his longtime friends from high school, Tim Balasiuk — Paul refers to him as Big Tim — and Maria Mavridis with helping organize the festivals from the beginning, and his good friend

Paul Harber who has offered the conference centre at Ravine Vineyard. He jokes about them and Nick Ruller, also a high school friend, of having grown up, three of them now town councillors and Harber owner of a beautiful winery, while Paul's goal is to never grow up.

"It's weird now to see these people I grew up with," he says.

"I question when I will grow up, but I really hope I won't. I get to travel and meet strange, interesting people with strange, interesting lifestyles, and it's a fun life."

Paul also has a day job, but it's one that he is comfortable with, that has become easy, and that allows him to forget about it at 5 p.m.

"It's nice and easy. I've been 18 years in an entry level position, and I couldn't be happier. It's a job, not a career, and it's not something I have to think about after 5 p.m. There's nothing to stress me out. It's a very good job for someone like me with a focus elsewhere."

The worst part of it was a long commute through Toronto traffic to the Scarborough studio, but during the pandemic, it became a job he could do from home, and continues to be so.

"I found a new appreciation for the job during COVID — and I'll try to hold on to it for as long as I can."

He keeps waiting for it to come to an end, hoping it doesn't.

He works programming TV commercials, and many people are moving away from cable to streaming, he says.

"I make a good living doing comedy, but it's nice to have this other job, and I'll



Jeff Paul will perform at The Meltdown, the Friday night late show at Corks. (Photo supplied)

keep it as long as I can."

He recently performed in his first TV commercial, "pushing a Ryobi cordless snowblower around." It was mostly shown on CTV during the 11 p.m. news, he says, but also on a lot of sporting events — his father was excited to tell him it made the World Series.

"I hope to do a few more commercials," he says. "Shooting them is great. It's very easy work, they treat you well, with a crew of people making sure you're okay and having a good time. And they feed you."

But at the moment his focus is on NOTL, and making sure everyone, performers

and audience, has a great time during the three-day Icebreakers Festival.

**Show lineup:**

Thursday Jan. 26, opening night at Oast House Brewers: MC Joe Pillitteri with Laura Leibow and Montreal-based national headliner Derek Seguin.

Friday, Jan. 27 at Corks Winebar & Eatery: MC Jackie Pirico with Tom Henry, Brandon Ash-Mohammed and Nigel Grinstead.

Friday, Jan. 27 at Corks Winebar & Eatery at 10 p.m.: festival founder and MC Jeff Paul with Allie Pearse, Bobby Knauff and Chris Robinson. This show comes with the warning of mature content.

Saturday, Jan. 28 at the Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery: CBC's Laugh Out Loud Gala, including MC Rob Pue with Dylan Gott, Crystal Ferrier, Joe Pillitteri, Fiona O'Brien, Nitish Sakhuja and Jarrett Campbell.

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# Queen Street ready for stroll



Queen Street at night is a sight not all residents will see, but those who attend Friday's Candlelight Stroll, hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, will gather at the Court House at about 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and enjoy the beautifully decorated side streets and some holiday music along the route. The chamber, local businesses, the town and volunteers all had a hand in decorating. *(David Gilchrist)*



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# Helping children at Christmas a tradition for local realtor

Continued from page 1

and no time to think about Christmas shopping, she decided she wanted to try to “bring some normalcy to kids in the hospital” by ensuring they had gifts to celebrate at Christmas.

Partnering with NOTL Minor Hockey was a great way to expand the community of those involved, and it was good to see the kids learning that there are other kids who are not as fortunate as they are, and doing something to help them, says MacDonald.



Silas Unruh, Malcolm Burrington, Nichola Necakov-Waller, and Boyd Hopkins, members the U13 select hockey team who volunteered at the Centennial Arena Saturday, took the opportunity to have their picture taken with Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, who dropped off some items for the food drive and toy collection. (Photo supplied)

Volunteers with the town, Newark Neighbours, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, Revel Realty and Team MAC were at the Mary Snider Room in the Centennial Arena Saturday to collect toys, clothing and food donated to Newark Neighbours and McMaster Children’s Hospital. (Penny Coles)

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# Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Nine Lives Custom Refinishing

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## Our focus is our strength

After six years of being in business, Nine Lives has had the good fortune to realize success in their chosen field of kitchen and furniture refinishing. Owner Kevin Coyle attributes their success to the dedicated and skillful staff as well as the partner trades and businesses he has had the pleasure to deal with.

Offering customers a “one stop shopping opportunity” has been one of the many things that separate them from the pack, as well as a team of professionals exhibiting years of experience to give their customers a completed product they can brag to their friends and family about. 2022 has been a benchmark year for Nine Lives for many reasons, but mostly for the fact they have honed in on their core competencies with the core group of staff members.

Everyone who started with us for the most part still remains an integral part of the team and, as with many businesses, modifications and change were required to maintain the gold level re-

quired to remain successful. Keeping focus on maintaining customer satisfaction has proven to be both rewarding and fruitful. Customers praise and referrals

are the ultimate compliment to us, says Coyle, and keeps us wanting to strive higher to continue that trend. As with any business, things can occasionally go off the

rails for one reason or another, but what really speaks volumes is how problems are handled and the level of accountability that is held by the company and Nine Lives

does just that. Fix it and keep the customer smiling is the motto we all live by.

Coyle has also realized that to do a great job the right people must be doing

the work and that is why he and his wife Carolyn put on their paint clothes everyday and work in the shop to ensure a quality product goes out on time.

We have made major improvements mostly in our in home portion of spraying kitchens over the last seven months with innovations made in the prepping and spray process. Also new to this year's agenda is the addition of our own brand of quartz countertops. We have been offering Cambria countertops for two years now and decided to add two additional brands, our own and Viatarra, to offer customers some pricing level choices. If you are interested in refinishing your kitchen or would like to breathe new life into furniture call today for a free quote or visit us at [ninelivescustomrefinishing.com](http://ninelivescustomrefinishing.com).

For those of you who have used our services or referred us, thank you. We live and breathe in business because of you; your accolades encourage us and push us to strive higher each year.



Pictured are owner Kevin Coyle and Carolyn Coyle in the showroom where quartz counters, cabinet door colors, hardware and under cabinet lighting are displayed to give you real perspectives on what will suit your tastes.

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# EDITORIAL

## Spreading peace, love and joy can make a difference

The holiday season can feel like a time for greeting-card platitudes — peace on earth, good will toward men springs to mind — that just don't seem so appropriate this year.

Outwardly, nothing has changed. Queen Street is done up in all its finery, there are snowflakes on lamp posts in every corner of the community, there is a long list of annual events coming up to enjoy, after a two-year absence or scaled-back celebrations.

This Friday is the magical Candlelight Stroll — don't forget food for Newark Neighbours.

The NOTL Rotary Club Holiday House Tour is sold out but there were, at press time, some tickets for A Merry & Bright Christmas Tour, at the

beautiful McArthur Estate on John Street E.

The Shaw Festival is offering *A Christmas Carol* at the Royal George Theatre and *White Christmas* at the Festival Theatre, both until Dec. 23, and after a two-year absence the Santa Claus Parade we all know to be the best anywhere will make its way through the streets of the Old Town Dec. 10, beginning at 11 a.m.

And don't forget the second annual Tractor Parade will make its appearance in Virgil Thursday, Dec. 13, beginning at the arena parking lot at 6 p.m. Organized by Dorothy Soo-Wiens and now Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens (he gives all the credit to Dorothy), it was a ton of fun to watch last year, and promises to be even bigger

and better this year.

These are just a few of the great ways to help us "find peace and happiness during the holiday season," to use another platitude, but first we have to find them within ourselves.

Somehow, there is still a great divide in our community. It has always been thus, that certain aspects of lives here at home and around the world divide us — religion and politics at the top of the list, on a global scale those who live in a democracy and those who don't, the developing countries and the developed, the haves and the have-nots. And more recently, closer to home, to wear a mask or not, get vaccinated or shun the needle, blame our leaders for doing too much to protect us or not

enough, creating another divide seemingly caused by the pandemic. Looking back, however, has brought the realization that COVID-19 only gave evidence of how great the divide is. The anger has been simmering, and COVID brought it to a boil.

It doesn't seem to matter how beautiful a community this is, or how fortunate most feel to live here, it hasn't escaped its share of anger. Blame social media for providing a platform, look to those who feel free to use it to express their feelings, no matter the hurt they cause — it's out there, it's real, and it's furthering the divide, right here at home.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa addressed it leading up to the election — he spoke of raising the tone, bringing people together,

and his job will now be to do just that through his role on council, addressing the political divide.

But what about the rest of the community? What can we do?

For a start, every one of us, residents, neighbours, business owners or employees, can be conscious of being better at supporting our community.

In a practical sense we can take advantage of free parking, we can and should support local stores and restaurants when we shop for gifts — Amazon flourished during the pandemic, doesn't need our support, and won't give back to our community in any way, except by increasing truck traffic and filling our recycling boxes with cardboard.

We can instead give back to

a business community that continues to support our fundraisers, our kids' sports and schools, our churches and our service organizations.

And above all else, we can remember kindness. In this time, when all around us we witness anger as a quick and easy go-to, we can instead turn our energy to something useful. We can share our time by volunteering, or reaching out to older friends or neighbours and those who live alone, we can refrain from lashing out at those with whom we disagree, and — yes, here comes the final platitude — we can open our hearts and homes to love, peace and joy. And spread it around.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## Gates congratulates Shaw on 60 years of success



**Wayne Gates, MPP**  
Special to The Local

This Saturday, my wife Rita and I had the opportunity to view the performance of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake. We all know and love this classic musical, but to see it performed by such a talented cast, in my community, with my wife, was a truly special experience.

This year, 2022, marks the 60th anniversary of the Shaw Festival. It was in part because of this, and the wonderful performance I saw Saturday, that I decided to use part of my time at Queen's Park this week to deliver a Member's Statement on the history and significance of the Shaw Festival.

In 1962, inspired by the works of George Bernard

Shaw, the Shaw held its first season featuring performances of *Don Juan in Hell* and *Candida*. In 1973, the Festival Theatre officially opened, with dignitaries such as Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in attendance for performances that year. Since then, the Shaw has drawn international acclaim, due to the truly remarkable contributions of directors, artists, performers and staff.

This year also marked the biggest season yet. The anniversary season has offered 13 productions, from February until December, in three different theatres, in addition to Outdoors at the Shaw, a series of concerts and events held on Theatre grounds.

I want to give congratulations and thanks to Tim Jennings, the executive director, and Tim Carroll, artistic director, as well as all staff, cast members, board of directors, and volunteers for being a part of such a successful organization.

This has been a banner year for the Shaw. They have come back strong from COVID-19 and showed the world they are still one of the best destinations for theatre in Canada. Through their impressive fundraising achievements this year, and community support, they continue to grow.

Finally, I want to highlight a special contribution the Shaw has made to our community. Thanks to incredible foresight by Tim Jennings, the Shaw was able to keep 500 employees on the payroll, full-time, during the pandemic. For a while, the Shaw's workers were among the only actors and performers across the world who kept their employment. This is a remarkable achievement that deserves praise.

On behalf of an appreciative community, I thank the Shaw Festival for their important contributions to what makes Niagara-on-the-Lake so special. Congratulations on 60 years of success — here's to many more to come.



MPP Wayne Gates delivers a Member's Statement at Queen's Park congratulating the Shaw Festival. (Photo supplied)

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

# Local

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# COMMENT

## Local LETTERS Say no to bollards in St. Davids

Bollards in St. Davids a Short Pilot Project (The Local, Sept. 28) contained statements from then Lord Mayor Betty Disero and then Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa to the effect that there was no notice given to the town that bollards were being installed, there was no feedback from the region regarding updates on these bollards, speeding was a concern with school starting, there was a need to move quickly, and bollards were discussed.

It's my understanding that they left before the meeting concluded, and were unaware that these bollards were going to be installed.

I am shocked by these events. Does the regional government have no respect for those who represent the town? Wouldn't their input have counted for anything? Wouldn't feedback from St. Davids residents count for

anything?

All of this makes you question the need for a regional government, especially when they just seem to ignore our political representatives and their constituents' concerns.

I was told by a high-ranking town official that the Region's administrative staff just authorized the bollards to be installed, the implication being the bollards were installed without authorization from regional representatives. If the staff of the Region instituted the installation of the bollards without the expressed authorization of the Region by way of a vote, then the administrative individual should be released from employment because they conducted themselves outside the policy and procedures which no doubt allows them to operate according to what Regional councillors autho-

size. If this is not the case, anarchy exists and the regional councillors are figureheads.

What evidence is there that there is a need for bollards — are they to protect the cyclists, reduce speed, or something else? What is the justification? What proof is there that they work to reduce speed or protect cyclists? Haven't more cyclists been hurt on other roads?

In Old Town there are businesses that make a living taking cyclists to various wineries, and there are lots of them — wouldn't they be in more danger because of their sheer numbers? Why not install bollards along their routes to protect them?

If the argument is that bollards increase safety for bicyclists, I find that hard to believe since firstly there seem to be very few cyclists that use St. Davids. Secondly, an errant car travelling with an

intoxicated driver, or an unobservant driver could hurt a cyclist with or without a bollard in the way.

On Mountain Road west of the QEW there are bike lanes, and cars travel there at 100 kilometres per hour. Has anyone been injured on that stretch of road?

These bollards along with the no parking signs spaced every 15 feet or so do not fit in with the charm of St. Davids, and in fact I believe severely detract from it. Imagine if these bollards were placed in Old Town or Virgil?

There are no bicycle lanes going north beyond 150 Four Mile Creek, so how are cyclists to be protected there?

Valuable financial resources have been spent to install no parking signs along Four Mile Creek in front of The Grist restaurant. Valuable financial resources may be spent on installing bollards

and removing them on an annual basis. I don't believe that this is the best use of taxpayer's dollars. Surely this money could be spent on other more community contributing projects. Significant amounts of money have already been spent on white road speed signs tattooed to the asphalt on Four Mile Creek, south of St. Davids on the hill past Eagle Valley Golf Course, and orange radar displays that tell you that the speed limit has been exceeded.

Could rumble strips differentiating the car lanes and bicycle lanes not do the same thing? I think the purpose of a bollard is to warn a driver that their car has strayed from the road, and rumble strips could perform the same function without the annual cost of installation and removal. The difference would be that rumble strips

don't look as horrific as the bollards.

If the intended purpose of these bollards is to reduce speed, then put in speed bumps, or speed cameras along the route.

All of this controversy about the bollards had to be inspired by someone that thought something had to be done regarding the protection of cyclists, or speed. It conjures up all sorts of reasons besides cyclist protection or speed concerns. Perhaps someone with enough significant influence to garner the support of the Region. A hypothesis that cannot be ignored.

Will the newly elected regional council and town council listen to the people of St. Davids? Have St. Davids constituents take a vote. After all they elected you.

**Gienek Ksiazkiewicz**  
St. Davids

## Information session Thursday for those interested in library board



**Cathy Simpson**  
CEO, NOTL Public Library

Congratulations to our newly elected lord mayor and town council members, and kudos to all the election candidates for their civic-mindedness and dedication to community.

A new town council also means it's time to appoint a new library board. Ontario public libraries are governed by community volunteers on the same four-year cycle as municipal councils. The current Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library Board was appointed in 2019 and remains in place until new members are selected by the incoming council. Our board includes two town council representatives who ensure the library aligns with town priorities and continues to

provide excellent service to the community.

In addition to town council reps, there are also six residents on our library board. If you live in NOTL, are at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and not employed by the library or town, you qualify to apply. In addition to these qualifications, the library needs board members who work well with others, believe in the library's importance to the community and are willing to advocate.

Over the last 10 years, the library has undergone a staff reorganization and complete interior renovation to better meet the changing needs of our community. Over the next four years, we're concentrating on ensuring our operating and capital budgets are sustainable. The current board approved a strategic plan for 2021 to 2024 and identified four strategic directions:

1. Inspire lifelong learning, discovery and creation

2. Build community
3. Increase awareness
4. Innovate for efficient and sustainable operations

Based on these directions, the library needs board members who have experience:

- Articulating vision, values and strategy
- Budget planning
- Developing policy
- Fundraising

The board meets a minimum seven times annually and members are also expected to work on at least one committee, attend library events and participate in board development sessions.

For more details about being a board member, please join us on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. in the library's Rotary Room for a board information session.

Visit our website to register or call me at 905-468-2023 ext. 203. Library board members are key advisors and advocates who shape the future of the library in our community. Join and make a difference!

## Where is Ben?



The Local co-op student, Ben Foster, is discovering new locations in NOTL, and wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Congratulations to Jennifer Waine, who recognized Ben was at the Wayne Gretzky Estates Winery in last week's photo, although there was very little in the photo to give it away.



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# Many ways to help Ukrainians at Christmas

**Shirley Madsen**  
**Special to The Local**

Winter is here, and in Ukraine the average temperatures are below 0 Celsius.

I am not the only one who has family in Ukraine. I am not the only one who is trying to do my part. Since this senseless war started, there are many who are working tirelessly day in and day out to do their part. I have met many people over this past year who have no ties to Ukraine, however, they see the strength and courage these people have and so they have come forth and continue to do what they can.

Every little bit helps, whether it is to help the torn-apart families that are here, or the folks in Ukraine who have stayed in their homeland. Hanging a flag in your window or front door whether you are Ukrainian or not, lets everyone know you care and support them in their solidarity.

Someone sent me an article the NY Times published: Ukrainian Flags Are on Display All Over Maine. Why? Like people in other towns and cities, the Mainers wanted to show their solidarity with Ukraine, however, it was more than that. Most people in Maine know what struggle is. They know that one day you have something and another day you don't. Ukrainians are survivors,

and for those in Maine to put up a Ukrainian flag is a small token of what they can do. They understand the injustice that is going on over there.

I recently received a video from my cousin who fled from Ukraine and is now in Canada with her mother. At the beginning of the war her grandchildren and their mother fled to Poland, and have now returned to Ukraine. Her son and his wife are working for a non-profit disaster relief organization. Their children are in Western Ukraine with other family. Her son is the director of the charity Global Empowerment Mission, and was interviewed on BBC. I told my cousin she should be so proud of her son. Her response, "I am more worried than proud."

You can learn more about the mission at [www.globalemppowermentmission.org/mis-sion/ukraine-crisis/](http://www.globalemppowermentmission.org/mis-sion/ukraine-crisis/).

While being interviewed on BBC during a blackout in Kyiv my cousin is standing on his balcony, and you can see in the background most of Kyiv in darkness. In the interview he said, "after the last strike of Russian missiles, it has brought everyone in the city to a new reality."

In Kyiv there was no water supply and now they must schedule when the electricity will be turned on. Their last schedule lasted for four hours,

but now that has changed and they do not know when it will be cut off again. The Ukrainian government is importing generators into the country. Eighty per cent of some regions do not have electricity, or if they do it is intermittent.

I have another cousin who lives in the western part of Ukraine and he also told me the electricity comes and goes. The government is installing 'help shelters' within tents and buildings. They install generators and heating systems where people visit these areas to warm up, charge their electronics, and get some water and food supplies that the mission is providing.

In the interview my cousin said the mission was one of the first organizations that went into the city of Kherson once it was liberated. Russians had destroyed almost everything in the city, such as water lines and electrical supply buildings. The Global Empowerment Mission delivered 3,000 family kits and now continuously have weekly deliveries to this area. That day, Russia fired 100 rockets into Ukraine. When the mission members started to hear bombing, they had to leave immediately and finish their distribution outside of town. My cousin said, "the people are scared. You can see it in their eyes. They do not know what to expect next." Kherson was under Russian occupation for nine months.

There are many great organizations out there like the mission. Locally, I have been the contact and drop-off location on behalf of Irene Newton, president of Niagara Ukrainian Canadian Congress, at their Help Boutique, and Christine Tymczyszyn, at St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church in St. Catharines.

There is no central registration for Ukrainians once they come to the Niagara Region. We don't know who is here or what they need unless they reach out to an organization like the Ukrainian Canadian Congress or local church. If you know of any Ukrainian newcomers in Niagara-on-the-Lake that have not been in touch with either, please ask them to call me. I do speak Ukrainian. There are several Ukrainian families in NOTL and it would be great to have a connection amongst all.

The St. John Ukrainian Catholic Church is holding a Christmas dinner for Ukrainian newcomers on Dec. 11. If you know of a family here, please have them call the church at 905-937-3393 or email [stjohnchurch-event@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnchurch-event@gmail.com) to pre-register. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards this dinner, please let me know.

Thank you so much to the following people and organizations: the NOTL Horticultural Society at their annual general meeting last week put a call out to their members; Cindy Grant showed up at my home the next day with a carload of food and \$80 they had collected; Mr. and Mrs. Tuck of Virgil placed an order through Sobeys for items that were on my list in last week's write-up. I had the pleasure of meeting them, picking up the items they had delivered by Voila and delivering those items to the Help Boutique in St. Catharines.

Deanna Tuck also had a great idea: Adopt a Ukrainian family for Christmas. Ukrainians celebrate Christmas on Jan. 6-7, however, I am sure they would feel very welcome to partake in your Christmas celebrations, or you could provide them with a traditional turkey and all the fixings for Dec. 25 or Jan. 7.

One of my neighbours is having an event next week. They did an email blitz to all attendees asking for food donations. I will provide them with boxes and a sign.

My Christmas wish list and challenge:

- Having an event, meeting, friends, or family over? Have them bring a food item or grocery gift card.
- Local businesses and wineries — set up a location for your customers to drop off a food item or grocery gift card. Put the challenge out to your customers. Fly a Ukrainian flag. Put it on your website or your social media.

**The Help Boutique needs these items now:**  
**Food:** Flour; baking powder; pepper; salt; plain vinegar; small bottles of vegetable oil; honey; Nutella; canned beets, sauerkraut, red cabbage; buck-

wheat; oatmeal; cereal (corn-flakes, cheerios); small packs of juices; dried mushrooms; baby cereal and food/formula; bags of potatoes, onions. (There are a couple of Polish stores on Facer St. that sell some of these items if you cannot find them in our local grocery stores.)

**Toiletries:** Shampoo; soap; toothpaste; hand cream; disposable razors; feminine pads (no tampons); Kleenex; toilet paper; kids' toothpaste and brushes; diapers for ages three to five.

**Gift Cards:** Walmart, Giant Tiger or other grocery stores.

Let's show our NOTL spirit. Call or text 905-468-2325 or email [donatesunflowersforukraine@gmail.com](mailto:donatesunflowersforukraine@gmail.com).

Items can also be dropped off at The Local office, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, afternoons, Monday to Friday.



Irene Newton, president of the Niagara Ukrainian Canadian Congress, at the Help Boutique. (Photos by Shirley Madsen)



The boutique also has household items and clothing for Ukrainian families arriving in Canada.

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Stress ball  
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Teddy bear

**Donation deadline Dec 13th. Drop off at the Royal LePage office at 125 Queen Street between 10-4pm or call for pickup.**



# The buzz on pollinators: Let’s focus on pollinator gardens

**Sandra Ozkur**  
Special to The Local

Janet is an avid garden-er in Niagara-on-the-Lake and is sensitive to the eco-logical changes in our envi-ronment due to pollution, increasing population and effects of climate change.

So, being a conscien-tious citizen, she was sur-prised to learn that her beautiful yard, filled with ornamental plants and trees, might in fact be con-tributing to the decreasing population of birds, bees, moths, butterflies and oth-er pollinating insects.

Little did she know that increased regulations on horticultural sprays has turned the pesticide in-dustry toward a systemic approach for controlling fungal and pest infesta-tions. Chemicals are often applied to soil the plants are grown in, or are used as seed coatings that absorb into the plant at the cellu-lar level. When the plant grows, the chemicals are forever present within the leaves, pollen and nectar of the plant.

Janet realized that by planting seeds, flowers or trees that have been treated with systemic fungicides and pesticides, she was in fact contributing to the death of many insects who might be using these plants as their food source. When

an insect eats a plant that has been treated with a sys-temic chemical, it enters its digestive system and poi-sons it. Which means that anything that feeds upon those insects will be pass-ing the poisons up the food chain with devastating ef-fects at higher and higher concentrations.

“I thought I was doing a good thing by planting beautiful flowers in my yard. I believed that my efforts were helping feed the pollinating insects and to find out I am actually killing them is devastating. That is when I became cu-rious about what my neigh-bour had done to her front yard. She had replaced her entire front lawn with a pollinator-friendly gar-den using only indigenous plants native to Niagara,” Janet says. “When I got up close and looked carefully, I realized that it had a my-riad of blossoms and was alive with bees, butterflies and other pollinating in-sects. Although her front yard looked less formal, the garden was purposeful and gave a natural beauty to the house.”

This ecologically -friendly flowerbed pro-vided habitat for pollina-tors to reproduce, which in turn attracted birds who eat their larvae. It also provided an abundance of nourishing pollen and nec-

tar for bees and butterflies to feed upon all summer long.

As poet Ian Emberson wrote: “A weed is a flower in the wrong place / a flower is a weed in the right place.”

Many original plant species have been de-stroyed because they are regarded as weeds as they can grow aggressively and may overtake foreign vari-eties.

It is time we change our perception of beauty and realize that planting for-eign species requires us to manipulate the habitat to suit their needs. Instead of working with nature, we are constantly working against it, and in the pro-cess destroying our ben-eficial insects, which no longer have their necessary habitat in which to feed and breed.

Pollinator populations are in steep decline, and you don’t need a degree in biology to know that farm-ers depend upon insects to pollinate crops, which feed people. Unfortunately, we take these innocuous spe-cies for granted, believing that they will always be available to serve our needs. We need to change our gardening practices to pre-serve our soil, native plants and trees to protect our pollinator populations and preserve our food supply.

It is time to change our



A milkweed plant attracts monarch butterflies and other pollinators. (Sandra Ozkur)

focus away from just the superficial appearance of our yards and toward a more functional garden. You can begin by incor-porating native trees and plants into your existing landscape or by replac-ing a patch of lawn with a pollinator-friendly plot instead. Start small, and let it evolve as you learn

how to integrate beautiful native plants. Your efforts will be doing good for the environment and the sus-tainability of our precious pollinators.

Tip of the week: Follow professor Douglas Talla-my on YouTube or read his book, *Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conserva-tion That Starts in Your Yard*.

*This article has been compiled by a tribe of local gardeners who would like to encourage everyone to start planting a variety of native plants so we can create a web of pollinator gardens through-out the region. In subsequent articles, we will be providing tips and resources so you can plant your own pollinator-friendly garden next spring.*



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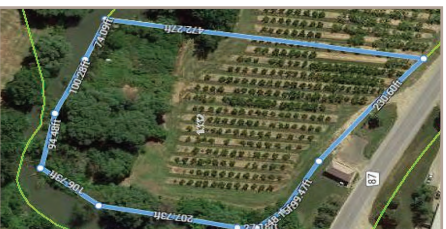
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# Grateful family remembers, continues to helps others

## Sandtrap Open tourney gives back with support

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

For 11 years now, Matt and Kristen Dietsch have been delivering cheques to the Niagara Children's Centre and Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton, to show their gratitude to the organizations that have meant so much to them, and that continue to help other families through what can be very difficult times.

Their story began when their son Dylan was born 12 years ago this October, in the St. Catharines Hospital. He was experiencing seizure-like activity, and was transferred to McMaster Children's Hospital, Matt accompanying him while Kristen, who had had a difficult pregnancy, stayed behind in St. Catharines.

"I spent the night in the hospital with him," remembers Matt. "It was very terrifying, and pretty intense, being in such a foreign place with your first child. It was nothing like the textbooks said it would be."

The Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton at that time only had 15 rooms, and quite a waiting list, but a room was found for them and Kristen

was able to join him. "It was a little bit like home. It's an amazing place," he says, "with some general areas that are like a living room setting."

Although they were closer to Dylan, and able to go back and forth easily, "it was still pretty scary. We didn't know exactly what was going on. He was having all these tests, including a brain MRI."

And although he wasn't tiny like the other babies — most were preemies, but Dylan was not — they still couldn't hold him. "We could just put our hands in the gloves through a portal in the incubator to touch him. We felt so helpless. We didn't get our first snuggle with him until day five. That was the first time we were able to hold him."

Ronald McDonald House gave them a place to feel at home, and to feel close, physically and emotionally, to Dylan. And the nurses were awesome, says Matt — they would make sure he and Kristen looked after themselves, sending them home for meals. "They didn't want us to get sick — we wouldn't have been allowed in the NICU if we'd had any cold or flu-like symptoms."

Although Dylan would eventually be diagnosed with cerebral palsy, when he was discharged after a little more than two weeks in hospital Matt and Kristen still didn't know a lot about his condition, nor did they have a final diagnosis. It wasn't until they realized he wasn't meeting his milestones that it became more evident "there was more going on than we knew about."

And that's where Niagara Children's Centre came to their rescue. "It's an amazing place. We were connected to it in Dylan's first year, and we've been involved with it ever since."

In the early days he had an occupational therapist and a physiotherapist, and as he got older, a speech therapist. As well, "there are many amazing programs" that offer support for families, helping them develop strategies for coping with some of the challenges they and their children face.

As Dylan got older, he began benefiting from the recreational therapy at the children's centre. He has taken part in a program called Challenger Baseball, another called Volt Hockey, played in an electric wheelchair that is close to the ground, with an adapted gear stick attached to the front of the chair to hit the puck, and they've enjoyed family swim time. But all that came to an end during COVID, and are just now slowly starting up



Colton, Kristen, Dylan and Matt Dietsch have a cheque for Mandy Cavin of the Niagara Children's Centre. (Photos supplied)

again with strict guidelines, says Matt.

"Dylan loves his time with them, and it's helped him connect with other people and other families. It helped us as well. We walk a different road than most families, and it helps us to connect with others who are going through something similar."

Dylan is now in Grade 7 at Crossroads Public School, "and everyone at school has been amazing, ever since he started."

His first year was September 2019, and the first six months were great. "He connected with a lot of kids. They took him under their wing with affection and friendship, and they continue to impress me with how they care for him."

The pandemic time was difficult for everyone, including Dylan, but now they're all back at school and the kids continue to look after him, says Matt.

"He was sick for a bit recently with a respiratory infection, and luckily we were able to get some good antibiotics for him. But while he was away, the kids made a video for him to let him know he was missed."

The video showed kids with their back to the camera, and then they would turn around, and say D is for 'da best', Y is for 'yo' — one of Dylan's words he likes to say a lot — L is for 'love', A for 'awesome' and N for 'nice'.

Dylan loved it, and his parents love that the kids are not just trying to be empathetic; they really love Dylan and want to show him how much they care, "including him in their lives and treating him as a person. Their love and acceptance is amazing."

A small group of kids went bowling at Parkway Lanes for his birthday, where there is an accessible lane, Matt continued, "and we just sat back and watched. The kids helped roll him to the ramp on the lane, they helped put the ball on the ramp so he could push it, and they cheered for him."

His little brother Colton is now in Grade 2 at Crossroads, and as he gets older has become a big part of Dylan's life. "He is an amazing little

brother," says Matt.

"He loves playing hockey and lacrosse and Dylan loves to cheer on his brother at his games. Now that Colton is getting bigger he likes to help push Dylan's chair when we go for walks."

It's hard sometimes for Colton to understand why he has to do certain things that Dylan doesn't, "but he knows his brother is special, and loves him very much."

When Kristen and Matt look back in time and all they've come through, from the days at Ronald McDonald House, which was also there for them when Dylan was five and required surgery, to the help they've received at the Niagara Children's Centre, they have felt very grateful and very fortunate, says Matt.

"We've had the pleasure of staying at the Ronald McDonald House and have the children's centre so close by, a great organization, and one of

the few in Ontario right here in Niagara. We feel so lucky."

Which is why every year for the last 11 years they have organized a golf tournament to raise money for Ronald McDonald House and the children's centre.

At the Queenston Golf Course, where they held this year's tournament, they were impressed with how well it worked out, and also connected with Dylan's physiotherapist, Leigh Goring, "who has been helping him for the better part of his life. We feel so lucky to have her in his life."

And they feel very fortunate for the community support of the Sandtrap Open Golf Tournament, which raised a substantial amount of money for the two organizations.

"We raised \$6,500 this year, bringing our total to \$66,800 over the 11 years. It was our first ever tournament that rained, but our golfers still prevailed."



Korey Rorison of the Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton accepts a cheque from Kristen, Dylan, Colton and Matt Dietsch.

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# New book a comprehensive history of Fort George

Local Staff

In 2019, the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada started meeting with local historians to discuss the idea of writing a comprehensive history of Fort George National Historic Site, and over the past three years, a committee of seven authors has worked to put together *Fort George: A History*, a 150-plus page book that discusses more than 250 years of history of the site, with many colour images, maps and photos.

Amanda Gamble, executive director of the Friends of Fort George, says this project was driven by visitors to the site. “When visitors come into the gift shop after visiting Fort George, many want a memento they can take home with them to remind them of their visit to this special place. We have lots of books on the War of 1812 and specific aspects of Fort George, but we have never had a publication that discusses the history of Fort George from the beginning to present day.”

This book includes information on Navy Hall, the construction of Fort



Authors Richard Merritt, Amanda Gamble, Dan Laroche, Ron Dale, Wesley Turner and Tony Chisholm at Fort George. Missing from the photo is Joseph Last. (Photo supplied)

George, its role throughout the War of 1812, its role as part of Camp Niagara, the reconstruction of Fort George during the Great Depression, and how Fort

George is interpreted today. The new book will help increase understanding about the complex history of the national historic site, highlighting the role it

played and still plays in the development of the town, says Gamble. It will also help to support the Friends of Fort George mandate, with all proceeds from its

sale going toward supporting youth employment opportunities at Fort George and Brock’s Monument. The Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada

are holding an official book launch Dec. 1 at Navy Hall from noon to 2 p.m., with hot apple cider and treats, and the authors on hand for book signings.

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# Niagara College offers culinary delights in pop-up events

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Some changes this year to the Niagara College's Culinary Services program are benefiting the students as well as the community this school year.

Hungry diners visited the Daniel J. Patterson Campus' Benchmark restaurant Friday at noon to pick up their pre-ordered five-course gourmet meal prepared and served by students.

While each left with their brioche, greenhouse salad, seafood ravioli appetizer, striploin steak main course, pecan tart with vanilla custard and special surprise treat, they were oblivious to the hustle and bustle of the kitchen, where second-year students were undergoing their final exam.

Craig Youdale, dean of the School of Culinary Arts, told The Local changes to the program are allowing students to learn more about service, making them immediately ready to step into kitchens.

"Coming out of COVID," explained Youdale, "we've taken a look at our final few weeks for senior culinary students and created as much of a real restaurant atmosphere as possible. Our regional Canadian cuisine course has been converted into a restaurant course. We've created a real, pressur-

ized environment."

Indeed, about 25 students were working together with professors to prepare each part of the meal. As professors Olaf Mertens and Scott Baechler shouted out instructions, in unison they replied "Yes, Chef," and hit their stations.

"We heard a lot from industry partners that there were certain elements from our students that we knew we had a hard time re-creating in school," Youdale said. "Creating pressure, a sense of urgency, and being able to create a volume, not just a small amount. And service techniques, too."

So, when September rolled around, they announced that Benchmark wouldn't run as usual. Instead, their students would focus on pop-up and banquet style events, ones where they would be able to learn all aspects of preparing and serving food in a situation more akin to what they would experience post-graduation.

"We needed to create a real environment for our students," he continued, "so when they leave here there's less of a gap. The industry told us they were really great at cooking, but they needed exposure to that high-pressure line environment. We're closing that gap with this."

Students in the culinary program now are immersed

in a number of different situations, varying from Friday's takeout event to pop-up restaurants, stand-up receptions, banquets, lunches and dinners. For the students, it's less about the food and more about the service techniques.

"Each of those situations requires a different set-up, different organization, different communication," Youdale added. "We want them to learn as broad an amount as possible. We want them to be what we call 'Saturday night ready'. That way when they go into the restaurant for real, they are ready for anything."

Student Dollar Thakar, originally from India, was thriving under pressure Friday.

"Everybody in my class is very passionate and knowledgeable after two years in the program," said Dollar. "The best part of this course is the collaboration between each other. Today I'm on the mains, and another student helped me learn what to do. Next time someone else will be on the mains, and I will help them. We've all been working together from the very first day."

He continued, "This experience gives us a bigger picture of how the industry will be. It's a good kind of pressure. When we go into the industry and start working for a chef, this will definitely help us in that regard."



Niagara College culinary student Dollar Thakar (left) and others work in the kitchen to learn pressure under fire. (Screen grab from Mark Wikobrado's video footage)

Baechler explained that the students learned how to prepare Friday's menu items in their first year of study without being graded on their progress. Then they spent five weeks working through the different stations learning how to prepare each element of the meal.

"It's a huge change," Baechler said Friday. "We listened to our students, who told us that second year was too similar to first year. This is our first semester doing this. I'm really excited about the potential of this program for the future."

Youdale adds that the changes to Niagara's program are unique amongst Ontario colleges.

"Every college has been battling with how to create a real environment for all of their students," he said. "This particular set-up gives every student a chance to experience the same challenges. This is just in the beta process, too. We're really aiming to make this our food service model."

And part of that model includes serving the less fortunate in the community. In 2021, more than 3,000 meals were cooked, packaged and delivered to those in need throughout Niagara's fall term as part of their Feed the Community initiative.

Friday's pop-up takeout event sold out even before the college had a chance to advertise it. And it was delicious.

If you missed it, don't fret. The next pop-up will be the first of a series of five International Cafe and Bake Shop events to take place next month. Between Dec. 7 and 14, students in the culinary program will be preparing and serving treats inspired by the cuisine of Kuwait, Japan, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Sweden and Sri Lanka.

Visit NC Culinary Services on Facebook and other social media to be in the loop.

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# Arts and Entertainment Gift Giving





## Holiday Market

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December 4 to 11, 2022 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

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- Gift packaging station
- No charge to enter

**Proceeds from the event benefit children & seniors programs**





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Cast of White Christmas. Photo by David Cooper.

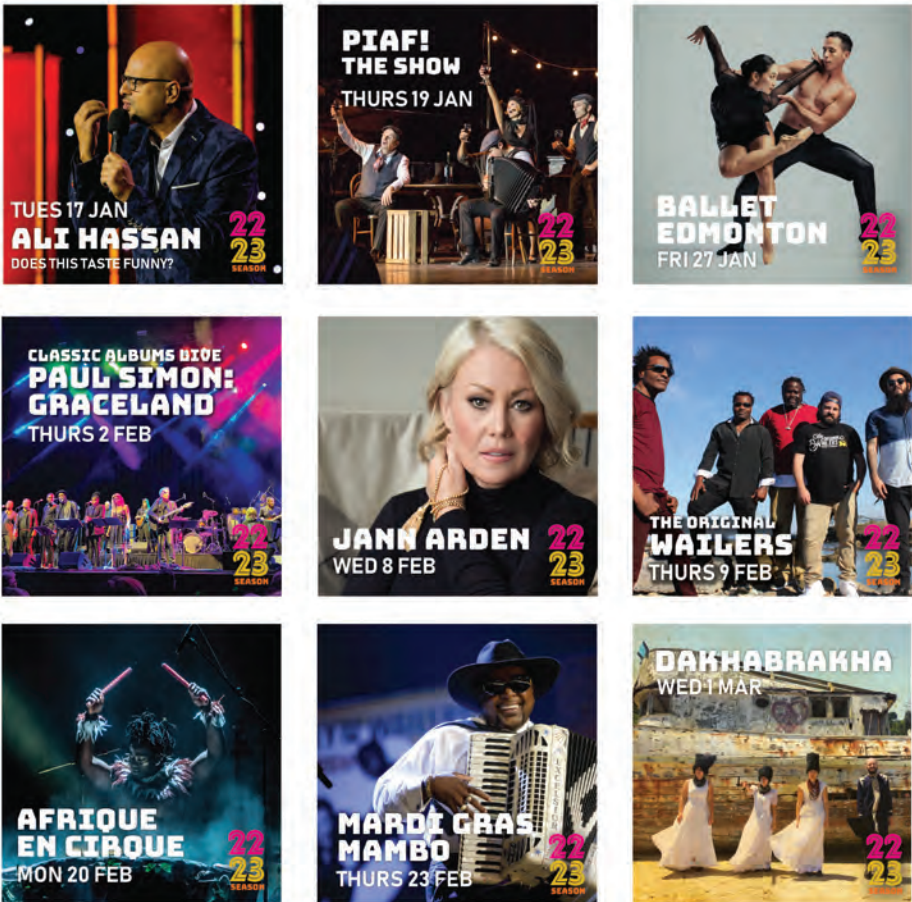




This holiday season give memories and experiences when you give tickets and gift certificates from the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre.

Gift Certificates are the perfect way to spread joy to friends and family!

Gift certificates are easy to buy and redeem and can be used for any event sold through the PAC box office. That's any of the hundreds of events presented each year to choose from, including PAC Presents shows, screenings at The Film House or for any performances presented by our community partners. Give the gift of music, dance, theatre, comedy and children's shows — whatever your recipient chooses.



Just a few of the upcoming shows from the 22/23 PAC Presents season. Find the full calendar on our website.





# Arts and Entertainment Gift Giving

## Catch the spirit of the season at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre

When it comes to catching the holiday spirit, downtown St. Catharines earns a top spot on Santa's nice list. Here are just a few of the ways to celebrate the season.



Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy and their seven children present *A Celtic Family Christmas* for two shows WED 14 DEC and THURS 15 DEC at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in Downtown St. Catharines. The show features holiday music, extraordinary dancing, beautiful singing, incredible fiddling, and east coast Christmas traditions sure to get you in the spirit of the season. Photo credit: The Laundry Designworks.

### Come for the Glow

Celebrate the magic of winter in downtown St. Catharines at *Let It Glow—A Celebration of Light*. This free, accessible, family-friendly festival runs from FRI 2 DEC through SUN 8 JAN and features 11 interactive light installations, entertainment, winter workshops and cultural programming.

### A Very Merry Market

Watch 201 St. Paul Street magically transform into a holiday market complete with vendor huts, fire pits, activations and more on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through 18 DEC.

### Gather Round The Fire

Join Indigenous Storytellers from Niagara Regional Native Centre as they acknowledge the winter solstice at *A Night by the Fire* on the FirstOntario PAC grounds. WED 21 DEC from 6PM to 8PM.

### Just Add Popcorn

As part of the *Let It Glow* fun, The Film House is hosting a *Let It Glow Free Film Week* of family-friendly films between TUES 3 JAN and SUN 8 JAN. Reserve your tickets online at [firstontariopac.ca](http://firstontariopac.ca) for daily screenings at 2:30PM and 6:30PM. Titles include:

- *Frozen*
- *Ma Vie De Courgette*
- *Edward Scissorhands*
- *Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back*
- *Messiah/Complex*
- *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe*

### Stay for the Show

The PAC's December calendar is packed with a delightful assortment of holiday programming. Here's a selection of the fun in store for you!

### Deck The Film House

The Film House is serving up holiday treats for the season, including *Messiah/Complex* (SAT 10 DEC at 3PM), an interactive screening of *Home Alone* (SAT 17 DEC at 3PM) and *A Christmas Story* (SAT 24 DEC at 1PM). Find the full lineup of holiday screenings at [firstontariopac.ca](http://firstontariopac.ca).

### Festive Fiddling

Join Natalie MacMaster, Donnell Leahy and their seven children as they warmly invite you in to share in their music and experience *A Celtic Family Christmas*. With traditional and original songs, incredible fiddling, singing, dancing, and personal stories, this show offers a timely reminder of the simple joys of the holiday season. WED 14 DEC | 7:30PM  
THURS 15 DEC | 7:30PM



### Jingle Bell Jazz

The *Legendary Count Basie Orchestra* brings its explosive force to Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts to perform *A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas* with special guest vocalist Carmen Bradford. Presented in partnership with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. SUN 18 DEC | 7:30PM

### Do-Re-Mi!

Comedian David Green hosts a very special *Sing-A-Long Sound of Music* screening complete with a costume parade and lots of audience participation! FRI 30 DEC | 3PM

### Classics & Cocktails in The Film House

Come for the classic films and popcorn...stay for the cocktails. The Film House will present three classic films paired with signature cocktails! Catch *When Harry Met Sally* at 3PM (1989), *Goldfinger* at 6PM (1964) and *The Big Lebowski* at 9PM (1998). A great way to warm up on NYE! SAT 31 DEC | 3PM + 6PM + 9PM

**For the full calendar of upcoming holiday shows and to order tickets go to [firstontariopac.ca](http://firstontariopac.ca) or call the box office at 905-688-0722.**

At left: *Legendary Count Basie Orchestra* presents *A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas* on SUN 18 DEC.



# Arts and Entertainment Gift Giving



The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra  
**Scotty Barnhart, Director**  
**Carmen Bradford, Vocalist**

[www.thecountbasieorchestra.com](http://www.thecountbasieorchestra.com)



The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra makes a rare Canadian appearance on December 18th performing music from their critically acclaimed album *A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas!* presented by Bravo Niagara! in partnership with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. Pictured: Director Scotty Barnhart and guest vocalist Carmen Bradford.



## The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra

**A VERY SWINGIN' BASIE CHRISTMAS!**

**Sunday, December 18, 2022 - 7:30pm**  
**FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre - Partridge Hall, St. Catharines**

Celebrate the holiday season with "The Most Explosive Force in Jazz" and winner of 19 Grammy Awards! The Count Basie Orchestra, directed by Scotty Barnhart, performs music from their critically acclaimed album *A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas!* with guest vocalist Carmen Bradford.

**Tickets on sale now**

**289-868-9177**  
**[bravoniagara.org](http://bravoniagara.org)**



# McFarland House decorated for holiday season

Local Staff

McFarland House, which has been closed to the public this season due to Parks Canada staff shortages, is opening for a brief time to celebrate the holiday season. As is tradition, Niagara

Parks' oldest heritage property has been lovingly decorated by the Garden Club of Niagara, inside and out, inviting visitors to step back in time to experience an authentic Victorian Christmas. Located at 15927 Niagara Parkway, McFarland House has stood for over two cen-

turies as a monument to the impeccable demeanour, good taste and gracious living that epitomizes the town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, says a news release from Niagara Parks. Built at the turn of the 19th century by Scotsman John McFarland, the home was used as a military hospi-

tal during the War of 1812 by both the Americans and the British. For the next two weekends, Dec. 2 to 4 and Dec. 10 to 11, McFarland House will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is a prominent stop along the annual Niagara

-on-the-Lake Rotary Holiday House Tour, which is sold out, while also hosting its own Heritage Christmas open house. The house is decorated with handmade period decor, with ornaments crafted out of natural materials by garden club members.

As well, original recipe mulled cider or hot chocolate and homemade Christmas cookies are available for purchase. General admission applies; reservations not required. For more information, please visit [www.niagaraparks.com/mcfarland](http://www.niagaraparks.com/mcfarland).



Jennifer Stephenson and Lois Fietje of the Garden Club of Niagara were tasked with decorating the Ukrainian Mennonite Settlers Room at McFarland House. (Photos by David Gilchrist)



Ann Meuris and Tonde Wirth put the finishing touches on the McFarland House Indigenous Room, decorated for the holidays by members of the Garden Club of Niagara.



Each room at McFarland House has a theme, with the garden club members working over the past few months to create decorations, made as much as possible out of natural materials, suitable to each room.



The outdoor gardens at McFarland House are not forgotten for the holidays.



# White Christmas puts audience in holiday spirit



The cast of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* is onstage at the Shaw Festival Theatre until Dec. 23. (Photos by David Cooper)

## Mike Balsom The Local

The Shaw Festival Theatre was packed Saturday for the opening night of *White Christmas*, directed by Kate Hennig and starring Jeff Irving and Kevin McLachlan and 26 other members of the Shaw ensemble.

Irving and McLachlan play Second World War veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, a song-and-dance duo famously portrayed by Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye in the 1954 movie of the same name.

Those who saw Shaw's 2021 production of *Holiday Inn* may recognize a few similarities between the storyline of that one and *White Christmas*. Both plays were based on

Bing Crosby films and revolve around the music of the great Irving Berlin. Both productions feature the song *Happy Holiday*, and they also both climax at a country inn with the song *White Christmas*.

But there the similarities end. It's difficult to say it any other way — *White Christmas* brings much more Christmas to the stage than did *Holiday Inn*, and those in attendance at Saturday's performance would have been hard-pressed to leave the theatre in anything less than a holiday mood.

Irving and McLachlan are perfect in the roles of Wallace and Davis.

The musical opens in Europe on Christmas Eve, 1944. Wallace and Davis entertain the 151st Division with a

couple of songs, establishing the chemistry between the two actors in song, dance and dialogue.

The scene then shifts to New York City, where Bob and Phil are appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show. They receive a tip from an old soldier friend to check out his sister's duo act at a nightclub.

The men take their seats there just as Judy and Betty, played by Shaw newcomer Mary Antonini and Alexis Gordon, in her fourth year at Shaw, perform one of the most well-known songs from the musical, *Sisters*.

After their number, the ladies sit down to share a drink with the men. Phil immediately hits it off with Judy, but Bob and Betty are both extremely awkward and seemingly couldn't be less interested in each other.

The guys are scheduled to head to Florida for a performance, but Phil pulls a fast one on Bob and instead buys the pair train tickets to Pine Tree, Vermont. That's where the ladies are booked for a Christmas gig at a country inn, which, unbeknownst to the veterans, just happens to be owned by the soldiers' former general.

The scene on the train car on the way to Vermont is comic and musical gold. As one passenger after another boards the train wearing winter gear or carrying skis, Irving uses only his facial expressions and body language to show Wallace coming to the slow realization that they are not headed for the sunny climate of the sunshine state.

Every corner of the train car is jam-packed with travellers. When they all break into song for *Snow*, they use every corner of the locomotive for a rollicking, hilarious and acrobatic dance number.

Act one ends with Irving performing *Blue Skies* on a baby blue-lit set, with him and the ensemble dressed in suits that perfectly reflect the blue lighting. It's visually stunning, showcasing the talents of lighting designer Kevin Lamotte, choreographer Allison Plamondon and set and costume designer Judith Bowden.

Bowden in particular has outdone herself for this production. Rarely does a set itself elicit loud exclamations and applause from the audience. But that's exactly what happened Saturday when the curtain opened for act two to reveal a backdrop of the sheet music for the first number, *I Love a Piano*, and a platform of piano keys. In fact, a handful of those in the audience actually gave this set a standing ovation.

It set the stage for a show-stopping tap dance performance led by McLachlan and Haynes that led to the loudest ovation of the evening, save for the finale.

Act two is set primarily at the Columbia Inn, owned by General Henry Waverly. The former high-ranking officer, loved greatly by his one-time charges, is played with much bluster and heart by David Alan Anderson.

The singing former soldiers hatch a plot to gather their mates from the 151st Division in Vermont to put on a Christmas show in the barn next to the inn, with the aim of saving the financially-strapped business for the man who was their leader. But a misunderstanding occurs between Bob and Betty, driving a wedge between the two of them just as they are beginning to fall in love.

Comic performances from Jenni Burke as Martha Watson and Drew Plummer



Alexis Gordon as Betty Haynes and Mary Antonini as Judy Haynes in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*.

as Ezekiel Foster, a man of few words, are standouts during act two. Burke in particular uses her gruff, gravelly voice to add a bit of bluesy grit to the Irving Berlin songs.

And Laura Secord Secondary School student Catherine Dubois, who on Saturday played Susan Waverly, the general's granddaughter, kept pace with the many seasoned Shaw professionals. She had a chance to stretch out her vocal range on *Let Me Sing* and *I'm Happy*, and did not disappoint. Dubois shares the role during the month-long run of *White Christmas* with Payton Mills.

Of course, just as in the

movie, everything all works out in the end. The misunderstanding is resolved, the guys get their girls, they put on a show in the barn and the general comes to a sudden realization about the inn.

And, of course, they all come together, along with the audience, to sing that much-loved chestnut that is the title song of this musical.

It's a high-energy, upbeat two-and-a-half hours that is sure to get theatre-goers in the mood for the holidays. And one hopes that perhaps in 2024, Shaw artistic director Tim Carroll may see fit to bring *White Christmas* back for another run.



Kevin McLachlan as Phil Davis and Mary Antonini on stage at the Shaw Festival Theatre.



# Seeger takes on everyone from Joplin to Streisand

Continued from page 1

School. She sang for her music teacher, the late Pamela Robbs, whom she still calls her mentor today.

"She also had a musical theatre production company in the city," says Seeger. "In Grade 4, I walked into her class like the sorriest-looking thing, wearing dirty clothes. When I sang, she told me I was an old soul. She took me under her wing, kept me in during recess to teach me how to breathe. She is the only reason why I'm still singing today."

In Grade 9 at Laura Secord Secondary School, she approached music teacher Dave Sisler, telling him she wanted to enter a music competition. He was skeptical, until he heard her sing. Sisler paired Seeger with a Grade 11 student to play piano, and she won gold in the competition.

She toughed it out after high school in the local bar circuit, playing with local band Blush. Once in a while she would throw in an opera number or two to surprise some of the tough crowds.

She brought that chip on her shoulder to an audition in Atlantic City, where she says as a Canadian in New Jersey, she had to prove she could be tougher than they expected. She booked herself a year-long residency there at the Tropicana Lounge that turned into an extended eight-year run.

That's where the seeds of Seeger's specialty as a tribute artist began somewhat accidentally.

She was doing between six and 10 shows a week in the high rollers' room. Seeger describes her persona when she began there as "Michelle Pfeiffer in *The Fabulous Baker Boys*"

crossed with "Jessica Rabbit with a bad attitude."

They wanted a jazz singer, and she delivered. But Seeger got to a point where she needed something different.

"I told my piano player that I just had to be me," she says. "He told me, 'well, then, you do you.' That's when I started doing Janis Joplin. I had played in bars before, so I loved singing rock. I started doing Janis, and everything changed. It went from a jazz show to a rock show. I'd throw in some Otis Redding, even some Metallica, too."

But at the time Joplin was just a big part of Seeger's lounge set, not a full-blown tribute.

In 2010, she left the Tropicana gig and moved back to Niagara. Soon she was married to her husband Christopher and their daughters Ripley and Matilda, born a year and a half apart, arrived quickly.

She was itching to return to singing but realized there was very little money playing the bar circuit, and it took a lot of work to get a band together.

"I wanted to do what I love, and I wanted to control it," she recalls. "I was doing some cleaning one day and I had the music channel on TV. *Rolling in the Deep* started playing. I had no idea who she (Adele) was. But I knew I could do that voice. So I put together two 45-minute sets and convinced Cat's Kitchen in Niagara Falls to give me their room for one night."

She printed tickets and sold 100 of them herself at \$10 each. The show sold out in three days. And the number of people who approached her to ask when her next Adele show would be convinced Seeger she was truly onto something.

At one of her subsequent Adele shows, Garry Lichach, CEO of Burlington-based Bounty Enterprises, just happened to be in the audience. His company produces tribute shows to the likes of Tom Jones, Rod Stewart, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles and more.

"As I'm about to go off for my break," Seeger says, "he tries to stop me. I gave him the look of death. I brushed him off, but my friend got his number. The next day my phone 'buttdialed' him by accident, I kid you not. And the next thing you know we're having a talk about me performing for him."

That's when she stretched out a bit, trying out the Winehouse and Cline personas, and even doing one show where she performed first as Cline then came out for her second set as Springhill, Nova Scotia's own Anne Murray.

She took on the demands of Streisand's repertoire about four years ago, right after she turned 40.

"I wanted to do something that was more challenging, something that nobody is doing right now," Seeger explains. "I had to wait until I was old enough to sing Barbra. You can't sing her in your 20s. You have to wait until you're old enough to respect what she does."

Seeger laughs and adds that taking on Streisand might also be a shrewd career move for her. After all, the legendary singer and actress is now 80 years old. She won't last forever, but her music will be in demand long after she is gone.

She's not done working up different acts yet. She's performed a James Bond theme song tribute that she would like to revisit, and her big dream is to perform as Queen's Freddie Mercury.



Angela Seeger says she not only sings Adele, but becomes Adele during her tribute performances. (Photo supplied)

With Bounty Enterprises, she's been very busy portraying Faltskog in their Abbamania show. She performed as Agnetha last Saturday at the Music Hall in London, Ontario. And Lichach has the act playing the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in January and the iconic Massey Hall in Toronto in the spring.

Abbamania has taken her across the country. She loves to sing *The Winner Takes It All*, where she stretches her vocal chops to their limit at the end of the song. She's even learned *Don't Shut Me Down*, one of the songs from the reunited Abba's 2021 album *Voyage*.

"I love singing that one," Seeger raves. "There's a feel to it. I like the line that says, 'Now you see another me, I've been reloaded.'"

Seeger has taken her

tributes as far away as Dubai, and her Adele show is in regular demand at drag clubs in Mexico.

When it comes to Adele, her two favourite songs to perform are *All I Ask* and *When We Were Young*, both from the singer's third album, 2015's 25.

"At the time when I learned both of those songs," says Seeger, "I could really relate to the lyrics in my personal life. They bring me to a moment where I really feel it. When I sing those songs you see me in raw form. Sometimes I cry. It's a therapeutic experience for me to sing them."

To prepare for the Dec. 16 show she's brushing up on the Adele accent by watching the BBC television program *Peaky Blinders*. During our conversation at Balzac's Coffee Roasters, she regularly slips

into Adele's accent.

"I drive my husband crazy," laughs Seeger. "I stay in character all day long around the house."

At Ravine Event Centre, Seeger will be performing in the round, with the audience surrounding her on all sides in an intimate setting. And she emulates Adele's stage banter in addition to singing her songs.

"She is personable," says Seeger, slipping into the star's accent. "And her music is intimate. With Adele, you're part of the show. If you come to the show you will hear me say things that only Adele would say. Even after the show, I stay in character."

Tickets for the Dec. 16 show are available at [www.ravinevineyard.com](http://www.ravinevineyard.com). And Seeger is asking that all who attend bring a non-perishable food item for Newark Neighbours.

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# LocalSPORTS

## Dave Cullen inducted into St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Fittingly, on the day of his induction into the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame last week, St. Davids resident David Cullen was away at a hockey tournament.

He wasn't playing the sport for which he was inducted. Instead, he was in Los Angeles watching his 12-year-old son play in a tournament for the Texas Warriors.

"My mom went to the ceremony for me, and she had a great time," he says. "Obviously she made a lot of sacrifices, driving me around to practices and games. Parents make a lot of sacrifices for their kids."

The St. Catharines native was one of five inductees for 2022, including Barbara Armbrust, Daryl MacDonald and Donald Thom, all honoured for their accomplishments in rowing, and curling's Douglas Geddie.

Cullen takes his spot in the hall, located on the concourse level at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines, alongside his uncle Brian, who played for the St. Cath-



Dave Cullen runs his own hockey school to help young players with skill development. (Photos supplied)

arines Teepees in the 1954 Memorial Cup and went on to a career in the National Hockey League.

"It's a great honour to be in any hall of fame, no matter what it is," Cullen

tells The Local. "I was really surprised when I found out. I've walked that area a lot, seen my uncle Brian and some other people I know in there. It's a nice feeling to know that you're going to be

in that area for a long time."

The son of Bruce and Lorraine took a different route to the honour than did his uncle. While Brian played Junior A hockey in his hometown, Dave's Junior B experience with the Thorold Blackhawks earned the Holy Cross graduate a hockey scholarship to the University of Maine in 1995.

Over four years with the Black Bears the defenceman amassed 28 goals and 89 assists, with his senior year, when he collected 44 points, standing out. That 1998-1999 season was also the year Maine won the NCAA Division I championship.

"We had a good team that year," he said. "We had a lot of exposure. I really had no idea I was going to keep playing at that point, but I was hopeful. I was able to sign with Phoenix, though, and it all worked out."

The NHL's Coyotes brought Cullen in the next year as an undrafted free agent, assigning him to the Falcons, their American Hockey League affiliate. In 78 games that year Cullen collected 10 goals and 28 assists.

The following season he was called up to the Coyotes for a couple of games.

"It was an unbelievable

experience," says Cullen of his first NHL games. "It's every kid's dream. It kind of feels surreal when it happens to you. It was one of those things, though, where I was up and down, and it didn't really work out."

He began the 2001-2002 season with Springfield, and was called up to skate in 14 games for the Coyotes. In January 2002, he was traded to the Minnesota Wild for Sebastien Bordeleau.

He got the call to the Wild for only three games, and spent most of his time in Houston with the team's AHL affiliate, the Aeros. Cullen hoisted a championship trophy once again when the Aeros won the 2003 Calder Cup.

In July 2003, he signed with the Buffalo Sabres, and spent three years with their AHL team, the Rochester Americans.

"By then, I kind of knew my role," Cullen recalls. "Those were the years they had (Jason) Pominville, (Ryan) Miller, (Paul) Gaus-tad, and (Thomas) Vanek in the minors. I was more of an older veteran. Rochester always made sure they had older players to help the younger guys. It was a lot of fun there, probably my favourite stop in the AHL."

Cullen played four more years professionally in Europe, for clubs in Germany, Sweden and Austria. And in 2011, with some injuries and back issues beginning to catch up with him, he felt it was time to call it a day.

By then Cullen and his wife, Alyssa, whom he met while in Maine, were parents of three young boys. Tyler, now 20, was born in Texas, 18-year-old Landon

was born in New York state, and Brady calls Austria his birthplace. The family had been renting a house in Niagara-on-the-Green for the off-season but decided to build their permanent home in St. Davids.

Looking for a new direction outside of hockey, Cullen considered becoming a police officer or a firefighter. Instead, he decided to attend teachers' college at Medaille University in Buffalo. Today he teaches at Loretto Catholic Elementary School in Niagara Falls.

When he's not in the classroom, the 45-year-old runs his own business, perhaps drawing on that leadership experience he had with the Americans, as well as what he learned in teachers' college. Through that business, Dave Cullen Hockey, he is training the next generation of hockey players.

"We run pretty much all year," he says of his hockey school. "In the spring I run a three-on-three league, in the summer I run camps. During the hockey season it's more team skates. I do a lot of development skates for Niagara-on-the-Lake."

When he first started his hockey business he trained some high level older athletes, including current Buffalo Sabres centre and fellow St. Catharines native Riley Sheahan. But these days he tends to work strictly with younger athletes.

"It's about giving them a fun environment where they can work hard to improve their skills," Cullen says. "The rewarding thing is when parents show me videos of their kid scoring a goal using something that they learned from me. It's about giving them an avenue to try to get a little bit better."

The Cullens also have a place in Texas, where Tyler is attending Texas Tech and Landon is a student at Texas A & M. Both are studying engineering, a discipline with a course load and challenges that mean they can't fit hockey into their schedules. Brady's Warriors U12 team plays out of Dallas.

Though he couldn't make it to last week's Hall of Fame induction, he is planning to be at the Ice Dogs' Thursday, Dec. 1 home game against the Hamilton Bulldogs. The 2022 inductees have been invited to drop the puck for the ceremonial first faceoff at the game.

"I plan on going to that and meeting the other inductees that night," Cullen says. "It will be kind of cool to do that and then head over to see the Hall of Fame."



Dave Cullen hoists the Calder Cup in Houston.



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## Penalties contribute to Preds' loss in overtime

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Untimely penalties caused the Niagara Predators to squander fine performances from young goaltender Jordan Duquette and new forward Cameron Savoie Friday night at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena.

Savoie netted a hat trick in just his second game in the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League, and Duquette kicked away 32 shots from the Ravens. But it was all for naught as penalties allowed St. George to force overtime. They capitalized on another squandered opportunity for Niagara in the extra period to take a 5-4 victory.

Despite the Preds outshooting the Ravens 19-9 in the first period, St. George scored first. The goal came at 7:29 into the game when a lucky bounce off a rebound landed right on Tyler Warnez' stick. He seized the opportunity to beat Duquette high left and give the Ravens the lead.

St. George goalie Luca Del Rizzo stopped shot after shot, but Savoie finally got the Predators on the scoreboard 15 minutes in with his first of three, assisted by Declan Fogarty and Guy Manco. But with under two minutes to play in the period and Savoie in the box for

elbowing, Malcolm Campbell got the puck off a faceoff in the Preds end and scored to regain the lead for St. George.

Things were more balanced in terms of shots on goal in the second, each team making 13 attempts. But only St. George was able to score, and it was during a Predators power play that Spencer D'Souza put the Ravens up 3-1.

At 4:15 into the third, the Ravens were called for too many men on the ice. On the ensuing power play, Cameron Savoie got the puck at the blue line and rifled a shot past Del Rizzo to close the gap to 3-2. Exactly two minutes later, Savoie got another opportunity from the very same spot, and capitalized once again on the confusion in front of Del Rizzo's crease to knot the score at 3-3.

Second-year Predator Logan Baillie gave the Preds the lead for the first time with just over 11 minutes left to play. Baillie got the puck near the blue line and took a soft shot toward Del Rizzo, who mishandled the puck and helplessly watched it cross the blue line.

As the Preds skated past the bench for the requisite congratulatory fist bumps after the go-ahead goal, defenceman Nick Savoie skated back to the St.

George net to retrieve the puck for his teammate, giving Baillie a keepsake to mark his first GMHL goal.

With the 4-3 lead, Niagara played nearly flawless hockey, forcing the puck out of their own end and controlling the play for more than eight minutes. But it fell apart when Jaroslav Dohnal took an elbowing penalty in the offensive zone and Cameron Savoie was charged for roughing 65 seconds later.

With the two-man advantage and a faceoff in the Niagara end, St. George head coach Wade Clubb pulled Del Rizzo, and 14 seconds later Simon Otaki scored the tying goal.

Shortly after that, Otaki took an unsportsmanlike penalty, leaving both teams with four attackers. The Predators pressured Del Rizzo but he kept coming up with big stops. At the end of the period, one of the Ravens punched Predators forward Tyler Gearing, giving Niagara a two-man advantage to start overtime.

Then, a minute into the extra period, Riley Ellis took an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and a 10-minute misconduct. That left the two teams at even strength. At 1:54, Campbell scored the winning goal.

The third overtime loss for



Cameron Savoie scores his first of three goal Friday night at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena, netting a hat trick in just his second game with the team. (Ben Foster)

the Predators this season was frustrating for head coach Kevin Taylor.

"I thought we played well," Taylor said after the game. "We dominated the game. We looked good out there. They capitalized on their chances and we didn't. And we had a lot more chances than they got. Certain guys couldn't keep it together at the end."

Taylor had praise for 17-year-old goalie Jordan Duquette, from St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, who made his third start in net for the Predators.

"He kept us in the game," Taylor stated. "He gave us a chance to win it and we didn't pull it out in the end. We gave

up the tying goal six-on-three. We made too many mental mistakes in the end. Our mistakes cost us the game. It was blatantly obvious that they hurt us."

Niagara is back in action Friday night, hosting the 8-12-2 Northumberland Stars at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena at 7:30 p.m.

Northumberland is in sixth place in the GMHL's South Division, three points up on the Predators in the standings, though they've played five more games than Niagara. The season series between the two teams is tied at 1-1, with Northumberland having handed Niagara its first overtime loss back on Oct. 22 in Colborne.

Taylor knows there are areas the team needs to focus on in practice this week.

"There are some things I noticed tonight that I'll have to talk to some of the players about," Taylor said. "And special teams is a bit of a sore point for this team right now. For us to do anything moving forward, we're going to have to tighten up on it."

Following Friday's game, they have a Wednesday night contest in Bradford against the Bulls. At 15-3-0, the Bulls are tied with Durham in second place in the South. The Bulls embarrassed the Predators on Oct. 28 with an 8-1 win in Virgil. The 8 p.m. game will be live-streamed via gmhl.tv.

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LocalSPORTS

U9s play half ice





When the NOTL Telecon Wolves took to the ice Saturday, the team was split in half in its match against Welland, each taking half the ice surface. They play two periods so both groups get a chance to play against each other, explains NOTL Minor Hockey coach Joe Pagnotta and no score is kept. U9s transitions to full ice hockey Jan. 15, playing traditional hockey for the rest of the season. Hockey Canada says all players should have a chance to play all positions, including goalie, and all should get an equal time on the ice. (Penny Coles)

LocalWORSHIP



Sunday, December 4th

9:45 a.m. Kids Ministry Sign In (Nursery - Kindergarten)

10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering Online & In-Person

Message: Kevin Bayne The Names of Jesus Matthew 1:18-25

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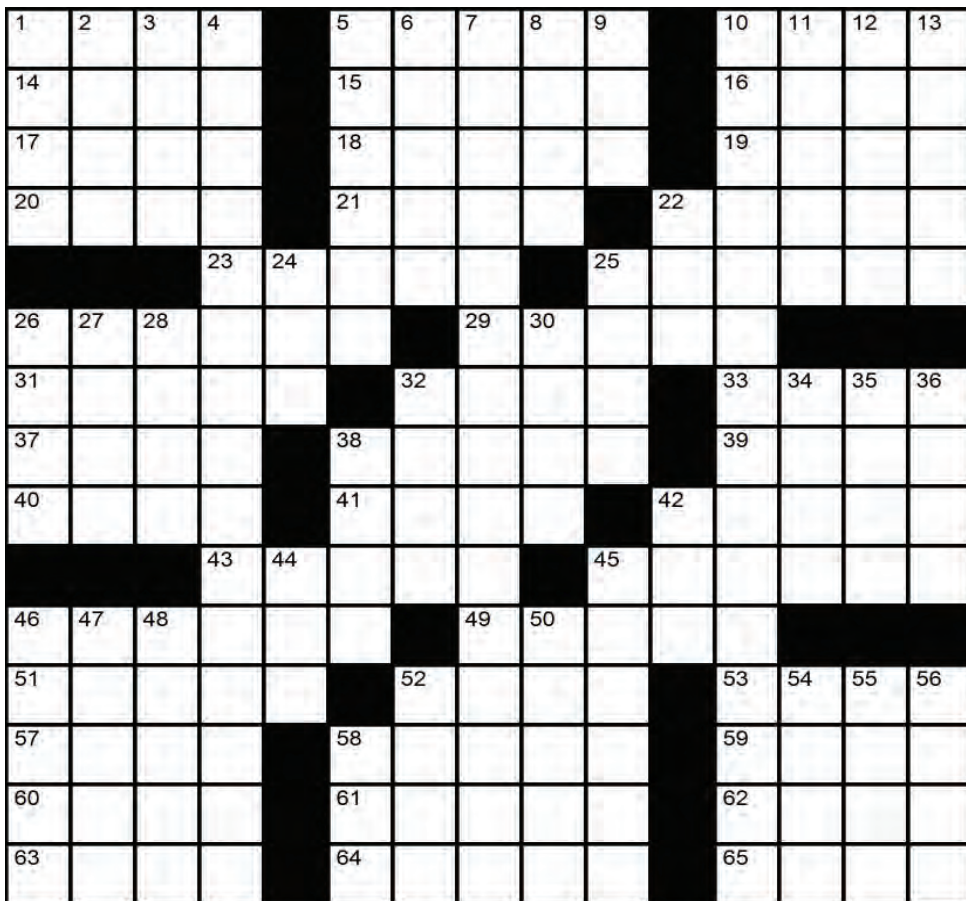


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## CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



**Across:**

1 Depositors' protective grp.  
5 Fruitcake  
10 Jane Austen matchmaker  
14 Bind  
15 Uma Thurman's ex ---  
Hawke  
16 Give temporarily  
17 Arabian chieftain  
18 Lightweight cord  
19 Breathtaking organ  
20 Against  
21 Large bundle  
22 Lamp scam?  
23 Bit of broken pottery  
25 To do with mail  
26 Strainer  
29 Whisky distiller --- Walker  
31 Appears ominously  
32 --- Chanel  
33 Actor and rapper Mike ---  
37 Wheat flour in India  
38 For example, brogues  
39 Harvest  
40 Hits lightly  
41 High-efficiency lights,  
briefly  
42 Enigmatic quotemaker  
Yogi ---  
43 Corpse

## 45 Luxury accommodations

46 Dozing  
49 Wet season  
51 Place  
52 Work the land  
53 Records  
57 Cookware  
58 Military blockade  
59 "... sting like ---" (Ali)  
60 Therefore  
61 Kofi ---  
62 Brief message  
63 Red light gas  
64 Office in training  
65 Writing table

**Down:**

- 1 Type of market
- 2 What Rhett didn't give
- 3 Brenda Lee's "---- True?"
- 4 Yuletide
- 5 Home beverage center
- 6 Fighting an enemy
- 7 Old acquaintance
- 8 His last word was  
"Rosebud"
- 9 Unity
- 10 Large landmass north of  
the Canadian mainland
- 11 Launch

- 12 Passion
- 13 Theatrical backer
- 22 Smallest Indian state
- 24 "--- So Fine" (old Chiffons number)
- 25 Advantages
- 26 Fuss
- 27 Scintilla
- 28 Former Mississippi senator Trent ---
- 30 Summer refreshments
- 32 Top cook
- 34 Cheeky
- 35 Shave
- 36 Health farms
- 38 Thin potter's clay
- 42 Top and bottom of a hamburger
- 44 Senator --- Cruz
- 45 Noiseless
- 46 Colorado resort
- 47 Stockpile
- 48 Dismiss
- 50 Pond problem
- 52 S N L comic --- Fey
- 54 Double-reed woodwind instrument
- 55 Obtains
- 56 Search
- 58 Cold War U S A F arm

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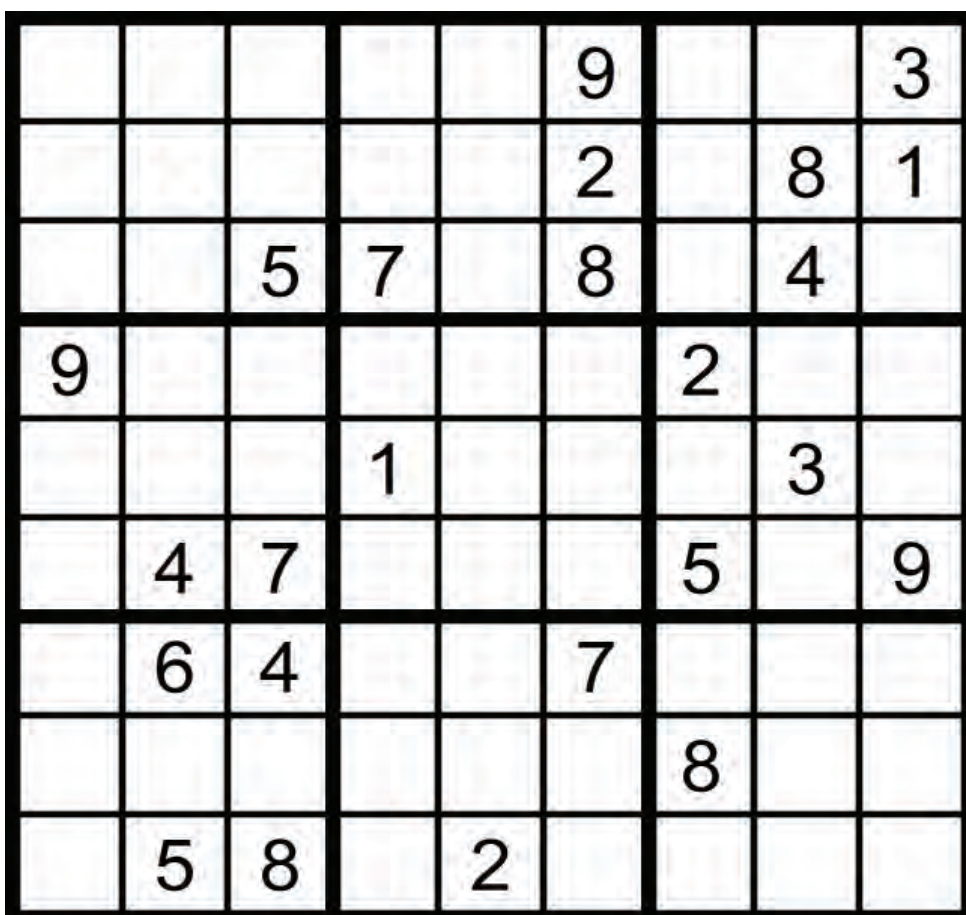
## PUZZLE ANSWERS

**Sudoku solution from  
November 23, 2022**

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

**Across:** 1 1 T D 1 C, 5 Wacko, 10 Emma, 14 Lash, 15 Ethan, 16 Loan, 17 Emir, 18 Twine, 19 Lung, 20 Anti, 21 Bale, 22 Genie, 23 Shard, 25 Postal, 26 Filter, 29 Hiram, 31 Looms, 32 Coco, 33 Epps, 37 Atta, 38 Shoes, 39 Reap, 40 Pats, 41 L-E-Ds, 42 Berra, 43 Stiff, 45 Suites, 46 Asleep, 49 Rains, 51 Stead, 52 Till, 53 Logs, 57 Pots, 58 Siege, 59 A bee, 60 Ergo, 61 Annan, 62 Note, 63 Neon, 64 Cadet, 65 Desk.

**Down:** 1 Flea, 2 Damm, 3 Is it, 4 Christmas season, 5 Wet bar, 6 At war, 7 Childhood friend, 8 Kane, 9 One, 10 Ellesmere Island, 11 Mount, 12 Maria, 13 Angel, 22 Goa, 24 He's, 25 Pros, 26 Flap, 27 Iota, 28 Lott, 30 Ices, 32 Chef, 34 Pert, 35 Pare, 36 Spas, 38 Slip, 42 Bun, 44 Ted, 45 Silent, 46 Aspen, 47 Store, 48 Let go, 50 Algae, 52 Tina, 54 Oboe, 55 Gets, 56 Seek, 58 S A C.



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