



Queen Street
a winter
wonderland

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A touch of snow

There is nothing prettier than a snowfall on vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake. (David Gilchrist)



Iconic Phillips Estate ready for new hands

Penny Coles
The Local

After almost two decades of trying to be a good custodian of the once-elegant Phillips House on the corner of one of the most prestigious landmark intersections in town, owner Rainer Hummel is ready to see it go to someone who wants to complete the restoration project he began.

He would like to see his vision of a boutique hotel at the Queen-Mississagua Street corner eventually realized, but it won't be by him. He is ready to move on, says his daughter Raiana Schwenker, a Sally McGarr sales representative now charged with selling the property, which Hummel bought in 2003.

"His plans to bring a beautiful boutique hotel to life are not going to come to fruition. It would still be several years before it's finished, and for personal reasons, including the negative memories attached to it, he's ready to

move on. This deserves to be taken over and finished as a hotel, or to be lived in."

In 2005, Hummel had some of the original parts of the exterior and a few pieces inside, such as three fireplace mantels and the columns in the front room, designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Once an elegant summer home for wealthy Americans, the estate has passed through many hands, from the early prominent citizens who originally owned portions of the property, to the Americans who first built the summer home, and then through generations who have renovated and added to it over the years.

It is listed in the Town's heritage registry as The Ketchum-Thomas-Phillips House (named Peace Acres by the Thomas family). Known locally as the Phillips Estate, it was purchased by the Phillips family in 1955.

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'Not too late' to put brakes on roundabout

St. Davids resident, Lord Mayor say project could still be scrapped

Penny Coles
The Local

It could be up to five years before the construction of the roundabout in St. Davids begins, and if it is not the right solution, it shouldn't be too late to stop it.

That is the opinion of Mike Pearsall, past-president of the St. Davids Residents Association, and also an engineer

who is considered an expert on roundabouts.

He believes if the municipality does not support a roundabout, it's the region's responsibility to back off from their preferred option for the intersection and look at alternatives. And it's not too late, he adds.

Last week, regional representatives attended the virtual town council meeting to talk about regional capital projects

expected to take place in Niagara-on-the-Lake over the next five years. Of the projects mentioned, the roundabout was the one that provoked the most discussion. The environmental assessment is winding up, the detailed design work will begin and should be finished within the next three years, and the region should be ready to seek funding and begin construction in five or six years, Frank

Tassone, transportation engineering director for the region, told councillors.

Pearsall says his career involves making recommendations on intersection infrastructure such as roundabouts versus lights and four-way stops, and he sits on a Canada-wide joint committee on roundabouts.

As an expert who recommends a roundabout when it is appropriate, and believes them to be beneficial in certain situations, he says in his opinion, as a resident of St. Davids,

he does not think it's the best solution for the intersection at Four Mile Creek Road and York Road.

Pearsall attended both the virtual public information meetings held by the region, and heard the comments of residents. The first was in March, 2021, a virtual meeting that had 17 people sign in, when the regional presentation described the two options of traffic lights or a roundabout for the intersection. The second public meeting in June 2021 had 27 people attending, and

the regional presentation said a roundabout was the recommended option.

Throughout last summer, as residents began to fear the decision had been made, they began lobbying the region to reconsider, through a petition and letters to the region.

But there was no response, says Pearsall, who believes the region had already decided before the process began that a roundabout was the best solution. He mentions Phil Weber,

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Concession 6 may be better location for roundabout

Continued from page 1

a senior project manager and associate partner with CIMA+, a Toronto engineering company, was retained by the region as project manager at the beginning of the process. He questions why the region brought him onboard that early if a roundabout wasn't going to be the solution — Weber is considered a national authority on roundabouts, says Pearsall, and designing them is what he does.

Several councillors, including Coun. Sandra O'Connor, expressed their concern about pedestrian traffic, for seniors, people with disabilities, and especially for students, with St. Davids Public School close by and those walking to school from the Cannery Park subdivision having to cross the roundabout.

Any solution that encourages "less walking and more driving is not a solution at all," O'Connor added.

The pedestrian crossings on the roundabout would be unsafe and inconvenient, and would not serve as a link to other parts of the community, she said. "I see it as dividing the village."

Coun. Norm Arsenault said he is a fan of roundabouts, but not at that intersection. It would totally change the look and feel of the intersection in St. Davids,

and the traffic lights would be a better solution, he said.

When asked about the comments at the public meetings, Tassone said it would take too much time to go into them. They are available online, and included some of the concerns mentioned by council, as well as others: traffic loading at the intersection; speeding; no traffic gaps to allow for turning on nearby roads; concern about large trucks; impact on nearby gardens, historic sites, and St. Davids Queenston United Church; destroying the character of the village; but mostly, pedestrian safety.

The regional responses said many of the concerns would be addressed at the design stage, and through education.

As to the village character, the response was that the current environmental assessment study aimed to "reimagine the York Road and Four Mile Creek Road intersection to meet the future needs of the surrounding community for all road users.

The recommended intersection improvements provided a solution that addressed traffic operational issues while providing dedicated pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure that is safe, attractive, and maintains the character of St. Davids. The recommendation to proceed with a roundabout was based on many factors, includ-

ing intersection safety, traffic operations, vehicle noise and emissions, the complaints history, speeding issues, and utility impacts. The roundabout will foster slow vehicle speeds and offer opportunities for streetscaping and community placemaking."

At the council meeting, councillors discussed a motion to say they did not support the roundabout.

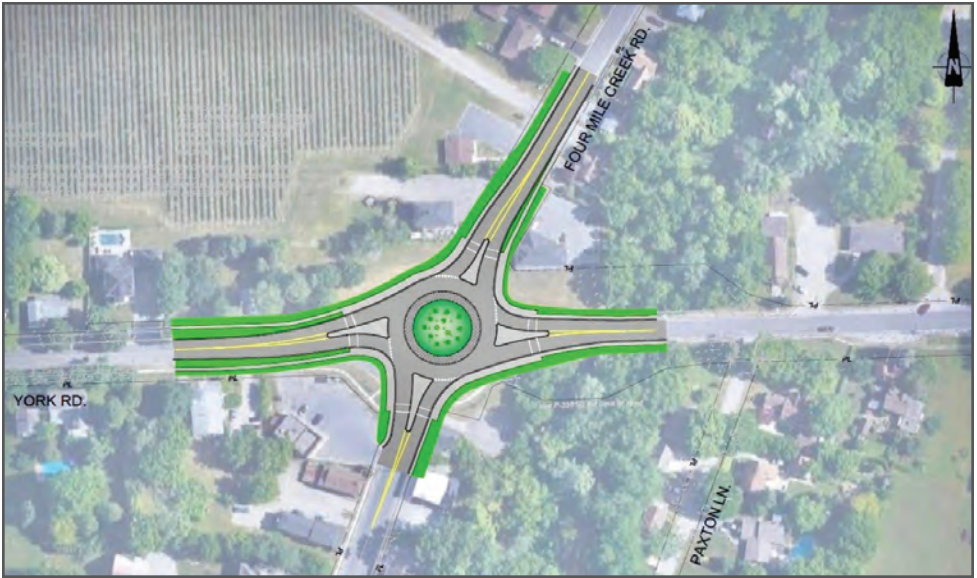
Carolyn Ryall, director of the transportation services division, explained to council that "the process is quite a ways along." The two legislated public information sessions have been held, and a third is not planned, she said.

She suggested instead council could ask the region to respond to the concerns about the various components being presented.

Coun. Clare Cameron said although she very much appreciated how far the project has advanced, given the importance of the intersection, "this isn't sitting right with me, that there is going to be a roundabout there."

Councillors unanimously voted to tell the region they don't support a roundabout in St. Davids, hoping an alternative will be considered.

At the same meeting, there was also a discussion about Concession 6, which is not a regional road, and is seeing excessive speeding and a number



The concept for St. Davids is a single-lane roundabout with a diameter of about 40 metres, smaller than the one on Niagara Stone Road and Concession 6.

of collisions now that it goes through to Niagara Falls.

The speed limit on Concession 6 between York Road and Queenston Road is being reduced to 60 kilometres an hour, from 80 km/hour, but that intersection on York Road, says Pearsall, would be a perfect place for a roundabout, with no pedestrian or cyclist traffic.

If you don't live in St. Davids but travel through it, "you're going to want a roundabout," he says. It keeps traffic moving, and it is a safe way to navigate through the intersection, "especially if it's a single lane, which it will be."

But in the middle of the village, for the people who live there, for the cyclists and pedestrians, students, seniors and people with disabilities, "it's not the best fit."

Pearsall believes residents were paying attention and speaking out against the roundabout.

"It was made clear how we felt. We tried to put out alternatives." But the region wasn't listening, he said. "It was very frustrating."

One of the concerns of Pearsall and the residents' association is that the school was not included in the study area, and notices only went out to residents within 250 metres of the intersection, although Cannery Park was included.

There is no magic number of 250 metres in planning intersections, he added. "You

look at all the areas that generate traffic. They should be looking at the whole village."

He would like to see the region look at St. Davids as a whole, consider more four-way stops, including one at Tanbark Road, and making Line 9, now unfinished from Four Mile Creek Road to Tanbark, a through-street, to take some of the pressure off the four corners.

The residents' association was recently told by the region that "they should meet with us and educate us about roundabouts," Pearsall said.

But when the association reached out, "they said it had to be between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. We're not available during the day, we have jobs."

And the region knows "that except for a few people who don't walk around the village or a couple of developers, it's not a popular idea."

But roundabouts, he adds, "are the flavour of the day, and the region wants to put them everywhere."

It's not too late to reconsider, he says.

Although the region is saying the process is too far along, it hasn't reached the detailed design stage, or budgeting for the design and construction phases.

"If town council is not supporting it, the region should put on the brakes. The municipality should be fighting the region."

The first step in getting the region to look at alternatives, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero,

was the motion that council voted on last week, showing lack of support for the roundabout.

That will bring a response from the region, and from there, if council gives her direction, Disero says she can take their concerns to regional council.

"A lot can happen in the next five years. So much is changing all the time, and they need to take a second look at what is happening. If I had my way, I'd like them to look at a roundabout at Concession 6 instead."

A roundabout at Concession 6, along with access to Highway 405 at Mewburn Bridge, could create a bypass of the York and Four Mile Creek Road intersection.

That would reduce the number of collisions at Concession 6 and York Road, and could make the roundabout in St. Davids unnecessary, says Disero.

While collaboration between the town and the region should be part of such a major project, the region has been focused on reducing traffic through the St. Davids intersection, she adds.

"The decision shouldn't have been rushed, and before doing anything further, maybe they need to relook at the area and work with the town on it. St. Davids is such a historic town and they (the region) should be working a little closer with us."



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Queen Street decorated and ready for Candlelight Stroll



Friday was the day for the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and volunteers to decorate Queen Street, and it was a cold one. The decorating is always done the week before the Candlelight Stroll, which is this Friday, Dec. 3, beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the Court House steps — masks are requested. Businesses helped out with the decorating, including Kevin Neufeld, owner of Beau Chapeau and chamber board member, Todd Kane of Budapest Bakeshop, Scott Gauld from the Sunset Grill, Liberina Colaneri from Colaneri Winery and chamber board member, and Dorothy Weins volunteering to help chamber staff, Eduardo Lafforgue, top right, said his HO HO HO's and he carried sacks of canvas to drape around tree bases, climbed a ladder to put up lights, and with Ryan Gosnell, Nicole Cripps, and Petrice Custance decorated the tree at the Cenotaph. Paul MacIntyre of Vintage Hotels, and chair of the chamber board of directors, helped put all the deer up around the town on Thursday, and town staff helped with lighting the harbour in Simcoe Park and placing all the Christmas trees along Queen Street. The chamber paid for 18 trees along the street, and the large tree at the Cenotaph, and Brenda McArthur (bottom left) and her team did an amazing job on the Court House once again, with the help of Derek Robins, who operated the lift to put wreaths on the Court House windows. (Photos supplied)



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SORE has alternate design for Rand subdivision

Penny Coles
The Local

While the town waits for its planning experts to look at an application for a subdivision on Charlotte and John Streets, a group of residents has, with the help of their own experts, come up with an alternative proposal.

Developer Benny Marotta has submitted an application to the town to build 125 detached and 66 semi-detached homes on the two properties, which border the two Randwood Estate lots on John Street.

However, Marotta is in the process of making revisions to his application, but it's still a work in progress, he told The Local, and wouldn't say whether the changes will address any of the residents' concerns.

Supporters of SORE (Save Our Rand Estate) voiced their objections to several aspects of Marotta's original proposal during a June virtual public meeting, and since then SORE has hired its own planning experts to come up with another option, a preliminary concept with fewer homes they feel is much more appropriate for the site.

It's a way to show the group is not against all

development, and would support a proposal that addresses residents' concerns, says SORE spokesperson Lyle Hall.

"We've said all along we're open to development, so we felt it was time we put something on the table and demonstrated the possibilities."

They have hired Toronto urban design firm BrookMcIlroy — both principals Cal Brook and Anne McIlroy have Niagara-on-the-Lake roots — and have spent "several hundred thousand dollars," Hall says, to come up with a much-reduced density of 71 homes, including 20 townhouse units 30 feet wide, 37 single family lots at between 50 and 60 feet wide, and another 14 single family lots more than 60 feet wide but with irregular shapes and depths.

SORE's plan also addresses other issues, such as access through the main John Street gate that won't impact the heritage landscape, and levelling the grade of elevation that was being proposed, to avoid altering the site's natural drainage.

SORE's design, which has been submitted to the town, also preserves all built heritage attributes on

the site, as well as any remaining cultural heritage landscape and mature trees. It provides for public pedestrian access at 200 John and 588 Charlotte Streets, and the linear axis from John Street to the Whistle Stop (the wooden gazebo) on the Heritage Trail, including the memorial garden, a central feature of the designed landscape at Randwood, preserved and enhanced for public and resident enjoyment.

Their recent hiring of planning experts to address the subdivision was in addition to several professionals, including lawyers, that have been brought onboard over the years by SORE to ensure the preservation of all four sites owned by Marotta and his companies, including Randwood Estate, the subject of a hotel and conference centre which is now on hold.

"There is a handful of people really committed to making sure this happens," says Hall. "A lot of people feel it's really important to the community, and a small core group is providing the funding for it."

But it's not just SORE members, he adds — he has been out at events and "literally had people walk up to me and hand me cheques."

Since SORE was formed, the group has occasionally been accused of the not-in-my-backyard mindset, but although some of the supporters live in the neighbourhood, many do not.

Hall has the Parliament Oak property between his home and John Street, and although he is just as concerned about that development, he says, "Randwood is more pressing."

Some who have supported SORE from the beginning have moved out of the area, and they're still active in the effort to preserve the heritage attributes and limit development to something appropriate for the four properties. "This has very much become a cause for people who have deep-seated feelings about it."

Does the developer know there is another proposal for a subdivision residents could live with? There was a time when three members of SORE sat down and talked to Marotta about the Randwood development, with a video of the conversation posted on SORE's website. But since that interview in the spring of 2019, says Hall, there has been no contact with Marotta, and now, the best channel for this alter-

native subdivision proposal is with town staff.

The next appropriate step for SORE is to talk to council during the public meeting that will be held at that time, he says, once staff

have made their recommendations on Marotta's application.

For the sake of the town and the neighbourhood, he adds, "surely Benny Marotta can do better."



SORE's preliminary conceptual design shows 71 houses, with a mix of detached and townhouses, rather than the 191 homes proposed by the developer.

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Matt Miller is the associate coach for the St. Catharines Falcon's Junior B hockey team and the Miller Group are sponsors of Music Niagara and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Children's soccer club.

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EDITORIAL

NOTL can be a better diverse, inclusive community

I recently saw a post on social media that in a few short words described why a Rainbow Pride Sidewalk is so important to many people, and should be to all of us.

It was a young man, in a very emotional voice, saying he felt he has been denied pride his entire life. Instead, he's been made to feel shame, bullied and called horrible names, leaving no room for pride for him and others, in their minds or their hearts.

For many, that hasn't changed.

Despite some letters The Local has received in recent weeks, asserting there is no need for a rainbow sidewalk, that NOTL is a diverse, inclusive, accepting community just as it is, it is not. It is not all we would like it to be, and

know it could be. Not yet.

We know it isn't, because there are people who live in town who have experienced the opposite, and told us that.

We also know it could be, because there are many in town who support doing whatever is needed to make it happen, who believe we have to make it happen.

A couple of weeks ago, we ran a column by Jordan Williams, about the economic advantages of demonstrating NOTL is a diverse, inclusive community through the installation of a Pride sidewalk.

The response we received in letters questioned some of his facts, and whether NOTL wants or needs to do more to attract more tourism. That's

perfectly acceptable, and why we have letters to the editor. We say, after all, we're the voice of our community, and that means all voices.

Yet they make me uncomfortable, because although they are not intended to be an attack on any individual or group, it's very difficult to separate the issue of rainbow sidewalks from the reason they exist, and to me, despite possibly good intentions, they end up coming across as an assault on people they claim are welcome in the community. And if they are, what's the harm in showing them?

My reasons for not printing such letters, for not feeling comfortable, despite the discussion they will provoke, is because for

those who don't feel they are welcome, who don't feel this is a diverse community, it would be adding more hurt to their lives.

We know the businesses in town want to demonstrate that this is a safe and inclusive place to live, work and visit, and many are happy to have decals in

their windows and are in favour of a rainbow sidewalk. It's been supported by town leaders, and it seems like it could be a reality by next summer.

Flags in windows and rainbow crosswalks are an important first step to getting us where we need to go, not just in Niagara-

on-the-Lake, but in our hearts.

The fact that some residents protest the presence of such symbols, and believe them to be unnecessary, is the very reason why they are.

Penny Coles
The Local



Shop online or in person, and give the gift of NOTL

As we head into the holiday season, decorating our homes or doing whatever we do to celebrate whatever holiday we recognize, we may be thinking of the shopping we're planning, the gifts we're thinking of

buying.

Some of us are out of the habit of going to malls, or even local stores. There was a time when very little was open, and online shopping was the only way to go, and we became ac-

customed to a new way to spend money.

We discovered how easy it is, and some of us became addicted.

Friends and family members joke about the number of delivery trucks on their

otherwise quiet streets, the piles of parcels left at the door, sometimes daily.

However, our local businesses are open now, and hoping to stay that way permanently. But they may never make up for what was lost when they were shut down, or severely limited to in-store capacities.

Our businesses are so important to our community, stores, restaurants and other sources of gifts.

Parking is free at this time of year, Queen Street is beautiful, and local businesses have earned our support.

Many of the stores offer online shopping on their websites. Restaurants provide gift cards.

Or give your friends and loved ones experiences, at the Shaw Festival, wineries, spas, or hotels.

We're all so grateful to be able to go out, those gifts would likely be very much appreciated, maybe more so than whatever Amazon delivers.

If we shop locally, we give back to a business community that has always supported us, our fundraisers, our minor sports, schools, service organizations, whenever business owners are asked, even during difficult times.

By shopping locally, we put money back into the community, and keep people working. We help our friends and neighbours.

If you're ready to do some shopping, maybe think about what is available nearby. After all, people come from far away to visit NOTL. The attractions that bring them here might also be appreciated by those who live a little closer.

Instead of visiting Amazon, please think about giving someone the gift of visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake, one of its unique stores, restaurants, wineries, or other attractions. You will be building a community in many ways, and your gifts are sure to be welcome.

Penny Coles
The Local

View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Living their best life....Sort Of (GEM 2021) is some of the best TV that our CBC has ever created. Labels we have so glibly applied to ourselves and others

are no longer applicable, because when people act with kindness and honesty they will live their best lives regardless of labels. The series goes into difficult, and mostly uncharted waters with sensitivity and great success.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Local

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COMMENT

Local LETTERS

Stories of PTSD inform and educate

Thank you for printing the Local Voices of Doreen Bell and Graham Bettes, and of course Maverick.

For those who also carry a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis or the symptoms thereof, these stories no doubt have provided validation and tremendous support. Doreen and Graham are regular, working persons who, with dignity and confidence, have moved forward in their lives while they recover and heal from their life experiences. It is tremendous value for the many unidentified people who have found themselves with similar issues. Doreen's ability to outline the sequence of her story is outstanding as is Graham who is using his experience to support colleagues. Clearly, this is authenticity at its best in our society. My admiration for their courage is beyond words.

Their stories both inform and educate our public, who is sorely in need of mental health awareness, particularly as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Being able to identify their own symptoms and sharing them with a professional is a key to acquiring and sustaining appropriate help. Obviously they have learned to manage their stress associated with their symptoms.

Public Health offices

are reporting a significant increase of incidence of anxiety, depression, panic attacks, obsessions, and inappropriate self-medicating in our populations. Through therapeutic interventions, such as critical incident stress management, use of support groups, or Individual Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, individuals can learn to stave off acute reactions, and divert long term debilitation. Cognitive neuroscience research is establishing that our bodies retain associated fears from possibly as early as in the womb.

As a retired trauma and bereavement psychotherapist, who utilized EMDR, and occasionally my ever compassionate caring dog for some therapy sessions successfully, I am so pleased that you are in our NOTL Local community enhancing mental health education for stress management in everyday life. The articles clearly illustrate how people are living with their PTSD diagnosis and living it well. The diagnosis is not a life sentence.

It is especially important that employers in our community see and hear these Local Voices. Education fosters patience and understanding of potential employees who might also be experiencing symptoms. While the pandemic has exacerbated symptoms

for some, or led to the onset for others, it also has propelled the therapy session and treatment such as EMDR into our technological age. Virtual counselling, therapy sessions, group support and EMDR have all met with success in order to address the increased needs and sheer volume of persons dealing with this particular mental health issue.

Your readers might wish to know that there are several editions and forms of the book entitled *The Body Keeps the Score*, Bessel Van Der Kolk (2014), in ebook and audio book-forms as well as summaries. It is highly acclaimed by North American medical, psychiatric, psychology and mental health associations. I marvel that Doreen has recommended it, which clearly indicates that she has done her homework. Another good read is *The Body Remembers* (Babette Rothschild, 2000) as it also relates to the use of EMDR. These resources are invaluable. They use plain everyday language, use several case studies and fully researched examples. They help to unfold the shroud of mystery surrounding this most human condition. And, indeed, knowledge is empowerment.

Nancy Macri
NOTL

Local LETTERS

Quick trip for food pickup ended with parking ticket

Maybe this is not of concern, but I'm a local resident and on Saturday afternoon I drove downtown to pick up some food. The parking was non-existent. People were parked in spaces that weren't even designated for cars. I couldn't find anywhere to park just to run and pick up something quickly.

I ended up parking in the lot behind the Prince of Wales Hotel with the only parking space I could find. Should I have paid for a ticket? In reality, most people would risk it to run in somewhere (supporting the local restaurant scene — especially after a pandemic) and that's what I did.

Because of a line, it took me a few minutes longer but I was as quick as I could be. When I returned, I could see a female parking enforcement officer near my car. I asked her very calmly and sort of laughing, "did you get mine?" She looked up and said, "yuuuuuup." As if she was proud of it. Holding food and by myself, I said, "hey I'm local, and just picking up food. I couldn't find anywhere

else to park. Is there anything you can do here?"

With the same attitude, she says, "noooooooope." Just like that. Then she points to Platoff Street and says, "you could've parked there for free," with a real attitude.

But there wasn't anywhere to park on that street. I drove around for a bit before ending up in that lot. It was my only option.

I admit I parked somewhere where I should've bought a ticket. But her attitude was a problem. I've never experienced this kind of thing before here. This is the kind of mentality that will drive locals away from supporting their neighbourhood establishments.

It's also a vulture mentality of going after the tourists. There were parking enforcement officers just salivating, walking around. She wasn't the only one I noticed in the short time I was downtown.

Parking may be an issue on weekends, but to go after people parking in areas that are blocking driveways or in blatant spaces they shouldn't be. If you're writing a ticket and the

person returns with a reasonable explanation of why they didn't pay for a ticket, hence my case, consider some leniency, or better yet, actual common sense. See the big picture. I'm not the one causing an issue. I'm not the problem.

I'm so turned off by my own town now. It's sad and disappointing. I shouldn't have to pay for parking to run in and grab food just to take it home on a Saturday afternoon. Is this what it's come to? Locals just can't go downtown anymore on the weekend?

Next Saturday or the Saturday after that, you better believe I'll think twice about doing this again. And that's money not going into where I'd like to put it. It'll just go somewhere else now. That's not right.

Parking may be an issue, but there's a common sense way to approach it. That's not what I observed. Parking vultures. That's what I experienced Saturday. Frothing at the mouth, handing out tickets.

Greg Hipwell
NOTL

Local LETTERS

Message from Lord Mayor Betty Disero

For 10 more days, to Dec. 10, people all over the world will be adding their voices to the millions already raised against gender-based violence.

This 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign kicked off on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and runs until Dec. 10, World Human Rights Day. 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the campaign.

Additionally, Canadians will remember the women who were murdered at Polytechnique Montréal on Dec. 6, 1989. You can be part of this movement on Dec. 6 by: attending a virtual vigil on Dec. 6 to commemorate the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women; observing a moment of silence at 11 a.m. to hon-

our the 14 women who were murdered at Polytechnique Montréal; or wearing a white ribbon to honour the victims of the Polytechnique Montréal tragedy.

Gender-based violence is violence committed against someone based on their gender, gender identity, gender expression, or perceived gender. It disproportionately affects women and girls, particularly Indigenous women and girls; Black and racialized women; immigrant and refugee women; Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, plus (2SLGBTQQIA+); people with disabilities, and women living in Northern, rural, and remote communities.

In 2019, in Canada, 95 per cent of all victims of human trafficking were women and

girls, as well 43 per cent of all victims of human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24.

Activism against gender-based violence provides the opportunity for all of us to call out and speak up on gender-based violence and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, 2SLGBTQQIA+ (two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, plus), and gender diverse individuals. Please take part in the days of activism and lend your support.

To make a change, we need to join together and speak out to become part of the solution to end gender-based violence.

For more information please visit women-gender-equality.canada.ca.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero



Letters! We want letters!

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

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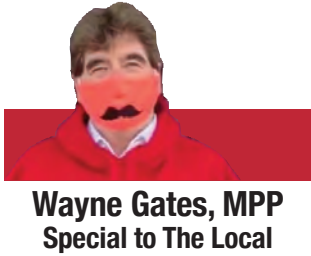
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Representing NOTL has been an honour – let’s continue that work



Wayne Gates, MPP
Special to The Local

I want to say thank you. Thank you to this incredible community for giving me the honour of representing you over the last seven years.

I want to give a special thank you to Burd Sisler. Burd is 106 years old, he is a Second World War veteran and a resident in our riding. Burd was also my nominator at my nomination meeting last Thursday. As someone whose advice I always heed, words cannot describe how honoured I was to hear him share his stories and to support our team. Burd – you are an anchor of our region and I will work every day to earn your support.

If you’d like to see Burd’s comments just head over to my Facebook page where they are proudly displayed.

Being your MPP has been the privilege of my life, and I truly wake up every day feeling like the luckiest man alive.

Here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, we’ve come a long way, and I think we can all agree that by working together we’ve put our issues on the provincial agenda. There has been no shortage of differences of opinion on the issues we’ve

raised, but by committing to work across divides and party lines, we’ve been able to reach compromises on issues with incredible success. I think most recently of our united push to get all-party support to clear the MRI backlog that was plaguing our region. This issue was first raised to me by a resident from Niagara-on-the-Lake, and in just a few short weeks, we were able to secure the funding necessary for residents to get these vital scans.

Of course, as you can imagine, there are areas where I do not agree with the current Premier and where I will offer an alternative in the election just seven months from now.

As many of you know, I have dedicated my career to fighting against the privatization and cutting of our healthcare system. I believe in Niagara, where one in four residents are seniors, that we need to invest in improving access to healthcare, not reducing it. This was most recently highlighted with our campaign to have OHIP cover PSA testing, and monitors for those with type 1 diabetes.

I also firmly disagree with plans to rip up our Greenbelt or to pave over our natural heritage. Three times we have faced plans to develop on our Greenbelt, and three times our community has raised its voice to say absolutely not. In the coming election, some parties will



MPP Wayne Gates and supporter Burd Sisler at Gates’ NDP nomination meeting. (Photo supplied)

claim this environmentally sensitive space must be developed. I disagree. Once our Greenbelt is opened up to development, it’s gone and we can never replace it. I believe we must hand our children a healthy community and environment, the same way we were given one.

I do not believe the only solution to housing inequality is the development of suburbs on our protected spaces. Above all, I believe the public should be consulted on these development issues, and their voices should come first. The practice of using Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZOs) to bypass public input on community development is

wrong, and must be halted. Of course, as many of you recall, I firmly oppose cuts to the public services we rely on. One of the reasons I originally ran for this office in the first place was because of the Wynne Liberal Government’s decision to close Parliament Oak. Their decision to ram through the closure of that community school represented the very disconnect from the local municipalities that I vowed to reverse. To make matters worse, both provincial governments have stepped back from filling the hole created by the shuttering of that property. It was in that fight for Parliament Oak that I learned how deeply this com-

munity appreciates its local heritage. Any person hoping to be MPP must be tapped into that community spirit if they ever hope to represent the communities that make up this town.

We’ve come a long way, and I believe that since that time there is no one who can say our town’s issues are not front and centre at Queen’s Park.

But I believe we have more work to do.

Healthcare must be made more accessible to seniors in our community, long-term care needs an immediate overhaul to create a system where families know their loved ones are safe and cared for. Our win-

ies need provincial supports to level the playing field and create more jobs for our young people and housing costs must be addressed to make owning a home or renting more affordable here – to name just a few.

I am proudly running for the NDP, but I am just as proudly running as the local candidate. To those who have supported me, I am eternally grateful. To those who haven’t, I am going to keep working every day to earn your trust.

Working together, we’ve built a strong, made-in-Niagara-on-the-Lake platform. In just a few months’ time I hope to continue that work.

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Provincial candidates lining up for Niagara Falls riding

Slate won't include Terry Flynn, who is out of nomination contest

Penny Coles
The Local

With a provincial election coming up in six months, two local riding associations have nominated their candidates, and the Liberal Party candidate is acclaimed, although not officially yet.

The NDP nomination meeting held last Thursday confirmed Niagara Falls MPP Wayne Gates will be running again in the June 2022 election, for the riding which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie.

Gates has represented the riding since he was elected in a by-election in 2014, and is currently the NDP's critic for Workplace Health and Safety, Training, Trades and Apprenticeships, and Auto Strategy.

Bob Gale, currently a regional councillor representing Niagara Falls, was

chosen to represent the Conservative party for the riding last March.

The Niagara Falls Liberal provincial riding association had two candidates vying to represent their party, and expected to hold a nomination election Dec. 11, but former Niagara-on-the-Lake town councillor Terry Flynn told The Local Tuesday he has made the decision to drop out of the race.

Ashley Waters of Niagara Falls remains the only candidate, so is expected to be officially nominated to represent the riding.

Flynn, well-known in NOTL for his municipal political career, which spanned 21 years, and his community involvement, has decided this is not the time for him. He withdrew from the nomination race Sunday.

He has recently retired from

decades of service as a volunteer firefighter in NOTL, and while currently superintendent of operations for the Niagara Region EMS, he has plans to retire from a career with that service in the spring, and said recently, "there are bets on that I won't go."

They could be winning bets — with healthcare in its current situation, understaffed due to COVID, and the resulting strain on paramedics, Flynn says he feels needed more than ever, and is now seriously reconsidering retirement. "I'm just not sure right now. It's something I love to do, that I have a passion for, and something that I feel makes a difference, so why would I give it up?"

With work commitments, and the Liberals gearing up now for the election while he is still heavily involved in selling Christmas trees for

the Niagara Lions, Flynn says the time is not right for him. "I just couldn't do it justice. I couldn't do the residents justice."

Also factoring in his decision, Flynn says, is the Ontario Liberal Party's move to boost the number of young and female candidates, in some ridings only allowing women to run for the nomination in an effort to improve gender equity in its caucus.

Flynn says that has given him pause for reflection, and is yet another sign this is not his time.

There may be another opportunity in the future when the time feels right, or if he does retire in the spring, the NOTL mayoral race could be an option for him. If he continues to work, that puts his dream of running to become Lord Mayor of Niagara-on-the-Lake off for another four years, but likely not out of his mind or heart forever.

With Flynn out of the contest, Niagara Falls resident Ashley Waters, although not confirmed, will represent her

riding for the Liberals in the provincial election.

"I was inspired to put my name forward after seeing Steven Del Duca on The Agenda with Steve Paikin,"

she says. "When I heard the leader of the Liberal Party offer an invitation for female

Continued on page 10



Former NOTL town councillor Terry Flynn has withdrawn from the Liberal contest — now is not the right time, he says. (Photo supplied)



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Liberal candidate not official yet

Continued from page 9

candidates to put their name forward, I thought if not now, then when, and if not me, then who?"

Waters, 37, is an honours political science graduate of Brock University. She's a mother of two, and has been married to her husband Jeremy for 13 years.

For the last 11 years, she's worked as manager of the non-profit Scouts Canada, and was a finalist for the 2021 Women in Business Awards, in the category of excellence in non-profit, sponsored by the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

Waters was a team lead for a fundraising event this summer for Pink Pearl Canada, an organization that supports young women affected by cancer, and raised more than \$1,800. She also coached Niagara Falls soccer Titans travel team for girls under 9/8 years old, restarting the program for the club.

"I have always wanted to enter politics and effect change in my community for the better, to be a voice for those that feel voiceless and unheard," says Waters, and also "to champion causes I feel strongly towards, such as education, healthcare and affordable housing."

Waters was a founding

member of NextNiagara, formed to represent the voice of the next generation in Niagara by creating opportunities for community engagement and empowerment; and sat on the Niagara Connects Council, to build action plans for transformative socio-economic change.

"I welcome the opportunity to represent our riding, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and Fort Erie, to effect change in our community, and would be honoured, given the chance, to champion the causes that concern my constituents in Niagara."

When Bob Gale announced last spring that he wants to fight for his corner of Niagara at the provincial level, as a Conservative MPP, he acknowledged then he would have a run for his money, expecting Gates to seek another term, but says he has never shied away from competition.

"I was in business for a long time, sat on many high profile boards, and now have a term and a half of experience with regional council. I have thick skin, and I understand that this will be a challenging election. The fact is that Niagara needs a strong Conservative voice in a strong Conservative government to make sure that our unique needs are taken care of. I am ready to take that task head on."

With his wife Vera, the Niagara businessman has owned Gale's Gas Bars since 1980, and raised his family in Niagara-on-the-Lake. He now lives in St. Catharines, and owns several properties in Niagara Falls. His daughter Jessica, who lives in St. David's, has taken over control of the company.

Gale says he wants to represent the riding at the provincial level to ensure Niagara isn't left behind during the economic recovery from the pandemic, which has crippled small businesses and the tourism industry.

"Niagara needs a strong voice with a seat at the table as we recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic," says Gale — economic recovery will be tough, and tourism is the industry hardest hit.

Healthcare and affordable homes are also priorities.

"I have had many meetings with Premier (Doug) Ford around bolstering healthcare capacity via the new hospital in Niagara Falls, and cutting red tape in order to get more houses built.

"I want to be there to help make business decisions on costs and services to the people. Niagara deserves someone who is a strong advocate for the region, and can bring their concerns directly to the Premier," he says.



Bob Gale will be representing the Conservative Party at the provincial level. (Photo supplied)



Ashley Waters, with extensive community involvement, is expected to be the Liberal candidate, although her nomination is not official yet.



Christmas

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— TIM CARROLL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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Kristi Frank with the cast of Holiday Inn (2019).

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Maria Mavridis wins Women in Business award

Penny Coles
The Local

Maria Mavridis has won the 2021 Women in Business community impact award, which recognizes the leadership and success of women in the Niagara business community.

The annual awards are given out by the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

Mavridis, a local businesswoman running two Queen Street restaurants, has become increasingly familiar in recent years for her dedication to helping organize fundraisers for important causes.

Her award is for her work

with Anchor Niagara, a local events planning company which she founded to partner with charities and other organizations looking for help with offsetting costs for fundraisers, festivals or other events.

One of them, A Night of Comedy, was held last Friday at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa, featuring comics Joe Pillitteri, Jeff Paul and Frank Spadone.

Most events were put on hold during COVID, but as restrictions loosened, Mavridis says she began hearing from not-for-profits who were suffering from having to cancel their fundraising

events, begging her to please help out.

“How could I say no?” she asks. “I had to do something.” And she did — she has resumed organizing events.

The successful result on Friday night was evident, with a room full of people delighted to be out and about, and \$5,800 raised for local charities, including the Niagara Community Foundation Pillitteri Family Fund, and Pathstone Mental Health.

Mavridis’ next event is a Boyz II Men concert, also at White Oaks, on Feb. 5. For more details, visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/boyz-men-live-tickets-162111968261>.

With the work Mavridis does, partnering with charities and businesses to maximize fundraising efforts, the award was well-deserved, but she has a hard time accepting kudos for what she does —

giving back to her community is what she was brought up to do, she says.

Her daughter Hope was at the awards presentation with her, her friend Michelle Reynolds, her father Bob, and many highly-respected

women, including Debi Pratt, and Lord Mayor Betty Disero, said Mavridis, who added she was honoured to be in such good company, surrounded by women, and several men, who are also leaders in the community.



Joe Pillitteri, Jeff Paul and Frank Spadone were the comics who entertained the crowd at White Oaks last Friday. (Photos by Donavin Delaney Captures)



Maria Mavridis (right) with her daughter Hope and her long-time friend Michelle Reynolds at the recent awards ceremony. (Photo supplied)

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SANTA

AROUND THE TOWN

Santa Claus is returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake! Santa will be driving through all five Villages on December 11, 2021, to wave to residents and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Visit notl.com/santa for more information and a map of Santa's route.

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Former mayor Pat Dart took a roasting by comic Jeff Paul in good humour.



Bill Cochrane helped Maria Mavridis organize the fun and fundraising evening of comedy.

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Historic property could be residence, or small hotel

Continued from page 1

The documents prepared for the designation process say the “building and grounds represent a significant example of the type of elegant summer properties constructed by wealthy Americans who spent their summers in Niagara-on-the-Lake during the heyday of the grand summer estates that sprang up in the town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.”

“The landscape setting, including the greenhouse and the specimen trees located throughout the property, is an integral defining element of the property, marking it as one of the few remaining

significant summer estates in Niagara-on-the-Lake.”

The bylaw prepared to designate the property describes the building as “an amalgamation of a number of revival styles, including neo-Classical Revival and neo-Greek Revival, with generous, light-filled reception rooms, spacious bedrooms, screened porches and a multiplicity of fireplaces.”

Hummel’s plan was to build an upscale 24-room hotel, with a restaurant and spa, and fill it with the tourists who would come to town for a music festival that was being planned for Parks Canada land on Lakeshore Road. When that project fell through, Hummel realized he

needed to expand his ideas, and began to plan something on a larger scale, on a piece of property that includes three lots equalling more than two acres, significantly larger than the property of the Prince of Wales Hotel, which anchors the other main intersection in town.

In the spring of 2020, Hummel told The Local that his wife urged him to renovate the estate as their future home, and he compromised, agreeing to build it as a hotel but live in it for a few years, while he decided what he would do with it long-term. That plan was abandoned when the couple separated in 2014, partly due to disagreements over that property,

and it was another five years before he began work again on the estate. By then, his plan was for a 75-room hotel of “understated elegance,” with underground parking. The hotel would include the main building, at about 150,000 square feet, the two-storey coach house with two two-bedroom apartments, an outdoor-indoor spa, a pool, indoor and outdoor dining areas, and an annex for guest suites.

In the main building, there are also several lounge areas with fireplaces, surrounded by huge expanses of glass, and a dramatic spiral staircase to suites upstairs, including one that was intended as a bridal suite.

Schwenker says Hummel had a dream of completing the hotel and leaving it as a legacy for the family to operate, but realized that would be a huge undertaking and responsibility to put on them.

Instead, he decided to put that project and the associated memories behind him, and the decision was made to sell the property. There was some discussion about finishing the interior of the main house — none of the rooms are completed, although what has been done is elegant and upscale — or to leave it as is, which is the choice they’ve made. Potential purchasers will have their own idea of what they want to use it for — a boutique hotel, or a very

large family estate. How the work is completed will depend on how the next owners plan to use it, and their personal taste, Schwenker says, so best to leave it for them to finish it with their own touches.

“It’s an unbeatable location, and it has a grand history. It could be a very-high end, exclusive retirement home. Or it could also be a perfect venue for weddings,” Schwenker points out, having held her own wedding on the front lawn of the estate.

“This is a house of prestige and stature, but we don’t know what it will be used for — we don’t know the end-game. It is a magical place, and whoever buys it will put their own stamp on it.”



Sally McGarr and Raiana Schwenker, mother and daughter, by one of the many original fireplaces. (Photos supplied)



Raiana Schwenker proves even on a rainy day there is a reason the Phillips Estate is an iconic landmark on Queen Street.



The grand staircase is one of the many beautiful features of the Phillips Estate.



The main floor has several lounge areas surrounded by large glass windows.



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Behind-the-scene look at Rotary house tour

Penny Milligan
Special to The Local

Tis the spirit of giving and some local ladies are looking to give one of their most valuable resources, their time.

A group of 13 women came together on Sunday to give generously of their time to another great cause during this season.

They gathered at my home, which is on the Rotary Holiday House Tour

this year.

As the president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Social Club, I thought having an afternoon of crafting and decorating would be just what the doctor ordered to put everyone in the Christmas mood, and a great opportunity to gather with a bunch of nice people, enjoy some fellowship, as well as appies and wine, while we put together my house for the Rotary tour.

We went with a unique theme, unusual for this part

of the world particularly, of “I’m dreaming of a sandy Christmas,” and many hands were needed to make light work of the task.

From a pool noodle-inspired outdoor garland, to pink, blue, white and green Christmas trees, the house feels like it’s been transplanted directly from the tropics.

I wanted to do something that was completely different, that would be whimsical and memorable, and add an interest-

ing aspect to the holiday tour, and the volunteers delivered.

The holiday house tour, thankfully, is back this Friday and Saturday, stronger than ever, after a year’s hiatus due to COVID. More than 3,100 tickets have been sold, with COVID precautions being very strictly regulated. I think that people were simply starved to get back to some sort of normalcy, particularly during the holiday season — the tickets sold out very quickly.

The tour includes seven beautiful homes as well as the MacArthur Enchanted Wonderland experience and evening extravaganza at the MacArthur residence on John Street East.

Rotary uses proceeds from these funds to support both local and international causes.

Homeowners were very quick to offer up their homes this year, and sponsors were more than generous, despite coming out of a tough couple of years.

And more good news: the Social Club garnered about 70 new members since September, with people really interested in the fun activities the club has to promote.



Irene Rutt and Kathy Mann decorated one of several beautiful trees for the house tour.



Penny Milligan, Zena Samuels, Sue Henry and Amanda Bonnie make decorations for the Milligan house. (Photos supplied)



Teri Baldwin and Sandra Davis show how much fun it was volunteering to decorate for the house tour.

Books in a barn



What do these topics have in common: murder, mystery, romance, orphans, family, history, supernatural, science fiction and children? They’re all genres of recent novels written by NOTL Writers Circle members. Book lovers will have the opportunity to meet local authors Terry Belleville, Sharon Frayne, Paul Masson, Randy Klassen, Marie Kelly, Patricia Nicholls-Papernick and Richard West (as well as Jean Baker, missing from the photo) on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 322 Simcoe St., from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in a tent pitched at a red barn located between two houses on the Rotary Holiday House tour. The NOTL Writers Circle was founded in 2013 by Hermine Steinberg, and is open to new members. There are monthly meetings, and members read at festivals and public events, hold writing workshops, and support each other as friends and writers. If interested in joining, contact Richard West at rwest1564@gmail.com. (Photo supplied)



Luba Fraser hams it up in one of the beautifully decorated rooms on the tour.



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The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre hosts a Holiday Art Sale



Submitted by
Aimee Medina

The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre is hosting their Art Sale on December 2nd to 4th. The event features over 300 works—from oils, acrylics, watercolours, and mixed media pieces—all donated by artists, estates, patrons, and members. This event is the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre's first major, in-person fundraiser in more than a year. In time for the Holidays, the Art Sale

offers the public an opportunity to purchase original pieces for their homes or as gifts, while at the same time supporting children and youth programs.

As with previous years, this Niagara landmark will be one of the sites participating in the annual Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Holiday House Tour. The beautifully-decorated homes and spaces provide inspiration for tour guests to deck their halls in this season of gathering and enter-

taining. The art sale offers a wide range of artworks that are ready to be enjoyed in time for the holidays.

Everyone is invited to participate in this rare opportunity to begin or add to their art collection at affordable prices. The event runs from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and is open to the public at no charge. COVID-19 protocols will be in place to ensure safe and worry-free shopping. For more information visit www.niagarapumphouse.ca/events.



Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre ART SALE

original paintings, sculptures, decorative items,
vintage and historic pieces by local, regional
and international artists

Dec 2 to 4, 2021
9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

247 Ricardo St., Niagara-on-the-Lake
niagarapumphouse.ca/events
Proceeds benefit children and youth programs

Spa at Q Pop-Up Shop

Submitted by
124 on Queen Hotel & Spa

It's time to pamper your loved ones with luxuries while supporting your favourite local Spa, the Spa at 124 on Queen. Visit our Pop-Up Spa Shop where our experienced Aestheticians are available to help you shop and select a memorable gift for everyone on your list.

Wrap your closest in not only a hug but the most comfortable fabrics with a gift from our selection of the softest shawls, scarves, and wraps (on sale for the month of December!).

Add to your fashionista's jewelry collection with authen-

tic, one-of-a-kind gem pieces by Rocking Vibe jewellery. Use our sale to purchase multiple pieces and layer them to express their style or wear alone as a statement piece (on sale for the month of December!).

Give the earth a holiday gift too this season by purchasing face and body products from Eminence Organics. Eminence uses sustainable farming and green practices to create the best skin products possible and will also plant a tree for every product sold. Feel good while gifting by knowing your gift is making a difference.

Still unsure what your Secret Santa may like? Everyone loves a Spa at Q gift certificate that can be used to select their

own favorite products or for a luxury spa treatment.

Our Spa Re-Opening

Our incredible renovated and expanded Spa at Q will be re-opening soon and will include luxurious treatment rooms, sensory hydrotherapy circuit with hot and cold plunge pools, sauna, steam room and ... a snow cave! Follow our social media for opening updates @124onqueen

The Spa at Q Pop Up Shop is open for in-person shopping at the side entrance of The Gate House located at 142 Gate Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Monday through Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. www.124queen.com/spa



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Patterson receives lifetime achievement award

Local Staff

Dan Patterson, Niagara College's president emeritus, has been recognized with the prestigious Minister's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Patterson, who led Niagara College from 1995 to 2020, accepted the award in front of world-renowned leaders in education, as well as family and friends, at College Ontario's 2021 Higher Education Summit in Toronto Monday.

"All of us at Niagara College are very pleased to see Dan recognized for his remarkable contributions to Niagara College and to Ontario's college system," said Sean Kennedy, president of Niagara College.

"Dan's legacy is reflected in our campuses, which are among the most unique learning environments in Canada, and his vision of building an inno-

vative college of firsts has earned us a strong reputation as a trailblazer within the College sector."

The Minister's Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the contribution of outstanding leaders in the Ontario College sector who make an enduring difference in the lives of students, to the communities they serve, and to the economic development of our province.

The recipient is selected by the annual Colleges Ontario Leadership Awards selection committee, composed of representatives from the government, colleges and students.

"Thank you, Minister and everyone who was involved in my nomination," said Patterson as he accepted the award. "I would not be standing here today and receiving this Lifetime Achievement Award if it wasn't for my late wife Sandra, who walked

with me every step of my 25-year-journey as college president."

Patterson's partner Sandra, a dedicated ambassador for Niagara College and a champion for its students, passed away in January, 2021. Patterson also thanked his family, and daughter Christine who joined him at the awards presentation in celebration of this milestone achievement.

Patterson oversaw significant expansion at the college, including the construction of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Campus, the creation of innovative learning enterprises, including Canada's first teaching winery, teaching brewery, and teaching distillery.

Under his leadership, the College tripled its enrolment to 13,000-plus full-time students in over 130 programs with an operating budget surpassing \$225 million.



Dan Patterson led Niagara College through expansions of facilities and programs in his 25 years as president. (Photo supplied)

Drea's wine release celebrates Cabernet Franc Day

Local Staff

Andrea Kaiser, daughter of Karl J. Kaiser, iconic Canadian Winemaker, is ready to release her first Cabernet Franc.

The release date, Dec. 4, marks the celebration of Cabernet Franc Day.

The varietal was selected for her first classic oak-aged red wine, as it was a favourite Ontario grape of both her and her father.

They both loved Cabernet Franc for its bright fruit flavours and gracious acidity, says Kaiser.

The vintage is the first cabernet for Drea's Wine Co., founded in 2017 in

memory of her father Karl J. Kaiser, winemaker and co-founder of Inniskillin Wines, considered by many, to be the pioneer of modern Canadian winemaking. His pursuit in creating exceptional wine has inspired Andrea to create small batch VQA wines from Ontario. Her first wine release was a Sauvignon Blanc as a tribute to her father who, along with her family, affectionately call her Drea. Her wine collection now also includes a Rosé, and Dornfelder.

Cabernet Franc is a most noble variety believed to have been established in the 17th century,

and in the late 90s was recognized as the 'father' of the well-known Cabernet Sauvignon grape, she says.

"Unlike a big cab, however, Cabernet Franc wines are medium-bodied, with a savoury mouthwatering taste and are a very versatile food pairing wine."

In 2020, the timing seemed right to produce her first red as the heat was ideal for full ripening of the fruit. That year, Kaiser also made the decision that this red would be a tribute to her father's legacy in education and mentorship within the wine industry.

"My father always had an open door, and loved to

share his knowledge with others. He was not only an inspiration to young winemakers, but also a lifelong teacher through established institutions and within his wine cellar."

This legacy of learning was one that was recognized in 2017 through the establishment of the Karl J. Kaiser Memorial Fund at Brock University, and so it

seemed fitting that a portion of the proceeds from Drea's Wine Co. Cabernet Franc wine sales be donated to this fund each year.

Her 2020 Cabernet Franc has rich flavours of black currant and was kept in three barriques (a specific size and shape of oak barre) for just over eight months to give the wine some added complexity

and soft vanilla notes. It will be available for sale at Reif Estate Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, online at dreawine.com and select restaurants across Ontario on Dec. 4 to mark the celebration of Cabernet Franc Day. The wine is part of a small lot production of only 100 cases, and will retail for \$34.50 plus bottle-deposit.



Andrea Kaiser's Cabernet Franc is a tribute to her father, Karl Kaiser. (Photo supplied)

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Touch of snow

This photo, after the season's first snowfall, was taken behind the Kurtz Orchard at the end of East and West Line and the Niagara River Parkway. (David Gilchrist)

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After 35 years and a move to Canada, farm worker retires

**Jamie Slingerland
Special to The Local**

This is a story about a Jamaican-born man that was on the seasonal farm work program and how he immigrated to Canada and the challenges and mostly successes he has had as a Canadian citizen with his wife and six children.

Rodney Smith has worked for Pillitteri Estates Winery for 35 years, and has recently announced his retirement as of Dec. 23.

He began working in Canada around 1975, on a very large tender fruit operation. It was about 1980 when Rodney met Pillitteri Estate Winery founder Gary Pillitteri, and began to work for him on his day off from his 65-hour per week job.

Most seasonal farm workers who work on the many farms in Niagara-on-the-Lake want as many hours of work as they can get. Individuals like Rodney would often work 80 hours a week if the work was available.

When my father-in-law first came to Canada in 1948, he did the same, holding multiple jobs at a time while trying to better the positions of himself and his family. Most seasonal farm workers across Canada come from Caribbean countries and Mexico, where a daily farm wage there is equivalent to working one or two hours in Canada. As well, farm work is inconsistent in their home countries, with work for

a few weeks, then many days or weeks without.

Educational opportunities in their home countries are also difficult. Many men don't attend secondary school, instead working to provide food for the family. Life is hard, and it is impossible for most people to move beyond their economic status, which is usually poor.

In NOTL, seasonal farm workers' housing must meet the same standards as Canadian senior housing in care facilities, as far as space, bathrooms, showers, toilets, sinks, fridges, stoves, ovens, and potable hot and cold water. Seasonal farm workers are also entitled to all the benefits as other Canadian and Ontario farm workers, such as those under the Employment Standards Act, OHIP, WSIB, employment insurance and Canada Pension.

Most farm workers, away from their families for up to nine months per year, become well-established after many years of work in Canada, owning property, homes and businesses. Often one worker will economically benefit their parents, siblings and their own families, such that dozens of family members' lives are improved.

In 1985, Connie and I returned to NOTL after five years. I had been working for OMAFRA in Leamington, Sudbury and other areas of the province as a quality standards inspector, and Connie was with RBC. My next transfer looked to be head office on Bay

Street, so we decided to return home and farm 40 acres of tender fruit and grapes in the Virgil area, where we wanted to raise our family.

I met Rodney in 1985, and after the third time of speaking to him, for some 15 minutes each time, Rodney asked me to sponsor him to come to Canada.

I was 27 at the time, and for some unknown reason, knowing nothing about sponsorship to Canada, found myself saying yes without any hesitation. I had a good feeling about Rodney, his character and sincerity. I could tell by his work that he was an intelligent man.

One thing that was important to Rodney was to keep his sabbath. Our agreement was that Rodney would never work his sabbath, and he volunteered that he would work with me until he retires. I never expected him to keep a 35 year promise. As it turns out, we both kept our promise.

It was a difficult process to sponsor Rodney and his family. To be sponsored to come to Canada, a person has to obtain points. You earn points for advanced education, the value of the assets you plan to bring into Canada, language proficiency in the two official languages, filling a job a Canadian cannot fill, number of dependents, age, no criminal record, and health of all family members.

What makes things more complicated is how long it takes, and also that a person cannot be sponsored while in

the country.

As well, the cost of the application is significant. Rodney and I agreed that if I sponsored him he would work full-time for me (and Gary). At the time my father-in-law farmed 60 acres. I reasoned that together we had enough acreage combined to employ a person year round, farming together but splitting costs.

Rodney and I agreed we would split the costs of his sponsorship, but he did not have available funds, so I covered his portion and was reimbursed later.

As a beginner farmer with a child on the way, Connie and I were not exactly flush with money as our first crop in 1985 turned out to be much less than expected.

With help from some people in politics, Rodney was granted a temporary work visa to work for me, and an appointment was secured at the Canadian Consulate in Buffalo for Rodney to apply to immigrate to Canada. The application had to occur outside of Canada. We booked the appointment for 4 p.m., and the office closes shortly after that. To get to that appointment Rodney required a U.S. visitor's Visa from the American Consulate in Toronto. At 5:30 a.m. we were first in line at that U.S. Consulate. A few hours later there were hundreds in line. Rodney was granted a visa, but was crushed to learn it would not be available for pickup until the next

day. Given our appointment was the same days which we were told never happens, but we received it just after lunch and headed to Buffalo.

After a visit to immigration to review our documents, and watching a Black man escorted out in cuffs for what we heard was numerous attempts to enter the United States illegally — Rodney sweating with fear — we finally found the right place for our appointment, but there were more complications to come, but eventually Rodney was given a date to return and proceed with his application.

After a little over a year of separation from his family of five children and his wife Janet, the entire family arrived in Canada. The immigration visas for his family were issued in May, 1987, coincidentally on the same date as the year before when we went to the consulates in Toronto and Buffalo.

Then, on Aug. 1, 1986, we experienced the largest and worst hailstorm in NOTL history. Connie and I lost our entire equity in our farms. Two years after that, Free Trade came into effect and commodity prices dropped for many years.

Over the next 30 years we experienced and worked through another major hailstorm, a couple of severe droughts, heat, cold and rain-fall. Rodney and Janet went on to have their sixth and last child in Canada. One of their

youngest children was in a tragic accident, leaving him head-injured for life, requiring Janet and Rodney to care for him at home while working opposite shifts.

Over the years Rodney has become a pastor in his church, delivering the Gospel mostly through memory. He does not drink alcohol, take drugs or smoke. He has had one ticket in his life in the winery van in which someone misplaced the ownership — he has been pulled over often. As a Canadian, he and his family have led model lives. Rodney also brags of being with his wife Janet for the last 45 years. She has been a health care worker for a regional long-term care home, and has worked a number of years in NOTL. She was due to retire when COVID hit, and decided to stay on to help out during the pandemic for more than a year longer than she planned to work.

Five of their six children have graduated from college or university, and all have very successful careers. Rodney and his family, like most immigrant families, add to our economy and quality of life in our community.

Next week, Rodney will be managing his last crew of workers tying nets for our ice-wine grapes. Since 1986, he has managed work crews and farm equipment and since 1991, we have harvested icewine grapes together. He will be sorely missed by everyone at Pillitteri Estates Winery.

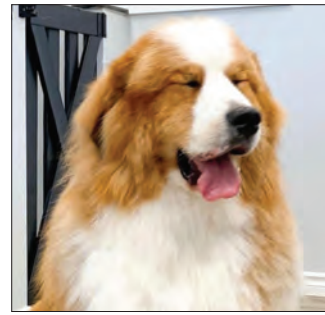


Rodney Smith, after working in vineyards with Jamie Slingerland for 35 years, is retiring. With Slingerland's help, Smith was able to move with his family to Canada. (Photo supplied)

Kids

Actual Kid-Friendly News

GAZETTE



SILLY PET PHOTO

We would love to know what this adorable fluffball, **Oswin**, thinks is so funny!

DECEMBER 2021

Volume I • Issue 3

FIND THE SMILEY FACE HIDDEN ON THIS PAGE!

Local News

Mariah Reese Kids Gazette

The wonderful Christmas light displays are starting to appear!!! Niagara-on-the-Lake is given the treat of having houses begin their Christmas light displays once again. There are two especially eye-catching ones in Old Town. One can be found on Charlotte Street close to Niagara Street and the other is at the historic Hiscott House on Prideaux Street close to Victoria Street. Grab some hot chocolate and go enjoy the display of these homes and all the others that are

popping up around town. Do you have some outstanding displays near you? Let's see them!!

Share the joy of the season!! See submission details below if you would like to share a photo.



Interview with Aspen

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. I have more than one. I want to be a chef, a you-tuber, and a skier. Right now I like to cook everything. I like to cook random stuff where I just dump things into a pot and it's yummy.

Q. What is your favourite thing about NOTL?

A. The wild bunnies. I like them because they eat carrots and I like carrots. I also like to climb trees and jump off them. And, I love the Tim Hortons.

Q. What is something fun you do with your family?

A. Sometimes when I'm

driving with my dad in his sports car he will be going too slow, so I will push his leg down and make him go faster. With my mom I eat pierogies. We just eat pierogies randomly.

Q. What's that certain something that makes you special?

A. I'm a boy and I have curly hair with blue eyes. I have one more. I never get cold! I jump in snow in tee shirts sometimes. I was born in a snowstorm in December.

Q. How did you keep yourself busy during the COVID lockdowns?

A. I played Minecraft and

stuff like that, it's my favourite game.

Q. How would you change the world if you could?

A. I would turn it into Skittles.



Aspen Ziraldo, 8

The Backyard Campfire

Taleah Bucci, 11 Kids Gazette

On Saturday, Nov. 7, on a beautiful fall evening, my dad and I had a campfire in our backyard. We started the fire by crumpling newspaper into

balls. Then we collected some dry sticks and arranged them into a tepee shape. Then using a lighter, my dad carefully ignited the pile of twigs and paper. I felt the warmth of the fire on my face as the flames started to grow. Once we had

a good fire going, we roasted hotdogs, bread, and for dessert, marshmallows. It all tasted really good. Once we were done, we poured water over the fire to put it out.

We really enjoyed ourselves.



Hanukkah Traditions

Dictated by
Sam + Lev Segal
(ages 5+3)
Kids Gazette

- Hanukkah is a holiday about the Maccabees (Jewish warriors) winning a battle against an evil king. The king broke part of the Temple the

Maccabees prayed in.

- When the Maccabees went to clean up the Temple, they found only one bottle of oil to light the candles.

- The miracle of light is that the one bottle of oil lasted for eight days. The menorah has eight candlehold-

ers, and so we light a candle each day.

- On Hanukkah you cook potato latkes, decorate your house, spin a four-sided dreidel, and light your menorah.

- It is fun to play dreidel, eat treats and light the menorah.



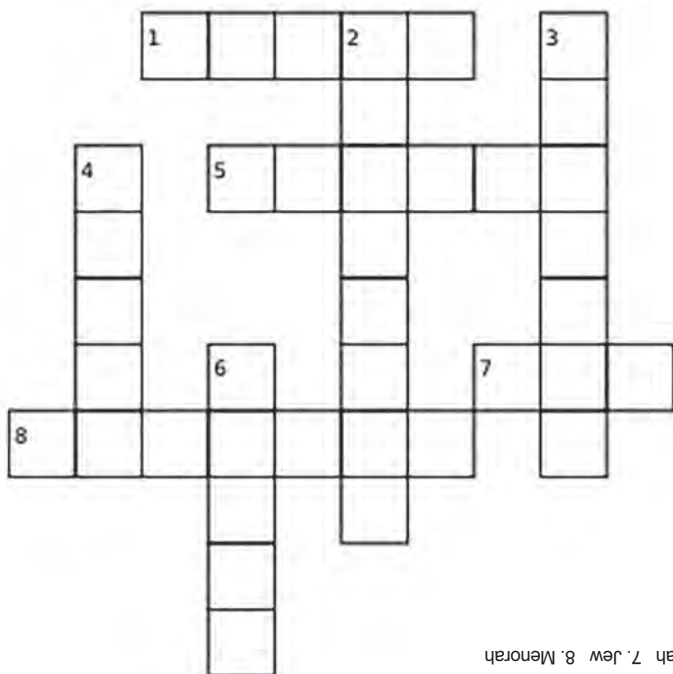
Happy Birthday to all our Joyous NOTL Kids!

Yuna Versteegen is celebrating her 9th birthday on Dec. 3
Piper Rikkerink is celebrating her 2nd birthday on Dec. 10
Olivia Ferguson is celebrating her 10th birthday on Dec. 12
Emily Miarecki is celebrating her 11th birthday on Dec. 13

Famous People with Birthdays in December

Walt Disney: Dec. 5, 1901
Emily Dickinson: Dec. 10, 1830
Frank Sinatra: Dec. 12, 1915

Crossword: Happy Hanukkah



Down:

- Jewish festival that commemorates the rededication of the Temple in 165 BC by the Maccabees
- A four-sided spinning top with a Hebrew letter on each side, used in a children's game
- A type of potato pancake
- Includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible

Across:

- The number of nights of Hanukkah
- A cylinder of wax with a wick in the middle that is lit to produce light
- Any person whose religion is Judaism
- Candelabra designated specifically for the Hanukkah candles

Answers: 1. Eight 2. Hanukkah 3. Dreidel 4. Latke 5. Candle 6. Torah 7. Jew 8. Menorah



NIAGARA TRIVIA

Niagara-on-the-Lake built its first public school in 1859, Niagara Public School.

Winter Fun Facts

- The snowiest city on Earth is Aomori City in northern Japan.
- Snowflakes aren't always unique. There were confirmed "twin" snowflakes from snowflakes collected after a storm in Wisconsin in the 1980s.

SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

Sense of humour needed for nature's curve balls

Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

A crucial essence of comedy involves the element of the unexpected, for which Mother Nature is an expert at delivering the punch line.

My time outdoors in both a professional and leisure setting have presented me with a non-coincidental theme with plenty of hilarious moments occurring in the woods, on our trails, and by the fireside.

Given that you are typically in good spirits or graced with good company, the environmental factors are a third party influence toward your interaction with others when outside, the X factor, if you will. The unusual and unforeseen curve balls that nature throws us can add some quality comedy moments to otherwise ordinary situations. You never know what animals, the weather, or the trail conditions are going to give you.

We could all use a good laugh, these days especially, but memorable humour can also be coupled with profound educational moments. In no particular order and with modified names, here go some of my favourite, news-

A photograph of four young men standing outdoors, smiling for a photo. They are all wearing backpacks. The man on the far left has dark hair and glasses, wearing a green t-shirt and a watch. The man next to him has short brown hair and is wearing a white t-shirt with a graphic that says "Bry's Section VI 2009 Swimming & Diving Championships". The man in the center has long brown hair and is wearing a white t-shirt with a graphic of a person swimming. The man on the far right has short dark hair and is wearing a red t-shirt. They are standing in front of a backdrop of green hills and mountains under a clear sky.

Team Nutella, the four guys who spent 24 hours sharing a jar of Nutella in the woods thanks to bear theft made for a good laugh. *(Photo supplied)*

paper-friendly stories of
laughter in nature.

Let's cut to the chase with Gerald, who wiped his butt with poison ivy.

Young Gerald and I got off the bus from another

day of elementary school at St. Davids. Gerald would hang out with me around my house near Queenston, where an incalculable amount of outdoor adventures have, and still

do, unfold.

At the time of our youthful innocence, we had no concept of what private property was. We thought any gravel or mud road between the orchards and vineyard was simply an unimproved road inviting our attention. We often walked or biked down these roads, primarily with the intention of following the various drainage ditches and the wildlife they harboured.

On our quest for snapping turtles, rainbow trout, and muskrats, Gerald became a part of nature himself and realized that he had to execute a number two. Far from the house, he did so successfully. The unsuccessful moment to follow is when he grabbed handfuls of poison ivy to wipe himself in a pinch. No harm done, until 48 hours later.

It's that time frame when poison ivy typically shows up on human skin. The active chemical compound responsible for the infamous itch, called urushiol, is the invisible oil which seems to exclusively affect our species, while birds and other animals eat the berries that grow on the plant. Deer and coyotes walk through bushes of the fun stuff, their fur creating an effective barrier to the nuisance oil.

Needless to say, as grade school kids at the time, we communicated everything without a filter (take it from a DSNB outdoor educator). Gerald decided to show me his pain, and dropped his drawers with a look of regret. It looked like he sat on a pizza. The classic, painfully bubbly red and orange rash was there to stay for a

week to come.

I hope my brother reads
this next one.

My family and I were up north with another family. We'll call them the MacDonald family. Nothing says a family outing like going to visit the local dump to see black bears perusing the wasteland of Homo sapiens filth.

We were young kids. Isaac, my youngest brother, was fearless of the elements and the element of risk. Sometimes he still is. I love him, but what he did at the dump that day I will never forget.

The MacDonalds and the Bjorgans were standing on the top of the human crater, where locals and cottage-goers dumped their garbage down the hillside into the bottom of the pit. Isaac may have been trying to recycle, or perhaps testing his ability to pitch for baseball, but the six-year-old picked up a glass bottle and proceeded to throw it down the hillside.

Six-year-olds can't throw and hit a target, let alone a 400 pound black bear. But he did.

The bear let out a noise I can't duplicate in print. It seemed to alert the other five bears or so in the area, who took the alarm call pretty damn seriously. A few of the bears retreated into the densely wooded treeline. Another charged up the hillside of the pit like a football player in need of a drug test. This bear bulldozed its way through the appliance section of the dump, body-checking freezers, ovens, and other similar household items out of its way. I will never

forget the noise or the sight of this bear as it powered its way through some seriously heavy material. In hindsight, I am sad for how scared it was.

It became humorous when a group of strangers panicked, and decided to pile into the nearest vehicle available, which was ours. The van literally had feet and heads touching the roof, as the large, stately omnivore sauntered its way up to the top of the trash crater. I remember being the last to get into the van, as my childhood curiosities had to get the last close look at the bear. As I jumped in over the bodies of strangers, all laughing and shrieking in hysterics, my parents were telling Isaac exactly how they felt about that situation he created.

As I wrap up this article and try to get some breakfast in before work, I am also remembering the bear in New York's Adirondack Mountains who stole all of our food, except for the jar of Nutella. Four adult men ate Nutella out of a jar for 24 hours, cautiously not sharing our germs and picking around the pine needles in the container. We found hilarity in preserving this pathetic yet precious jar of Nutella, and the jokes were unending.

The laughs are real, but so are the risks. Nature is a gentle yet respectable reminder of our vulnerability, and how it is ultimately in charge of our smart yet defenceless species. And sometimes, she can really make you laugh, at memories you can carry with you for life.

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[illegible][illegible]

Why eating local is critical to the future

Donald J.P. Ziraldo
Special to The Local

Terroir is an ancient French term used to denote the special characteristics geography bestows on products such as wine and cheese. It could theoretically also be applied to fruits, fish and meats. It can be loosely translated as a sense of place — the sum effects the local environment has on a raw product as it grows or raised and the particular way it's processed — which is embodied in certain qualities, and often perceptible in a product's taste.

In the wine sector the VQA, Vintners Quality Alliance, Canada's Appellation of Origin System provides that guarantee of origin — our own terroir.

Today's concept of local food is simply a 21st-century term for terroir; both denote the importance of origin, that sense of place or provenance. Whereas terroir is an inherent element of artisan agriculture because of its community-based nature, eating local has become, for some people, an important aspect of ethical and responsible consumption.

This concerned group specifically thinks about growing up in a society reliant on industrial agriculture, facilitated by modern inventions like refrigeration and air transportation.

Focused on buying local, restaurant operators are creating a terroir renaissance. In fact, it is one of the ways agriculture in Canada can remain competitive and profitable. Industrialized agriculture used to be one of Canada's biggest strengths, but that is no longer the case. China and other countries do it cheaper. Reviving local food production (and purchasing) must be part of the solution.

I believe eating local will be the norm in the future for many reasons. Local food is fresher. It produces a smaller carbon footprint, is economically sustainable for farmers, traceable and safe and promotes a better quality of life. But the local movement also has challenges, such as scale, distribution, seasonality and the resulting availability of desired products and accessibility.

We have a lot of work to do to make local food more viable and sustainable.

While distribution does pose a challenge to the local food movement, the secret is simplicity — from field to table.

Current distribution methods from farm to consumer are no longer adequate. The farmer/grower

needs to connect with the consumer, whether it's a restaurateur wanting local, high-quality produce, or a consumer that picks up a product at a farmer's market. The high walls of Canada's current industrialized agriculture prevent sufficient transparency between the farmer and the consumer, as Michael Pollan clearly outlines in his book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Buying local helps to remove those walls. Even though change can be disruptive and unwelcome, we need it to stay innovative.

We are seeing a resurgence of farmers' markets in Canada. In the past, farmers picked their produce and the consumer or chef typically did not see it until it was delivered. Growers did not provide additional information about their product either. Traditional farmers' markets provide a window between farmer and consumer. By chefs simply sending a driver to pick up product, delivery time is reduced. If the auto industry can use Just In Time delivery, why can't agriculture? It just takes originality, creativity, and acceptance of change. Canadians need to do more to support farm profitability and sustainable agriculture. Facilitating these connections will accelerate advancement and ensure Canadian consumers have easier access to fresh, safe, and nutritious, high-quality, locally produced foods.

The average restaurant is capable of operating according to the 100-mile diet. And with improvements in greenhouse technology, it should be easier than ever. Again, this is where research and innovation come in. Not only can Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (VRIC) create new varieties of food, but it can research adapting the culturally diverse fruits and vegetables that have changed consumer preferences.

The greenhouse sector — a thriving industry five times the size of Niagara's wine business (believe it or not) — is of great significance to extend our growing season in Canada. As the food service industry reinvents itself in accordance with the strength of the Canadian dollar, and rising energy and labour costs, greenhouses could play a more central role. Why shouldn't we strive to have an abundant supply of local foods year-round?

Locally the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Brock University (CCOVI: Cool Climate and Oenology Institute), and Niagara College (Canadian Food and Wine



Donald Ziraldo encourages us to eat — and drink — local products. (Photo supplied)

Institute) all support local food initiatives through research and education.

Let's not be naive. Many consumers only want cheap food, but there are an increasing number of people who want alternatives. Growers and the food industry can provide those alternatives and give shoppers and diners a better experience at the table. We can support agriculture and farmers in our local areas. But for local food systems to truly succeed, people will have to learn what it means to eat according to the seasons. They may also probably also have to

pay higher prices, too. Realistically, it may take another generation or so for that paradigm to become mainstream.

Here are some recent consumer survey results from Environics on local food consumption:

- Some 79 per cent of central Ontarians agree they prefer to buy locally grown fruits, vegetables, and meats (One per cent prefer imported fare, 19 per cent admit it makes no difference.).
- About 72 per cent of central Ontarians strongly agree they

would be willing to pay more for locally grown fruits and vegetables.

- 80 per cent strongly agree they would choose locally grown items if indicated on restaurant menus (49 per cent somewhat agree, 31 per cent agree).
- The food we eat causes 20 to 25 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gases, with 90 per cent of that going into packaging, transportation, and marketing.
- The average meal travels about 2,500 kilometres to arrive on our plates
- It takes 400 times more

energy to ship lamb from New Zealand than to buy local lamb.

Take the \$10 Challenge: According to Lynn Ogryzlo in her book, *The Ontario Pantry*, If every household in Ontario spent \$10 a week on local food, we would add \$2.4 billion to our local (Ontario) economy at the end of the year.

Imagine what a \$20 bottle of VQA wine would generate!

One way to immediately get involved is to order local food and VQA wine from a neighbourhood restaurant, which needs your support.

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LocalSPORTS

Massi leads Predators through two-game weekend

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Dante Massi's emergence as a team leader and a top scoring threat in the Greater Metro Hockey League seems complete following two wins by the Niagara Predators this weekend.

Massi picked up nine points over the two games, five in a 6-3 at-home win over St. George Friday, and another four in a 6-1 Saturday road win over the Plattsville Lakers in Tavistock.

Massi credits his new all-Italian-Canadian line of him, relative newcomer Noah Caperchione, and team captain Mario Zitella for his recent success. On Friday, they were named first, second and third stars respectively in a game that threatened to turn ugly in the last 10 minutes.

Massi opened the scoring

at the halfway point of the first period, knocking a backhand shot behind Ravens goalie Christian Lynch. Some late period defensive lapses, however, with Ravens attackers left alone near Predators goaltender Iain Riordan, resulted in St. George taking a 2-1 lead into the dressing room.

It took just over a minute into the second period for Zitella to knot the score at 2-2, with Massi and defenceman Pontus Madsen picking up assists. Massi added his second goal 13 minutes later, and assisted on Caperchione's last-minute marker to give the Preds a 4-2 lead.

In the third period some confusion about what the Ravens thought was a goal began a bizarre series of events in the game. Alex Insulander was handed a penalty for hooking

on that play, and Ravens leading scorer Mike Marchesan netted his second goal of the game shortly after the Preds returned to full strength.

The much larger Ravens squad began throwing their weight around more consistently. Some physical back-and-forth between Zitella and Brodie Thoms that began in the Ravens zone continued at centre ice, where Zitella turned to face Thoms. The 6'1" Thoms pulled hard on the 5'7" Zitella's face-mask, and had to be restrained by a referee, whom Thoms proceeded to shove away from him. He was given a five-minute unsportsmanlike conduct penalty and escorted to his dressing room, all the while shouting profanity back at Zitella.

Riordan stopped the Ravens twice on shorthanded breakaways, then the Predators finally capitalized on the advantage, with Caperchione and Madsen assisting on a goal by defenceman Georgy Kholmovskyl. A minute later, Massi completed his first hat trick as a Predator. That caused Brayden Pickett of the Ravens to lose his cool, and he was thrown out of the game with a 10-minute major.

Team owner Robert Turnbull, who has now officially removed the "qualification from his status as coach, was happy with the way the Predators conducted themselves in the confrontational situations.

"I'm not going to comment on some of the things that went on," Turnbull told The Local after the game, "it was a disappointment. But our kids played their hearts out. We had a plan, and it worked out."

Turnbull compared team scoring leader Massi to the Eveready Bunny, as well as to another animal.

"He's a horse," Turnbull exclaimed. "If a coach had 20 of those kids, they would go undefeated. Two of his goals were highlight-reel goals like you watch on Sportsnet."

Massi, like linemate Zitella a 5'7" forward, routinely leaned into the backchecking of much larger Ravens players to shake off checks and move in on Lynch in the St. George net.

"Going into my minor



Iain Riordan kicks away a Ravens shot at-home win over the St. George team at home Friday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

midget year, my coaches told me to work out, to work on my core strength and my legs," Massi said. "I just kind of kept those routines going, and it works. I do get lit up some times, but for the most part I can stay on my feet and protect myself."

Massi's five goals and four assists followed an eight-assist performance a week earlier. The way he, Zitella and Caperchione passed the puck around on offensive drives Friday, it was like each knew precisely where the other would be every time.

"We kind of got together just last week when we started to put all those points up," he said, when asked about his linemates. "I played with these guys in the past (on previous teams), so the chemistry is already there. We are just clicking out there, and it was allowing me to get some chances too."

His 29 assists on the season make him second in the league in that statistic, while he is currently Niagara's leading scorer, five points up on Zitella.

"It's pretty humbling to be first right now," Massi said. "But at the same time, it could be any one of us, everybody's pretty close in talent."

Massi's two goals and two assists led the Predators to Saturday's 6-1 victory, giving him first star honours for the second straight night. In that game, the Predators took a 4-0 lead into the third period and cruised to a fairly easy victory. Goaltender Jacob Collaco, picked up in a trade with the Ravens last week,

turned back 36 Plattsville shots for a win in his first game as a Predator.

Riordan and Collaco will be bearing the brunt of the minutes in the Niagara net for the remainder of the season. The Predators lost their number one goaltender Oskar Spinnars Nordin to the Bismarck Bobcats of the North American Hockey League.

GM Johan Eriksson said he got a call last Sunday that the North Dakota-based team wanted Spinnars Nordin, who was leading the GMHL with a 0.952 save percentage.

"We asked him, and he wanted to go," Eriksson said. "His goal is a (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division 1 scholarship. There are already three schools looking at him and this gets him one step closer to that goal. It's a huge loss for us. He is such a good player.

We knew this could happen."

"We all wished him well," Turnbull added. "That's what our organization, and every organization I've ever been with, has done. When I got the phone call, of course I allowed a player, no matter who it was, to move up. We'll stay in contact. I do believe he'll get a D1 scholarship out of it. He's as good as any goaltender I've ever had."


The Predators have their second three-game weekend coming up, starting with a Friday home game against the 5-and-14 Windsor Aces. Game time is 7:30 p.m. They'll travel to Northumberland Saturday night, and the Stars will follow the Preds back to Niagara for a 3 p.m. visit Sunday to the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil. Adult tickets are \$8, \$5 for seniors and students, while kids under 10 are admitted free.



Brenden Morin, #12, and Max Breiding, #9, restrain Ravens players as Iain Riordan makes a save with Henry-Pierre Jayet looking on at the Meridian Credit Union Arena Friday.

Meet the Predators

Name: **Dante Massi**
Jersey number: **15**
Age: **21**
Birthdate: **February 28, 2000**
Hometown: **Niagara Falls, Ontario**
Nickname: **Mass**
Favourite hockey player: **Pavel Datsyuk**
Favourite 'hype' song: **Blur Song 2 - 2012 Remaster**
Hockey highlight: **Playing for the Predators**
Other sports you play: **Soccer, ball hockey**
Favourite "cheat" meal: **Burger and fries**
Secret talent: **Making Internet memes**



LocalHAPPENINGS

Last fish fry of 2021 on December 16

FISH FRY

Thursday, December 2nd
4 - 7 p.m.
EAT IN OR TAKE OUT ONLY (no drive thru) • CASH ONLY
1 piece \$10
2 piece \$13
with fries and coleslaw
taxes included
Holiday Food Drive for Newark Neighbours
Legion
BRANCH 124 NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

ST. DAVIDS FISH FRYS RETURN

Friday, December 3rd 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Take-out!
1 piece \$10 2 piece \$15
Fish, our famous crispy fries and coleslaw!
Sorry no pan fried fish or baked potatoes available!
LET US COOK YOUR SUPPER!
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stdavidslions.ca @stdavidslions on Facebook

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or email: classified@notllocal.com

LocalWORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday, December 5th
10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering - Online & In-Person (Registration Required)
Message: Kevin Bayne - The Beginning of the Good News
Our services are also streamed online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our website for more information!
www.ccchurch.ca

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CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

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- Across:**
- 1 Name which sounds like a name
 - 7 WWW access enabler
 - 10 Salad variety
 - 14 Agreeable odors
 - 15 Akhenaten's son, briefly
 - 16 Rich Little, for example
 - 17 Render innocuous
 - 18 --- & Evelyn (body-product brand)
 - 20 Fish eggs
 - 21 Have a soak
 - 23 Long
 - 24 Touchdown turf
 - 26 "Cogito, ergo ---"
 - 28 "The buck stops here" monogram
 - 29 Banded chalcedony
 - 30 Funds for the golden years
 - 32 Put down
 - 35 Unattractive quality
 - 39 Former immigration island
 - 41 Convert into leather
 - 42 Unhand me!
 - 43 State with more corporations than people
 - 45 First Bible book after the Gospels
 - 46 Annie Oakley's employer
 - 47 Big rig brand
 - 50 Service score
 - 53 "% Daily Value" forerunner
- Down:**
- 1 Mexican mom
 - 2 Three bright stars are his belt on high
 - 3 Just defeated
 - 4 John Denver "Thank God --- Country Boy"
 - 5 Old file copy
 - 6 The same number of
 - 7 Desire
 - 8 Rings Sue about conclusive indication
 - 9 Bake-sale org.
 - 10 Blanchett of "Blue Jasmine"
 - 11 Probably the most prominent native of Kosciuszko MS
 - 12 Round at the bar
 - 13 Musburger or Scowcroft,
- for example**
- 19 One way to deliver
 - 22 Country singer Ritter
 - 25 Home to an archer, a lion and a bull
 - 27 Web address
 - 31 Shifty types
 - 32 Low-energy source of illumination
 - 33 Malt beverage
 - 34 Queasy
 - 35 Persian Gulf federation
 - 36 And so on
 - 37 Three-striper
 - 38 Shortest-named ABBA single
 - 40 Knights fought with them
 - 41 Persist
 - 44 Go on to say
 - 47 Colorado winter time
 - 48 Visitors from afar
 - 49 Lacks what it takes
 - 50 Nile dam
 - 51 Official state dish of Texas
 - 52 Surrealist Max ---
 - 55 Intoxicating
 - 56 Well under par
 - 57 Charger
 - 59 Causes of personality clashes
 - 61 Aware of
 - 64 Ramallah-based group
 - 66 Former Portuguese Indian colony

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OBITUARY



KATHERINE QUIRING
1934 - 2021

Katherine Quiring, of Virgil, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Saturday, November 27, 2021, in her 87th year.

Loving mother of Elsie (John) Anastasakis and Ron (Renee) Quiring. Grandmother of Joshua and Michael Anastasakis and Rebecca, Jason, Matthew (Rachel) and Natasha Quiring. Pre-deceased by husband Peter Quiring (2019), sister Nellie Voth (2009) and brothers Frank (2021), John (2014) and David (1988) Goertzen. Katherine was born in Crosshill, Ontario to Frank David & Nella (Thiessen) Goertzen.

Private funeral service will take place on Thursday, December 2nd, 2021 at Tallman Funeral Homes (3277 King St, Vineland) at 1:00 pm. To view the livestream please head to the Tallman Funeral Homes Facebook page. All provincial COVID-19 protocols will be followed including the wearing of masks.

Memorial donations may be made out to the Mennonite Central Committee or the Parkinsons Society.

Online condolences at www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca

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NOTICE

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040

Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from November 24, 2021

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

Across: 1 Monica, 7 I S P, 10 Cobb, 14 Aromas, 15 Tut, 16 Ape, 17 Disarm, 18 Crabtree, 20 Roe, 21 Bath, 23 Team, 24 End zone, 26 Sum, 28 H S T, 29 Onyx, 30 I R As, 32 Laid, 35 Ugliness, 39 Ellis, 41 Tan, 42 Let go, 43 Delaware, 45 Acts, 46 Cody, 47 Mack, 50 Ace, 53 R D A, 54 Slashes, 58 Shred, 60 Got in, 62 Eat, 63 Wingspan, 65 Engage, 67 Also, 68 Lit, 69 Noodle, 70 Nits, 71 On, O, 72 Stayed.

Down: 1 Madre, 2 Orion, 3 Nosed, 4 I'm a, 5 Carbon, 6 As many, 7 Itch, 8 Sure sign, 9 P-T-A, 10 Cate, 11 Oprah, 12 Beers, 13 Brent, 19 By mail, 22 Tex, 25 Zodiac, 27 U R L, 31 Sneaks, 32 L-E-D, 33 Ale, 34 Ill, 35 U A E, 36 Etc, 37 Sgt, 38 S O S, 40 Swords, 41 Try again, 44 Add, 47 M S T, 48 Aliens, 49 Cannot, 50 Aswan, 51 Chili, 52 Ernst, 55 Headly, 56 Eagle, 57 Steed, 59 Egos, 61 Onto, 64 P L O, 66 Goa.

LocalSPORTS

Local girl competing at national squash junior open

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

About 250 of the country's best young squash players will be converging at White Oaks Resort and Spa next week for the 2021 Canadian Junior Open.

Along with the athletes will be their parents, coaches and other supporters visiting Niagara-on-the-Lake Dec. 11 to 14, promising an entire building buzzing with excitement. It's the premiere event

of the squash season for the junior age players.

"We've hosted this event for about 25 years," says Matt Easingwood, White Oaks' squash director. "We have a number of Squash Canada officials coming, 12 referees coming from all over the province, and about 20 local volunteers helping out as well."

A brand new state-of-the-art glass court will be installed on the White Oaks tennis courts to allow as many

as 150 spectators to watch some of the action from all angles. That court will be used for matches featuring some of the top-ranked players, as well as for semi-final and final matches.

"It's the first time (for the glass court) since the 2014 Women's Team Championships, which were held here," Easingwood explains. "But this is a brand new court, just recently purchased by Squash Canada. It's going to be dedicated to Jonathon Power in a ceremony Saturday night."

Now retired from competition, the Comox, B.C. native will be on hand for the honour. The 47-year-old Power is known as one of the best shotmakers to ever take to the court. He was the first North American to attain the World number 1 ranking and won 36 top-level events over his career, including the 1998 World Open and the 1999 British Open.

About 10 local players will be competing next week, including 17-year-old Zoe Abraham of NOTL. This will be Zoe's third time competing at the nationals.

The A.N. Myer Secondary School student is looking forward to the competition.

"I'm in a higher age category, so everyone who is in this category is definitely competitive," Abraham tells The Local. "I think this year is going to be great, especially since we haven't been playing for a couple of years now. Everyone who has stuck around to play the sport will be great competitors."

The former figure skater took up the racquet sport just five years ago. After seeing the game being played while she was rehabbing a knee injury suffered on the ice, her interest was piqued, and she decided to join the junior program.

"It's a great facility to play at, and everyone is so welcoming at White Oaks," she says. "The squash community in general is just so welcoming. Being singled out playing squash you get to connect with all these people."

Abraham will be graduating this spring, hoping to start her post-secondary studies in social sciences and the environment at the University of Waterloo, Toronto or McMaster University. She hopes to play Ontario University Athletics (OUA) squash once her future is decided.

"I'm on the high school squash team," says Abraham.

"I roped some friends in so we could go to tournaments together. I definitely want to do an extra-curricular at university, and I've met some of the university coaches. Pre-COVID I worked with the University of Toronto's women's squash team, so I have a connection there."

Easingwood says there are about 60 participants in the White Oaks junior program, ranging in skill level from beginner to advanced, and in age from four to 19. They've been training since August following a pandemic-induced hiatus from the courts. Some participated in last weekend's Ontario Championships in preparation for the nationals.

Over its 30-plus years of operation, the White Oaks junior program has turned out some of the best young players in the country.

"Nick Sachvie is a two-time national champion. He still trains here," Easingwood says of the St. Catharines resident, now 29 years old. Sachvie, currently ranked 120th in the world, plays on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) circuit. On Nov. 8, Sachvie knocked out the top two seeds to claim his first ti-

tle since 2019 in the Gatineau PSA Challenger in Quebec.

"We've also had Akashan Rajagopaul, from Niagara Falls. He won the Canadian Junior Open in 2014 (at U15) and 2016 (at U17)."

Easingwood also points to another White Oaks player from St. Catharines, Noah Crawford, who won the U15 Ontario Junior Open Championship in 2018.

Also new to the nationals this year are U23 men and women categories, to be recognized as a PSA satellite event with \$500 in prize money for each division. The new age groups were created in part for those players who may have missed out on their last year of junior eligibility and for other post-junior athletes.

Though Abraham originally thought her entry into this year's U19 event would be her last year playing at the Canadian Junior Open, she admits that she would love to come back and play in that category in the future.

"Since we introduced that, I will definitely have the chance to enter that. It's my home club. I'd love to come back here and compete again."



Zoe Abraham will compete at the squash junior nationals, held at White Oaks Conference Centre and Spa. (Mike Balsom)



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