



Dog Sanctuary needs help at **Christmas and** all year long page 18

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Athena Snyder is the first to have her candle lit at the Court House by Ceto Reid for the start of Friday's Candlelight Stroll. Reid, an injured farmworker, was chosen to be the recipient of some of the funds raised, and to lead the stroll. (Penny Coles)

Candlelight stroll celebrates spirit of holiday season

Penny Coles The Local

As a crowd gathered around the Queen Street cenotaph Friday evening, the anticipation and excitement for the 33rd annual stroll was evident.

Outside the Court House, candles were purchased and eager participants were entertained with carols sung by Debbie Whitehouse, accompanied by the Salvation Army band, a tradition of the popular event organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Inside, Ceto Reid took centre stage, honoured to be a recipient of funds from the sale of candles. He and others who would lead the stroll met in the warmth of the Lord Mayor's office, where a small reception was held before the event.

Reid is a migrant farmworker who was injured while riding his bike in St. Catharines

Oct. 6, the day before he was to complete his eight months of work on a NOTL farm before flying home to his family and his own farm in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica.

He was returning to NOTL with a load of clean laundry on his bike, when he was hit by a car on Carlton Street. His hip was badly injured, requiring surgery in Hamilton, and he is staying at the farm where he worked until it has healed enough to travel.

Reid told The Local that Jane Andres and Julia Buxton-Cox, both advocates for farmworkers, have been looking after him, dropping off food and making sure he has everything he needs. "They take care of me," he says. "Anything I need, they look after it."

He is in a lot of pain from his hip and knee, and on crutches but not able to put any weight

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Devon and family continue to feel community love

Mike Balsom The Local

Since mid-June, the Virgil home of Scott and Dani Botbyl and their children Devon and Elise has been undergoing a major renovation, including the installation of an elevator make the house fully accessible

items temporarily packed away, ments in Toronto last Friday, every plastic barrier isolating a construction area from the rest of the household, has served as constant reminders to the Chamber of Commerce to family of the love and kindness of the community.

"It warms our hearts," Dani tion last week. says. "The plans for this were and other improvements to set well over a year ago. Every enthusiastic about the 2021 day I think of the community, with all of this right here Botbyl. Eighteen years old at er and bigger, it was becoming Last year's Candlelight around us. When the anniver- the time, he couldn't contain his more challenging for the family Stroll was a major factor in sary of the stroll came it really excitement as he boarded the to help him navigate the steps hit home."

the family was unable to attend the event. But they made sure to visit the Niagara-on-the-Lake pay back some of the love and kindness in the form of a dona-

There was no one more Candlelight Stroll than Devon

chromosome condition that leaves him with global delays and autistic tendencies. He also has mobility challenges and is immunocompromised. As well, he underwent months of immunotherapy and chemotherapy treatments to fight lymphoma that was diagnosed in 2021.

As Devon began to get old-



for 19-year-old Devon.

making the work possible.

Every speck of drywall dust, every box and bin of household for some last-minute appoint-

horse-drawn carriage to lead between floors in their home. With Devon scheduled the gathered masses in the walk. Devon was born with a rare

Continued on page 3

Devon Botbyl shows off the elevator funded in part by last year's Candlelight Stroll. (Mike Balsom)

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Sold-out house tour features stunning homes



The Funkhouse was decorated with a combination of modern and traditional, perfect for the house. (Mike Balsom)

Mike Balsom The Local

The 23rd annual Rotary Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake Holiday House Tour was a designer and builder Dave ing both modern and tradicomplete sell-out.

Ticket buyers were invited to visit six stunning homes last Friday and Saturday. The NOTL Local had a chance to tour each of the professionally beauty of the season.

This year's tour featured

Niagara Parkway and finally, a custom built home set coutrements. amongst vineyards.

Funk, who lives in the home tional touches in her seasonal with his wife Amy, features creations at this house. floor-to-ceiling windows in the kitchen, allowing visitors home on Cottage Street, with to view the vineyards beyond its arched brick seating area, the sparkling pool. The men is reminiscent of many of decorated sites and take in the on the tour were salivating NOTL's most popular winerover Funk's huge man cave ies. At this stop some of the out back. It's a modernized, beautiful decorations were

one in St. Davids, one on the able for a big screen television and any other man cave ac-

Decorator Tracy Neeb did The Funkhouse, built by a fantastic job of incorporat-

The barrel cellar at the three homes in the Old Town, converted barn perfectly suit- actually edible, in the form





Barbara McArthur greets guests to the McArthur Estate, a favourite on the house tour, with Santa. (Rose Campbell)

er treats created by Willow musicians, including Bob Cakes and Pastries.

Shaw's Lane, even the stunning laundry room was decorated by Regal Florists, which two ornately decorated firehas participated in the tour every one of its 23 years.

At the Carmelian on Ricardo Street, owner Robert Mc-

of cookies, cakes and oth- about his art prints of famous Marley and Louis Armstrong, At the Udder House on with The Local. Santa will be quite impressed on Christmas Eve as he emerges from one of places. His only problem will be deciding which chimney he will go down.

Caughey was excited to talk chance to give back to the

"I was happy to have the

community," said McCaughey. "The Rotary Club does so many great things in Niagaraon-the-Lake, and this is their biggest fundraiser."

On the Niagara Parkway, the Cape Cod-style Rivervine House was more traditionally adorned. Owner Brian Harrison led the tour into his converted garage, which became a refuge during COVID, a place where friends could gather and remain socially distanced. It was tastefully decorated by The Garden Club of Niagara.

Finally, the historic Lowrey House in St. Davids was the only one fully decorated

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Elevator allows family to stay in Virgil neighbourhood

Continued from page 1

It soon was clear that they had two options: move to a more accessible bungalow or do something to make their current home fit Devon's needs.

The family has been living in their two-storey house in a Virgil subdivision for 26 years. They love the home, but they love their neighbours and friends even more.

Devon can often be spotted riding his bike around the subdivision. And when friends drop by to visit, he often invites them down to the basement for a game of mini-sticks hockey. He has a wicked shot, by the way.

Because of their love of the community, the renovation option won out.

When Eduardo Lafforgue, president of the NOTL Chamber at the time, contacted the family last November to tell them Devon would be the recipient of funds raised from the stroll, they were overwhelmed by the gesture.

The event last year raised \$6,500 via candle sales. But a cheque for twice that amount was presented to the Botbyls two weeks later. An anonymous donor had generously matched the total raised. And Dani confirms that another local family foundation also stepped up to match that total shortly after the family had received their cheque.

One of those neighbours, remains to be done is mostly coincidentally, is doing the cosmetic - painting and reinwork on the house. Matt Hozak, who lives just one block away from the Botbyls, is the entrance area, to the right. If vice-president of Sente Building Group. They've become elevator in the home it would specialists of a sort in elevator installation.

structural elements to the house that had to be changed. An exterior wall had to be removed so an extension could be installed to house the shaft. An interior concrete root cellar wall was knocked down to extend the elevator into the basement. And modifications to the stairs were necessary to work around the new addition.

Despite the dumpster in the driveway since last June, boxes and bins in the basement impinging on Elise's space, and construction workers coming in and out for months, Dani says there has been very little inconvenience.

"They put plastic up, and there was no ventilation in the enclosed area," explains Dani. "We didn't have any dust, and they worked around our family schedule in the summer, starting an hour later at 8 a.m."

During a recent visit to their home, The Local discovered the construction is nearing completion. Most of the plastic barriers inside the house have been removed and the exterior is taking shape. What

stalling carpet and flooring.

The elevator itself is in their one didn't know there was an be assumed it was a closet door. For over a week now it has been There were some major in use by Devon and the rest of the family.

> Devon is excited to show guests his new way of getting around the house. He enters the elevator with his walker and sits down on it as he presses the button to start the short trek. The ride is smooth and fast.

> With the walker, the space comfortably fits Dani, Devon and this reporter.

And, bonus, there is no elevator music piped in!

The first stop is on the second floor, where a sliding door for Devon's renovated accessible washroom, around the corner, is waiting to be installed.

He says the first day he was able to use the elevator he went up and down at least four times. One suspects it may have actually been a little more than that.

Then it's down two floors to the basement, where the ministicks game ensues. Devon scores on his very first shot.

It's clear that this is already a life-changer for Devon and the family. He will no longer need assistance to move about the family home. And with some surgeries expected to be sched-



The elevator is large enough to hold Devon and two others and reaches the top floor as well as the basement. (Mike Balsom)

number one fan of the Niaga-

Says Scott, "We didn't want

uled in the near future, his ing in bocce with the Brock mobility may be affected even Niagara Penguins. As well, the further soon.

Of course, he'll still need ra Predators can be seen at the assistance to get to his Tuesday Meridian Credit Union Arena social nights at Red Roof Reevery Friday night. treat and to Brock University, where he has been participatto leave this house. Devon

knows everybody that lives on this street. Everybody is so friendly. The elevator allows us to stay right here."

Adds Dani, "We are extremely thankful for the contributions which helped ease the cost of the complex project."



An addition to the outside of the home to accommodate the elevator fits right in. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

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Town, Lord Mayor respond to Bill 23 concerns

Penny Coles The Local

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa says although council has not yet had the opportunity to discuss the impact of Bill 23, town staff have responded with comments to the province about their housing outcomes." concerns.

met and had a discussion, he says, and the region has also provided a list of concerns to the province.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario have as well both made their issues with the bill known, and the negative impact that will be felt across the legislation.

Zalepa says he has received questions from residents asking what is being done to protect Niagaraon-the-Lake, particularly Greenbelt, and he is happy to tell them municipal staff have already reached out to the province.

The town's response, signed by CAO Marnie Cluckie, planning director Kirsten McCauley, and corporate services director Kyle Freeborn, says while and transferring the cost of al of Bill 23 and consult tal issues, he says.

Niagara-on-the-Lake rec- growth from developers to further on the changes proognizes the need for more taxpayers. affordable and attainable housing, the town "is concerned that many of the issues with the bill's intent changes proposed through to remove some of NPCA Bill 23 will result in unintended consequences that over planning, and recomwill thwart the desired mends the province heed

Regional council has include impacts to the en- impact the environment. vironment and heritage the bill would allow development within protected million in development areas, and would make it charges over five years difficult to protect heritage revenue that would have to buildings.

residential units per lot in ince to make up the differall residential areas, and would mean a loss of control over site plans and urban design — the municiprovince as a result of the pality would no longer be would also limit the muable to comment on the ex- nicipality's ability to fund terior design of a building capital costs of growthor landscaping elements of related infrastructure, the a property to be developed. town says. "A longstanding

a reduction to public par- growth pays for growth," it from development on the ticipation and consultation continues. over development; and it developers as new subdivisions are constructed.

velopment charges paid by owners." developers to the town, impacting municipal finances province to "pause approv-

The town's response to the province also says it has and regional authority regional and NPCA con-Their specific concerns cerns that will negatively

Bill 23 could cost the town \$925,000 to \$1.3 come from taxpayers or be It proposes up to three supplemented by the provence in funding, the town's letter to the province states.

The proposed changes to development charges The bill would legislate principle in planning is that

"The changes proposed would limit the town's abili- transfer the financial burty to acquire parkland from den of growth to the taxpayers, with the potential of creating affordability And it would reduce de- issues for existing home-

The town has asked the

posed to understand the implications at the local level."

The region's response also talks of the impacts of the reduction of development charges, which will affect infrastructure funding and the ability to manage growth, and requests mechanisms to offset that lost funding. Like the town, the region has also asked the province for time for more consultation.

There has been some indication in the last few days that the province is willing to look at a mechanism to compensate municipalities, at least large urban areas, for the loss of funding, but nothing definite.

Zalepa says the town "recognizes the importance of policies which will assist the current housing crisis in Ontario," and NOTL has taken a co-operative approach in providing comments to the province on aspects of Bill 23 "by leveraging the Region of Niagara's process, and providing our own comments."

In an effort to avoid duplication, the town has focused on the heritage conservation and the natural heritage and environmen-



notllocal.com

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa (Photo supplied)

reaching out to him to ask how the town is responding to Bill 23, about issues such as possible development there will be an opportuniin the Greenbelt areas of NOTL and other concerns, "and they seem pleased to hear the response from the municipality, and also ter of waiting to hear back from AMO."

He says the province seems to be expressing a willingness to talk through some of the issues with the next steps."

Residents have been AMO, and there have been some back-and-forth conversations.

Zalepa says he believes ty to work out some of the concerns, including management of heritage assets.

At this point, it's a matfrom the province with its response to the town and regional comments, Zalepa says, "and then consider





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The harsh reality for thousands of families in Niagara is that they don't have enough money to cover basic necessities, let alone 'extras' like toys. Not even during the holidays. For many of us, this is difficult to imagine. Why can't they budget better? Why can't they work harder and make more money? It's not that simple.

While each family situation is unique, imagine this:

You're the mother of two children, ages seven and four. You're separated from their father and share parental responsibilities so you can only work during school hours. You don't have childcare or extended kids getting sick and you're in Niagara. family nearby. Your former partner works long hours,



forced to give up shifts. Your paycheck shrinks. ken record at this point. manage, albeit with a light- After the rent is paid and so before and after-school You fall even further be- Everyone talks about our er wallet. However, some food is bought, this mother care is up to you. Add in hind. Surprisingly, this gas bills, grocery prices of our community's more of two would have nothing school closures or your scenario is not uncommon and the housing market. vulnerable members sim- left. Not even enough to af-

Inflation is like a bro- challenge, most of us will

While we all navigate this ply can't.

Back to our scenario:

ford warm winter boots for her children.

So, what is she to do? There are community programs that help families like this with food, clothing, bills, mental health support, after-school care, literacy and recreation for the kids and more. However, these programs require stable funding to operate.

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*To receive updates on our community impact and other news throughout the year.

THE NOTL Gocal **EDITORIAL December 7, 2022** notllocal.com Thanks to all who help at the holidays, and year round

Last week, for those who us truly feel the holiday spirit. read The Local editorial, we talked about how pervasive anger is these days - really difficult to understand at this magical time of year, in this incredible town that is never more beautiful, not only in its holiday decor, but for the generosity of spirit shown by residents and businesses. It's crazy to even think about it, but also hard to ignore.

Yet after a weekend of awesome events which made some of us finally feel we can enjoy a normal Christmas, it's a good time to say thank you to all those who have contributed in ways large and small to making those events happen,

Two years ago was the Christmas that wasn't. A year ago everyone was scrambling to figure out how to enjoy the

holidays safely. This year, even though COVID-19 is still around us, we can feel comfortable attending events and being amongst family and friends again — mostly thanks to vaccinations.

It takes a ton of volunteers to put on a Rotary Holiday House Tour, many of them doing it year after year. The organizers, the decorators, the house captains — they have all done an enormous amount of work to stage such a hugely and are doing their part to help successful, fun and fundrais-

ing event.

The NOTL Chamber of Commerce and volunteers put together another Candlelight Stroll, also raising money to help an injured farmworker, The Farmworker Hub, and the local palliative care organization — what a way to kick off the holiday season!

Joan King and her group of volunteers will be bringing joy to the seniors at longterm care homes — she took a lovely, simple idea, to stuff Christmas stockings for them, which has turned out to be so appreciated by those on the receiving end.

NOTL Gives Back collected food for Newark Neigh-

once again provide a happy Christmas for those in need in NOTL. The event also gathered toys for children who will be in hospital over Christmas, instead of cozy, safe and healthy at home with their families opening gifts under a tree.

Even our senior fourlegged friends are being cared for, by Christine Van Moorsel and her Angel's Rest sanctuary, and all those who support her.

The NOTL Christmas Parade committee has been working toward their goal of putting on the best parade ever this Saturday, and they will do just that — they always do.

At The Local office, we bours, whose volunteers will have witnessed an outpouring

of the community who have dropped off food, clothing and toys for the Ukrainian Help Boutique, for Shirley Madsen to collect and deliver. We are so, so fortunate to be living where we do, in a prosperous community in a free country where we don't have to worry about whether we'll be bombed today or this week, whether we or our family members will live to see another Christmas.

We now have a community of Ukrainians in Niagara, safe, but far from home and loved ones left behind, facing a holiday without them. Niagara residents are doing what they can to help. It can never

of generosity from members be enough to erase decades of people living in a besieged country (as history tells us this is not recent), but it's important to let them know we care.

> Thank you to all who are helping to spread holiday cheer, whether it's organizing an event, volunteering to make it run smoothly, or opening hearts and wallets to others who are struggling through what should be a happy time.

> Thank you to all who make our little corner of the world a pretty perfect place to live, and to those who also reach out to others who are not quite so fortunate.

Penny Coles The Local

Does perfect environmentalist exist, or try their best?



Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Just a week ago, I was having an intriguing discussion with someone over the idea of how an individual, business, or a country could truly be carbon-neutral. Meaning, that entity consumes as much carbon as it sequesters, therefore leaving no negative impact on climate change.

It sounds like a concept one would like to pursue, but is it actually possible? How much pressure should we be putting on ourselves and oth-

global difference to combat mistic, the lead singer repeats, climate change and the loss of biodiversity?

thinking about the scientific, personal, and societal implications of our efforts, and where they can be made.

I propose that we first need to admit something: we cannot be perfect. No individual or country can exist on this planet without leaving a carbon footprint or harming the environment indirectly. If this is the reality, then what us, so if we are going to take can we do?

One of my favourite bands, Radiohead, has always held much of their lyricism and messaging close to nature, our treatment of the world, and politics around it. In the song pects of their lives. We can

ers to make a true local and half-sarcastically titled Opti-"You can try the best you can — you can try the best you This conversation got me can — the best you can is good enough."

> As a standalone lyric, it seems to ring true for this conversation. If we all tried the best we could, there would be a resulting net influence of more people making more of a difference. Time and time again has showed that we can't rely on big government or corporations to do this for matters into our own hands a little more, what does that look like?

It might mean a population of people deciding to change some, but not all as-

View from the couch

Donald Combe **Special to The Local**

And So It Goes - Prime 2014: The critics universally panned it, audiences disliked it, the plot was totally predict-

no director; however, for me, it was worth watching just to see the skills of Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton who were magic despite everything that was wrong with this pretty

Donald Combe is a retired *English teacher who loves to go to* movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed Netflix series and movies for necessities required for our

become 8/10 good global stewards versus 5/10. Asking for a perfect 10 is asking a lot, so let's look at this realistically.

First, let's talk about our globally-entrenched lifestyle of burning fossil fuels, and contrast the differences between necessity and pleasure.

Burning fossil fuels for work and economic growth has undeniably been humanity's backbone since the 1700s. Coal, natural gas, and oil have given us an evolutionary leap into a powerful and creative species which has since dominated the planet. One could argue that by evolution and our curious homo sapiens brains, we were destined to discover something so useful to help us survive and proliferate. We wouldn't live the life we live today if it weren't for fossil fuels, but time is running out.

Much of the developed world also burns fossil fuels for fun. This presents a sticky philosophical conversation about what we call a 'need'. If we take the definition of the word quite literally, such actelling a story and making to share his opinions, through tivities would imply that they "short and sweet" exclusives, of are absolute and indisputable



Driving a jeep and taking long hot showers admittedly make me an imperfect environmentalist in this day and age of climate change, but we have hundreds of other opportunities in life to do the best we can and cause more positive than negative change. (Photo supplied)

live in a culturally-structured out to help clean up trash in world where we still can do these things, so we do. It's nobody's fault.

In this area of the globe, instead of outright cancelling all of the facets of life we've come to grow and love, what if we could enjoy a comfortable lifestyle while picking up the slack in other areas of our lives? It's impossible to be perbest we can?

carbon-burning

multiple

a local creek, raise environmental consciousness they might vote for one day, and then drive home in your big pickup truck after. Fly down to Florida for a warm getaway, and then come back home to do a better job at recycling or using less plastics in your house.

Our world leaders fly in fect, so can we at least do the private jets all of the time to meet about such things, and Perhaps this looks like nothing ever seems to tranbuying local, which takes spire. So, I'd argue it's up to us to do the best we can. On To be blunt, we don't need shipment steps out of boats that note, I'll leave you with an honest note about myself. environmental My guilty pleasures include my gas-guzzling jeep, a fat steak on the barbeque, and long, hot showers. It's on the record, and I have no issue in talking about it. I'm not environmentally perfect, even coupled with my public image as an environmentalist, outdoor educator, and a staunch protector of our ecosystems. However, I spend every other waking moment in my life fighting for conservation, and how our community can become more educated and positively rally around that for the sake of our planet. The message: we can all try the best we can.

The Local. able and it seemed there was mediocre film.



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species to survive.

grass lawns and the motored and trucks from around the machines that cut them. We world. Maybe you still enjoy don't need snowmobiles or a that savoury red meat barsecond luxury car. We don't beque, but find time to plant need to eat red meat, and we a bunch of carbon-sucking don't need to go on vacation native trees and pollinator or see concerts while burn- plants on our unused areas of ing a ton of fuel. However, we yard. You can take your kids

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The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

look for the light

Alexander Mills Special to The Local

It's 2:55pm as I write this, and as I look out my office window the sun is nowhere to be found. It's not just that it's eclipsed by a blanket of grey clouds (which it currently is), but it seems that it hasn't been coming around much at all lately. The sun is scheduled to set at 4:42 p.m. today, but for the last few weeks it's felt like it rarely even rises at all.

It's just a symptom of living in the northern hemisphere, of course. It's darker for longer this time of year, and it seems like the speed of quickening darkness has been exacerbated by the recent time change.

I remember my wife Rebecca's first winter here in Canada. We were living in the basement of my parent's house. Deep into December when coloured lights draped on homes and carols rang on public speakers, when everything was supposed to be merry and bright if you will, Rebecca was feeling awfully sad. She couldn't quite put her finger on why in the midst of a joyous season it was hard to feel glad, and it required the help of our naturopath to suggest that the winter season in the northern hemisphere was affecting the mood of this Southern Belle. She grew up in South Carolina, which never lacks in sunshine, and the shorter days in the basement were proving to be a bit of a to the darkness and squander shock to her system.

I learned that it's not always just a deficiency of vitamin D that causes us to feel seasonally depressed, it can be more broadly caused by a lack of exposure to light in general — we just spend too much time in the dark.

I don't know the entirety of what this year held for you, but I do know that we share the same cultural context and are yells, as if he's seeing it for the living through the same moment in time and space.



Alexander Mills, with his wife Rebecca and their son Asher. encourages us to reach for the light at Christmas. (Supplied)

we're the ones who have to live ings that are hanging on our through this at all.

Not very merry, hardly bright.

But here's the thing, friends - fighting seasonal sadness requires intentional movement towards the light. Supplementing with vitamin D, flying to South Carolina to see the beach in our midwinter, going for winter walks outside instead of on the treadmill in the basement or at the gym.

I'm convinced that the same thing is required of us in the midst of proverbial darkness.

In order to not succumb our hope, we must make intentional movements towards the may it enlighten your way like light.

I see light in our advent flection of the moon. candle that we light every day of December. The feeble flame, flickering on the wick and casting shadows that dance on the walls.

I see light in our son Asher's eyes when finds the moon in the sky at night. "Moon!" he from the Lord of the Rings: very first time.

We're feeling pressed on all birds that migrate to our back- has befallen and we stand at the

piano - specifically the two extra that represent Rebecca's sisters, who are coming to Canada for Christmas.

I see light on my winter walks through the forest. Even as the sun sets a little early, the delight of dusk still drapes the forest floor with a glow that can only be held this time of year.

I'm seeing light in every crack, corner, and crevice because I need to, and I expect the same is true for you.

So this year, my blessing and my prayer for you is that you find the light, and you let it illuminate your darkness.

Make your intentional movements towards it, and the flame of a candle or the re-

And when it feels so dark that you can only move by feeling your way along, remember that the world will soon tilt towards the light, and the sun will shine again.

I leave you with this, a quote

"I do not know what is happening. The reason of my wak-I see light in the scurrying ing mind tells me that great evil

Bill 23 position must be clearly stated

I read with interest Mike our community for the foreing-in ceremony of our new Lord Mayor and town councillors (The Local, Nov. 23).

Mayor identified the following priority: "(Additionally,) Mail and the Toronto Star), we must raise our profile and from mayors and town with other governments, in Niagara, at Queen's Park and in Ottawa, making sure that what is important to you is communicated to these governments."

Doug Ford's government has its current state and requests introduced, and passed, the that the Ontario Provincial legislative act known as Bill Government withdraw and/ 23. This bill will have significant impact on the future of riod for feedback on poten-

Balsom's report on the swear- seeable future, and consistent criticism and concern of the implications of this measure have come from sourc-In that article, the Lord es as diverse as the national print media (the Globe and councils such as our neighbours in Grimsby, who under the leadership of Mayor Jeff Jordan, unanimously issued the following statement:

"The Town of Grimsby Since that time, Premier does not endorse Bill 23 in or extend the comment pe-

tial legislative, regulatory, policy and other charges, to allow for full municipal participation" (www.wn3. ca/2022/11/30/grimsby-rejects-bill-23-unanimously-in-special-meeting/)

I would respectfully ask that the Lord Mayor and Council issue a statement clearly stating their position on this legislation, as their current silence does not meet the promised standard of "making sure that what is important to you is communicated to these governments."

> **Mike James** NOTL

Stocking stuffers hard at work



sides and it's harder to catch yard this time of year. The dark- end of days. But my heart says our breath. The darkness con- eyed juncos forage in our sleep- nay; and all my limbs are light, sistently creeps in, stepping on ing garden, eating the remains and a hope and joy are come to our toes and stifling our hopes.

they say, and we wonder why

of this year's crop and aiding me that no reason can deny. I Unprecedented times as the soil for next year's planting. I see light in the five stock-

do not believe that darkness will endure!" -J.R.R. Tolkien

Marlene Sibbald, Norma Price and Joan King were at the community centre Tuesday with about 80 of the stockings that will be delivered to long-term care homes in NOTL Friday, Dec. 16. There are more to come — several volunteers are working away at fill about 140 more stockings for seniors. (David Gilchrist)



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THE NOTL Gocal

Count Basie Orchestra swings into holiday music

Mike Balsom The Local

The first order of business for trumpeter Scotty Barnhart when he took the helm of the Count Basie Orchestra in 2013 was to plan the legendary big band's very first Christmas album.

Barnhart will lead the 18-piece orchestra into St. Catharines on Sunday, Dec. 18 to kick off the final week before Santa comes to town. The Bravo Niagara! Festival show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre's Partridge Hall.

With the original bandleader at its helm, Basie's orchestra released a swinging version of Jingle Bells as a single in the early 1960s. A quick search of YouTube will reveal a great video of the pianist leading his band in a performance of that song on the Ed Sullivan Show. And a later version of the Count Basie Big Band backed up Tony Bennett on his 2008 A Swingin' Christmas album.

But 2015's A Very Swingin' Basie Christmas! was the first official full album of Christmas music from the venerable jazz institution.

Barnhart, who carries on the 87-year-old legacy of one of the most important musicians in jazz history, is sure the orchestra's namesake would have approved of the album.

"Trust me, he's smiling," says Barnhart of Basie, who died in 1984. "Everybody that I know who knew him and knew what he was all about would say he'd definitely be all about this."

In 1935, New Jersey native William James "Count" Basie formed his big band out of the ashes of the late Bennie Moten's Kansas City Orchestra. With Basie at the piano, the big band quickly gained popularity, and soon Basie was competing with Benny Goodman for the title of "King of Swing".

Though the namesake himself has been gone for nearly 40 years, Barnhart and his fellow musicians see themselves as carriers of the Basie torch. He likens the Count





The 18-piece Count Basie Orchestra will be at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre Sunday, Dec 18. (Photos supplied)

band sound. That's what alband is playing, it takes as little name of the orchestra.

And as the orchestra apinto the blues in 2023.

"Three years ago, Mr. Basie was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis, and I was a presenter at the Blues Awards there," explains he sounded like a combination Barnhart. "I was in the presence of great blues musicians, including Bobby Rush, Mud Morganfield (son of legendary Chicago blues guitarist Muddy Waters), and (drummer) Bernard Purdie. It dawned on me that we needed to do the music of Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, Koko Taylor and B.B. King. So that's what we did."

Barnhart says not only is it the first time for the Basie band to record a Delta blues album, it's also the first time the combination has ever been tried before. And he hit on exactly how to get it done when the orchestra was booked a year later to play a private wedding such as trumpeter Terence at the 7,500-acre estate of a Blanchard and award-winning multi-millionaire.

"There was nowhere I meia Horn.

could find an example of how lows Barnhart to claim that, if it would sound," he tells The you close your eyes while his Local on the phone from his office at Florida State Univeras two seconds to identify the sity, where he is a professor at their College of Music. "He (the multi-millionaire) asked proaches its 10th decade of ex- if he could sit in on guitar. I istence, Barnhart is leading his asked him what he wanted bandmates ever more deeply to play, and he said 'let's play some blues, any key.""

> Barnhart was immediately blown away by how the two worlds collided.

> "When he started playing, of every great blues guitarist that ever lived, rolled into one," Barnhart says. "That was it. That was exactly what I was looking for. It's unbelievable how the guitar and harmonica sound with the orchestra. All I can say is ooooo-eeee!"

The blues album will feature guests from the world of the Delta blues, including the afore-mentioned Rush and Mr. Sipp, known as the Mississippi Blues Child, as well as George Benson. It will be one of two records released by the Basie Orchestra in 2023. The other will play on the theme of *Basie* After Dark, and feature guests Texas-born jazz singer Jazz-

that the orchestra stays relevant with projects like these. That makes it easier for him to about the place the Count held and continues to hold in the rines appearance. history of jazz.

important thing for our faculty is that the students understand the heaviness of the history of We try to get them to see the days. totality of the music."

Perhaps some of those 18to 22-year-old FSU students will one day find themselves part of the Count Basie Orchestra brand. Barnhart has no doubt that the name can continue to represent high quality jazz and swing for at least another hundred years.

"It's a level of excellence," explains Barnhart. "You've got to play a certain way. We're playing the right music the right way with the right person in charge. As long as that keeps happening, there's no reason this orchestra can't continue to be around. We can feel his spirit on stage every time we play."

Two of the members of the current orchestra, vocalist Carmen Bradford and trombonist

Scotty Barnhart will lead the Count Basie Orchestra and Carmen Bradford with sing at their Sunday performance for Bravo Niagara!

It's important to Barnhart Clarence Banks, can most likely really feel Basie's spirit when they perform. Both played with Basie before he passed teach his young FSU students away. They are two of the 18 performers for the St. Catha-

This week, the spirit of "They get it," he says. "The Basie is swinging into Europe, the first time in three years the orchestra has been able to perform overseas. Their short the music, not just the Basie run there takes them to Swit-Orchestra, but Cole Porter, zerland, Austria, Luxembourg John Coltrane, Miles Davis. and Poland over a mere 11

> Their first concert back on North American soil will be the Dec. 18 Bravo Niagara! performance. Barnhart promises a holiday-themed show that hews closely to the songs from the popular Christmas

album, combined with a few classics for which the Basie big band has long been known.

Barnhart isn't sure whether or not the Basie ensemble has ever played in St. Catharines and in its 87 years of existence. Bravo Niagara!'s Alexis Spieldenner says the last time the Basie orchestra played anywhere in the area was probably some time in the 1930s at the historic Crystal Ballroom in Crystal Beach.

After having to reschedule the show from its original 2020 date, Spieldenner says, "We are absolutely thrilled to finally present The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra to a full house here in Niagara. It promises to be an unforgettable night."

And an historic one, too.



Basie Orchestra's continued relevance to that of the New York Philharmonic, founded in 1842 by conductor Ureli Corelli Hill.

"They're still going," says Barnhart. "I don't look at the Count Basie Orchestra as any different from that orchestra's longevity. He set a standard, and he knew he wanted to keep it going after he was gone. It's like a brand. When you get us, you get a specific sound. You know it's not Ellington, it's not the Buddy Rich Band or the Glenn Miller Orchestra."

That specific sound is based on the blues. From their start in 1935, Basie's musicians combined elements from the two truly American musical forms — blues and jazz — to create their own unique big

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Elf-approved tips to keep watch on your home this holiday season

meant to be a time of cheer, but they can also be busy. As to-do lists grow and parties start, it's important to keep your home and those Christmas gifts – safe. The good news is, there are easy ways to live in fear, theft and keep a watchful eye.

Make it merry and bright

Get creative with your festive lighting. Not only does it serve up festive security system that in- take advantage of the abil-

your walkway and entry- and real-time alerts. That your home from anywhere ways can also deter people way, you're immediately from approaching your notified of activity around property.

Get smart with security

break-and-entering gen- been opened. erally increase over the easy and effective way to monitor your home, con- shopping at the mall or vissider an all-in-one smart iting relatives out of town,

(NC) The holidays are cheer, but illuminating cludes 24/7 monitoring ity to secure and control your home – and we're not talking about a visit from Santa – such as someone While you shouldn't walking up your driveway

holiday season. For an **Automate from anywhere**

Whether you're out

with an all-in-one smart security system such as Telus SmartHome Security. Schedule or manually turn your lights on and off to give the illusion someone or if a door or window has is home, or lock and unlock your doors when your children get home from school. True automation can provide added peace of mind and security from near or far.



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Why a will or charitable gift is the perfect gift idea

may seem like an unusual time to think about writing a will. But as strange as it may sound, a will, or planning to leave a charitable gift within a will, can be meaningful for children, spouses and charities.

Financial planners re-

(NC) Holiday season Canadians writing wills fect gift because it ensures tions in receiving their even worse. Wills can help make in their lifetime. It more than half of Cana- any plans for guardianship out so there's no room for about estates. dians don't have one. Of and care are clear. When confusion. the Canadians who have a someone dies without a of them are out of date, ac- laws kick in, leaving chil-

will, roughly 2.95 million will, provincial succession ing way to protect your for their favourite charity

during the pandemic, but children are clearly named inheritance. A will clear- prevent family conflict can also reduce potential even with that increase, as beneficiaries and that ly spells out everything and clear up confusion taxes, meaning there can

Canadians can use A will is also a car- their will to leave a gift spouse or partner. The ex- too. When people leave a being an unlikely part of cording to recent research dren vulnerable to delays, istence of a clearly written percentage of their estate the holiday season, it may by Canadian Legal Wills. assumptions about what legal will relieves some of to a charity such as World be one of the most mean-For those of us with a parent's intentions were the stress that could make Vision, it could be a larger ingful gifts to plan and ported an upsurge in children, a will is the per- and potential complica- an extremely difficult time gift than they were able to share.

be more left for everyone when a charity is included in a will.

So as opposed to a will

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4 things you might not know about the flu

(NC) With the COVID-19 pandemic grabbing headlines the last two years, the flu has managed to fade into the background. Unfortunately, it's still here, and looking to make its return this winter. Arm yourself with the right information before it gets here. For instance, did you know:

1. The flu can kill you For many people, catch-

ing the flu is a hassle—an unpleasant few days in bed while you catch up on your favourite TV shows. But the flu is among the top 10 leading causes of death have any symptoms. In for Canadians, responsible for an average of more than 12,000 hospitaliza-

Canada each year.

2. You're contagious before symptoms start

Like with COVID, it's possible to have the flu and be contagious but not symptomatic cases, you're contagious for a full day before the first symptoms tions and 3,500 deaths in show themselves. That's help the virus spread. The there are recommended

why it's important to take World Health Organiza- vaccines based on indipreventative steps at the tion monitors flu cases vidual factors, such as if start of flu season, such as year-round, which helps you're over 65 years old, getting vaccinated.

3. There's more than one flu

The influenza virus has different strains, just like COVID does. The changes are random, and some vaccines?

to inform the develop- pregnant, or if you have ment of vaccines.

4. You've got options for flu prevention

Did you know there's different kinds of flu In Canada,

a chronic health condition. With many flu vaccines available in Canada, talk with your doctor or pharmacist about choosing the right flu vaccine for you.

www.newscanada.com

Is COVID-19 still riskier than a cold?

COVID-19 cases expected this season, many people are curious about risk and what they can do. While COVID-19 might feel less scary for many of us now that it's been here for a few years, it is definitely not you're vaccinated.

While vaccines are working for most people around the world, evolving variants of the virus are always a concern, as is facing long-COVID-19 symptoms after an infection. What's more, about two per cent

to COVID-19 because of an inadequate response to vaccination. The disease remains highly dangerous for this immune-compromised group.

Fortunately, there are a the same as a cold, even if number of prevention and treatment options available for immune-compromised individuals:

Vaccines

Still the core choice for preventing COVID-19, vaccines work by causing the body to produce its

(NC) With an influx of of the global population own antibodies against the COVID-19 remains, the may remain vulnerable virus that causes the illness. ways in which we can pre-

Antivirals

These drugs are used for treatment of COVID-19 because they stop the virus from multiplying, which can help the body to recover faster from infection.

Monoclonal antibodies

Used for both prevention and treatment, these mimic the body's natural antibodies to neutralize a virus and reduce the risk of the infection becoming severe. Ultimately, even though vent and treat COVID-19 continue to evolve.

prevention and treatment healthcare provider and by options, whether you're visiting Canada.ca. immune-compromised or

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York Road house: Willy Wonka meets Alice

Continued from page 2

by one of its owners. Karl Pacey has a degree in interior design and worked with Laura Ashley Design for eight years. He and his partner Richard Mell worked together on the decorating, though Mell admitted the vision and most of That was a nightmare." the work was Pacey's.

sically go around the house to decorate the light fixtures bour of love." and put all the skeletal work hovering over the kitchen isin. The trees go up and then land. In fact, Pacey declared all the garlands go up. Then that there was not a single I start adding to everything plastic ornament on any of from there. With the kitch- the trees or garlands in the credit for the urns filled with she'd kill me. I told her what I houses on the tour, annuen, I laid out everything on house. the floor and then attached it.

"I started working on this stunning white wreaths and garlands were made from the kitchen had to be seen to off during the tour to dis-

on Oct. 1," Pacey said. "I ba- glass eggs that he repurposed scratch, too. It's been a real la- be believed.

stabbed myself quite a few the

scribed the design as Willy friend Ann Marie, who creat-Wonka meets Alice in Won- ed the piece. "I mean, I know derland, and Pacey gave Mell how she did it but if I told you, the Wonka golden tickets wanted and she made it." "I broke quite a few and flanking the entrance. And He was talking about the times," Pacey added. "All the floating teapot and cups in ed, with some rooms roped

Wonderland-themed ple's main floor was decorat-

courage moving anything. It "I can't tell you how she was truly impressive. Pacey The tour program de- did that," Pacey said of his explained that their secondfloor living space was relatively unadorned.

> Besides the six featured al sites such as McFarland Every corner of the cou- House and The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, and a number of wineries were also on this year's route.



Campbell)



Kids enjoyed meeting the Grinch at the McArthur Estate. (Rose The Carmelian, on Ricardo Street, has two fireplaces for Santa to choose from. (Mike Balsom)



The Udder House on Shaw's Lane is stunning. (Mike Balsom)



This Cottage Street home was decorated with edible treats from Willow Cakes and Pastries. (Mike Balsom)



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Outside the McArthur Estate on John Street was as lavishly decorated as inside. (Rose Campbell)

Designer Karl Pacey of the York Road Lowrey House did all his own decorating. (Mike Balsom)

notllocal.com

Pumphouse Holiday Market continues until Sunday

Maria Klassen **Special to The Local**

Various artists and their work are featured regularly at The Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, and at this time of year, a Holiday Market, featuring local artisans, will be the star attraction at the pumphouse.

The market has been a tradition of partnering with the Rotary Holiday House Tour, and opened Dec. 2 to coincide with the tour, but volunteer Lise Andreana said the decision was made to keep it open to the public until Until Dec. 11.

Tables are laden with a wide variety of unique handmade gifts and decor, filling the rooms of the Arts Centre. As most items are one-of-akind, they are available on a first come, first served basis, although Andreana says some artists have sufficient inventory to replenish their artwork. Admission is free, a hearty welcome to everyone.

Some vendors have turned their hobbies into a business. Marie Landoni enjoyed sewing purses for her friends, which led to her business Carriage Bags. Janie Roe was designing and building bird and butterfly houses for a few people, now also building snowmen and trees, which led to her opening up her studio Dezigned For U.

Susan Holly's work with stained glass became her passion, and her business, Glass-Cuts. Her craft consists of Christmas decor and abstract art. Silva Talmassons creates with stained glass, and her hobby led to Avlis Creations. Air plant holders and nativity scenes are part of his exhibit.

Some vendors recycle and repurpose articles to create



Volunteers Lise Andreana, Bernhard Mattern and Albertien Moxam help out at the pumphouse during the Rotary house tour Saturday. The Holiday Market continues until Dec. 11. (Penny Coles)

unique products. Joe and Shelly Bench, of JS Benchworks, salvage and reuse scraps of wood and other materials. Their display includes keepsake boxes, ornaments. charcuterie boards, kitchen utensils and much more. Their ration from nature around 'studio' is working under a tree them. Melanie Davies Persia, in their yard.

Kerry Braun makes use of old windows, century-old barnboard, and driftwood in her rustic, farmhouseinspired creations. She runs line Payne focuses on origi-Kreations by Kerry: Farmhouse Decor. Hassan Ghanati works with wood at Zima keeps her connected with the Artworks. He uses only wood spirit of the land and people. from distressed or fallen trees At Studio Vine Glass, Steven

to create wooden utensils and serving boards. Owl and Easel's Jodi Eppler's artistry is seen in her wood signs and

Other vendors take inspiowner of Hotglass, creates jewellery made of handmade, flame-worked glass. She is inspired by the force of nature that surrounds her. Angenal, hand-sewn scarves and face masks. She finds her art

glass bowls. Julia Kane creates fused glass ornaments with tags and cards. Joe Speck designs glass ornaments at his Studio Glass Houses.

functionality and aesthetics. in their stoneware pottery. Every piece from plates and platters to bowls and mugs can be used in daily living. Gail Kendall produces soy wax candles and bath and body products infused with essential oils,

Woodruff crafts beautiful in her products. She will custom blend products specific to clients at her Body Soup For The Soul shop.

Angelina Sirrs, of Dragonfly Designs, cuts, fires and Some crafts combine assembles different types of glass in her fused glass jewel-Ron and Barb Zimmerman lery, art and home decor. Reof Lakeshore Pottery, create nee Inman works with several their own designs and colour mediums producing Paverpol gnomes and jewellery using sterling silver and crystals. Jane Oakleaf Spanton makes use of semi-precious stones, crystals and sterling silver in her jewellery. Cheryl Chiarelli of Coconut Quartz uses using only natural ingredients semi-precious gemstones in Dec. 11, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

her jewellery-making. Materials for Karen Rozon of Shimmer Jewellery Designs include Japanese glass seed beads and Swarovski crystal bicone beads.

More than one skill is used in different crafts. Cathy Peters, owner of Cathy Peters Art Studio, paints in both watercolour and acrylic, and her hand-dyed 100 per cent silk scarves are one-of-a-kind designs. Valerie Martin crafts needle-felted gnomes, shawls and hats, and uses her mastery of calligraphy in holiday cards. Jo Holden designs and weaves her textile creations of scarves, towels, table runners and shawls. Lesley Edwards hones her knitting skill, specializing in safe toys for children. Deedee Alexandre learned to knit as a child, and creates infinity cowls.

Other vendors are new to their craft. Lindy Brunarski, of Spoons and Brooms, started crafting her brooms in 2019.

Taylor Hall of Infinittay specializes in knitted hats, while Karen Mitrik pairs her charcuterie boards with jellies from her Exotic Jelly business.

Christmas trees in the Walker Room gallery are decorated with ornaments and stocking stuffers, including gift certificates. Winterthemed art hanging on the walls are available for purchase. A gift-wrapping station is handy.

There is so much choice at the Holiday Market, making it a great place to shop for a one-of-a-kind gift for that special someone. As well as supporting local artisans, proceeds will benefit children and seniors' programs. The Holiday Market is open until





The MacDonald and Arndt family enjoyed making pizza with Santa at Ruffino's Pasta Bar & Grill Sunday, and then had their picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus - a photo booth was set up especially for the occasion. Ruffino's will be offering Pizza with Santa Sunday, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, with proceeds to the NOTL Youth Campus. (Mike Balsom)



Leading up to the annual St. Andrew's Society Dinner at Navy Hall, a small group of Yellow Door Theatre Project students were asked to learn some traditional Celtic songs, including the language. St. Andrew's Society member Trish Spagnol says the kids were amazing — it's not an easy language to learn, and they had just a few weeks to learn the songs, music and language. The society members enjoyed it, singing along and clapping, and two young girls, Hannah and Sofia Otta, brought the house down with a song called Eriskay Love Lilt. The society donated \$500 as thanks for the students' participation. (Photo supplied)

Gifts from the Heart benefit Red Roof clients

Penny Coles The Local

Daginais Ashley couldn't be a better example of what giving from the heart means.

She is a young woman with autism as well as physical disabilities — she suffers from spastic quad- it," she says. "I'm not going riplegic cerebral palsy, meaning her arm and leg muscles and movements are affected, and she also has seizures.

who makes others smile.

When she speaks of her Roof. limitations, the constant pain she is in, even worse after a seizure, is mentioned almost as an after- to everyone, so moving my thought.

"I try not to think about help." to live a life of just sitting and watching TV, and letting the world go by."

Yet talking to her is an Roof Retreat day program vourite is the newest don-

uplifting, positive experi- or respite care, and her fa- key, Murray. She also likes father, who helps her get Roof program in person ence — Ashley is someone vourite day of the week is the accessible swing. any day she goes to Red

> A T-shirt she likes to wear, addressed to Red Roof staff, says it all: "I talk seat (her wheelchair) won't

she attends are usually Wednesdays at The Ranch on Concession 6. She likes Her favourite place in to bake, and spend time the world to be is at a Red with the animals — her fa-

Kennedy Anderson, a Red Roof Retreat staff member, on an outing to Brock's Monument with client Ashley Daginais, who loves going out on trips with her Red Roof friends. Daginais remembers this outing as one when pictures were taken for family members, like school photos, she says. (Photo supplied)

vourite day of the week is portunity to be back with Wednesday, because that's her friends that she spends when I go to day program the evening before making and see all my friends," she sure she's prepared, with Red Roof Retreat has held says.

Even better are the The adult day programs House as part of the respite program, although she hasn't been back since they were cancelled due to staff shortages, she says.

During a typical respite evening, Ashley explains, "we watch movies, like to go to the Niagarashopping at the mall."

and cherishes most of all the chance to spend time with her friends.

friends and we kind of stick celled, and she did "zipto everybody. I know what programs, but she needit feels like to be left out."

she adds. "I didn't get to do them when I was younger."

Her mother has passed away, and she lives with her was able to return to a Red

organized for her days out. "Forget Friday, my fa- She is so excited for any opeverything ready to go.

"I look at my phone a nights spent at Kevan's lot to see how many days until Red Roof. It's like Christmas Day to me."

Why is it so special? "Because I feel like I be-COVID-19. Respite care long. It's hard when you is resuming, but she hasn't have both an intellectubeen able to return due to al and physical disability. Most programs are for one or the other. Red Roof programs are for both."

She recalls one of the we play board games and best times ever, just before card games. Sometimes the COVID shut everything staff take us on outings. I down, when Red Roof staff organized a party for her on-the-Lake Library, or and her friends, with lots of pizza "and other yummy She calls it a sleepover, food," and even mocktails, tain current programs and she says.

But then came the devastation of the pandemic, "I have three or four when everything was cantogether, but I love to talk pola." There were virtual ed physical help with the That's why she enjoys activities, and having too the sleepovers so much, many people talking at once "made my poor brain hurt."

The night before Ashley

"was like Christmas Eve a thousand times over," she says, and that wasn't even a sleepover.

This is the 12th year a Gifts from the Heart Holiday Campaign, hoping to offer people a chance to choose gifts that feel good to give — and donations to help fund another year of recreational programs for children and adults with special needs, including Ashley and her friends, would feel good.

The campaign will continue through to Jan. 12, with a goal of raising \$60,000, which will help make a difference to children and adults by keeping programs affordable to families.

It will also help to susaddress wait lists, teaching more children and adults by developing new programs to meet their needs.

It will help families stay strong by supporting their needs, and give special needs children and adults a place they can call a home away from home.

Most of all, it will al-

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Red Roof positioning itself for an expansion

Continued from page 16

low programs closed after COVID to reopen and expand.

Steffanie and Moe Bjorgan founded Red Roof Retreat in 2000, to provide a draw anybody into the place where children and young adults with special needs can "learn and grow in a safe, nurturing and fun environment," and they have been expanding and has supported Red Roof increasing their programs financially since its earliest ever since.

After two years of being unable to offer respite care during the pandemic, and gradually reopening other programs, Red Roof staff are once again gearing up to offer clients weekend respite at The Ranch on Concession 6 and Kevan's nic area and an accessible House on Concession 2.

Numbers are limited, though, as Red Roof continues to struggle with staffing levels, says Steffanie.

Last year, as programs started up slowly after COVID, during a time when fundraising was difficult, Bjorgan and her board made the decision not to reopen their St. Catharines location. Instead they Cornerstone Communi-

limits to space and staff.

"Definitely, since COVID it's been hard to field," says Bjorgan, and she needs to hire staff trained to work with special needs children and young adults.

The NOTL Rotary Club days, including purchasing The Ranch on Concession 6 -it's the hub of the organization, home to the administration offices and an 11-acre hobby farm with horses, donkeys, goats and cats.

t also has a pond, picwalking trail and playground. It's used for several activities, including adult day programs during the week and respite on weekends.

Bjorgan says Red Roof has come "full circle" with the Rotary Club since its beginnings. The club recently donated \$5,000 from its Icewine Cocktail Party, calling it a first instalment. begin to plan our next ex- *plied*)

ty Church at its Orchard pansion. We need to focus campus on Hunter Road, on the future, and when we other fundraiser, this one from the Heart Holiday 868-9800. bringing all programs grow, we grow with Rota- partnering with Corner- Campaign has been made home to NOTL again, but ry," she adds, although it's still moving slowly with yet to be determined where that expansion will be or what it will look like.

Coming up soon is anheld at its Hunter Road lofrom 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

stone. A bake sale is being easy. Visit Red Roof's website at www.redroofretreat. Retreat, 1594 Concession 6, cation Thursday, Dec. 22, com/giftsfromtheheart/ to RR2, Niagara-on-the-Lake, make an online donation, ON, LOS 1E6.

Donating to the Gifts or call the office at 289-

You can also make a donation by mail to Red Roof



She thinks of it as "seed Ashley Daginais, attending a Red Roof adult program at The Chris Hatch and Anne Dickson of the NOTL Rotary Club hand began a partnership with money for Red Roof as we Ranch, has a message on her T-shirt for staff. (Photos sup-



Red Roof executive director Steffanie Bjorgan a cheque for \$5,000, with more to come.



Parade float to help out Angel's Rest dog sanctuary

Penny Coles The Local

Christine Van Moorsel spends all her waking moments caring for dogs at a sanctuary she created, and she wouldn't want it any other way - she has plenty of love to give, and there is no shortage of dogs who need the kind of care she provides.

However, although she and her husband have chosen to spend their retirement offering respite care to old and sick dogs, she could use some help.

That is where Sheena Staff and Mike Novarro have stepped in - look for their float in Saturday's Christmas parade with a dog house on it, and come prepared with some much-needed items, including cash, to help this oneof-a-kind local sanctuary.

Christine has turned three rooms of the first floor of her St. Davids home into space for her dogs, including her warm, welcoming and spotless kitchen. The sanctuary is called Angel's Rest, and each of the 20 dogs in her care comes with a heart-wrenching story about how this 77-year-old, compassionate and committed woman be-



Christine Van Moorsel, along with some of the 20 dogs in her care, pose for a photo that will go out with her annual Christmas card, which she hopes will bring in donations to see Angel's Rest through next year. (Meg Parsons)

came their caregiver.

Road, it was the perfect solution to their problem. They dog-friendly, Christine ap-

When Christine and her days or years they have left to 20 dogs. Living in a rural husband Nick chose their in a loving, home environlarge farmhouse on 20 acres ment. Once the couple had of property on Queenston restored the house and done are supportive of what she their owners can provide, what was needed to make it does, she says. were looking for a space for plied to the town for a ken- not-for-profit small dogs, the ones no- nel licence, and although with a board of directors to body else to take them. body else wants or can care it took some time, she was help her.

for — to live out whatever granted it, and can take up bothered by the dogs, and

Some of the dogs who will end their life in her care area, her neighbours are not have health problems that require more attention than she explains, or their hu-She is also a registered, mans have gone into care is greeted with barking and sanctuary themselves and there is no-

> Others have been

dropped off at one of the local humane societies, but because of their age or their health are not going to be adopted, and Van Moorsel is asked if she can take them.

And because of their age and various health issues, they are content to spend most of their time curled up at her feet, or in their favourite spots in the kitchen, in small dog beds, on a large comfy chair, or on a loveseat with a staircase up to it for one dog who can't make it without help.

Another room off the kitchen has baby cribs in it for those who need to be confined, although Van Moorsel spends as much time as she can cuddling them, and a radio is always on so they have company.

And three times a day, she herds them all outside for some fresh air and exercise.

Pre-pandemic, she had volunteers she calls 'huggers', who would come for a visit to give some attention to the dogs individually, but that has fallen off, she says.

As with most homes with dogs, an arriving visitor a flurry of four-legged crea-

Continued on page 19



Couple chose respite care for dogs during retirement

Continued from page 18

tures looking for attention, but once the humans settle in chairs, the dogs settle as well, resuming their places and closing their eyes — although of the 20, one, named Dragon, is a little more persistent in his quest for attention.

Dragon is a chug — part chihuahua and part pug -and pretty adorable, but one home for, says Christine as part of his need for affection, he likes to lick humans, and also occasionally has a problem peeing in the house.

the others share, which explains the stacked boxes of training pads in one corner of the room, which are also used to line the cribs. The in the process of finishpads are essential, and expensive given the number Christine goes through.

A smaller room around the corner is where the dogs are fed, groomed, and crated at bedtime, which is 9 p.m. When they're tucked in for the night with a cozy blanket to snuggle into, she climbs the stairs to her bedroom, and wakes at 7 a.m. to get them up. As long as they are in their crates, the dogs are quiet — most nights, she says, allowing her a good night's sleep before facing the next day.

If she has to go out, Nick takes over, settling in the kitchen with the TV on until she returns — if left alone, the dogs don't always get along.

Christine and Nick have chosen this lifestyle for their retirement — he ran Nick's Truck Parts in St. Catharines, and she worked there with him, their kids now having taken over the business.

But food, training pads, medication and vet care are expensive, and each Christmas Christine sends out

and her precious wards, his remaining days. hoping for donations to help her get through the next year. She has regular supporters, she says, and others who donate but fall off. Her hope is to have donations of food, training pads, and small dog beds — some tiny enough to fit in the cribs and need replacing regularly so that any cash can go into the bank to pay for medication and vet bills.

She is fortunate to have that would be hard to find a Tanya Lowrey, of Huntington Animal Hospital in St. Catharines, onside and lessening the financial load of veterinary care for her.

This holiday season, That is an issue some of Mike Novarro of Maintenance by the Yard and his wife Sheena Staff have also come to her aid. With the help of friends, they are ing a float for the Niagaraon-the-Lake Christmas Parade this Saturday, hoping to collect much-needed items and cash donations for Angel's Rest.

Staff says she first learned of the dog sanctuary through co-founder of the Bruno Project, which specializes in finding forever homes for stray and unwanted potcake dogs from St. Lucia homes are found in Canada, the U.S., and the UK.

Deline says she was in St. Lucia for a visit with a friend, who was sheltering stray dogs, when she learned about the need for permanent, loving homes. So she and her friend formed the Bruno Project to begin exporting dogs. She estimates she has picked up more than 1,300 dogs at airports and found homes for them since 2016.

Staff, a volunteer for the Bruno Project, learned about Angel's Rest when one of her favourites, a blind spaniel named Gus, was tak-

"Gus is living his best life at the sanctuary," she says.

When Staff saw what Christine was doing to care for old and sick dogs, she was totally gob-smacked by what Christine is doing," she says. She spoke to Mike

truck and entered the NOTL "cuddling up to them, warm can to help her." parade to collect mittens and and safe," says Staff. scarves for Out of the Cold in 2019 — about a Christmas fundraiser for Angel's Rest.

This year, Mike has constructed a dog house on

food, both dry and canned, and cash for Angel's Rest.

"Christine is so passiona float, decorated for the ate about rescuing animals. holidays, and will have vol- I can't believe the work she — who had decorated his unteers with dogs in slings does, and I'll do whatever I

In addition to going to She is hoping to collect the parade prepared to help, donations can be made to training pads, small dog beds Angel's Rest, 1079 Queenston Rd., NOTL, LOS 1J0, e-transfer to angelsrestdogrescue@gmail.com or for more information call 905-262-6585.



her friend Vanessa Deline, In the dog house are Sheena Staff, Corrinne Suk and Vanessa Deline, with Regan Suk and Mike Novarro. The float will be in the Christmas Parade Saturday, collecting dry and canned dog food and other items, including cash, for Angel's Rest. (Penny Coles)



cards, with a photo of her en by Christine to love for Christine Van Moorsel cuddles two of the dogs who require cribs, one who is blind, and the other with renal failure. (Penny Coles)

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Ceto Reid thankful for community support

Continued from page 1

on his leg, which makes it challenging living in a two-storey house, or even just heating up a meal and getting to a place where he can sit and eat it.

He has a friend and co-worker, Dwayne Edward, who was able to extend his work permit and is still at the farm. Edward is out all day, but is able to help Reid in the evenings after work.

Edward said he wishes he could do more, but at least he can help Reid get upstairs to his room for the night. "It is difficult. I assist him with some things he can't manage. Everything is very complicated for him."

Fortunately, says Reid, his physiotherapist comes to the house twice a week.

He had been hoping to get home to his wife and adult children in time for Christmas, but it's not looking good, he says. He has a doctor's appointment Dec. 14, when he will learn what comes next, and when he might be able to travel, but he expects that won't be until January.

He said he was very honoured and grateful for all the support he was being shown by the organizers of the Candlelight Stroll, although he was a little nervous about his role in it. But, he says, "I'm also very excited. I really commend them for giving me this opportunity. I very much appreciate this whole experience."

As Reid and those at the re-



Meeting in the lord mayor's office before the stroll begins are Coun. Wendy Cheropita, Coun. Gary Burroughs, Coun. Adriana Cater-Vizzari, MPP Wayne Gates, Dwayne Edward, Jane Andres, Town Crier Tom Pekar, Coun. Erwin Wiens, Julia Buxton-Cox, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, NOTL Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Minerva Ward, and Andrew Niven, chair of the chamber board. (Photos by Penny Coles)

ception made their way outside, Town Crier Tom Pekar gave a short history of the stroll, which was started by local residents Arthur Nieuwdorp and his wife Irene. Nieuwdorp came up with the idea in 1988 during the lead-up to the Calgary Winter Olympics, when he watched the Olympic torch relay as it travelled across the country.

He was inspired to create a community event that would reflect the spirit of giving and the beauty of a NOTL Christmas, and that first year, the funds raised from the sale of the candles were donated to a little girl with cystic fibrosis. This fundraising tradition continued into the subsequent Candlelight Strolls.

NOTL Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Minerva Ward described the stroll as "one of the town's most cherished and heartwarming traditions organized by the chamber," and explained that half of the funds raised would go to Reid.

The migrant farmworker program, she said, is important to the agricultural and wine industries, and plays a role in food security across Canada. 'They are part of our Niagaraon-the-Lake family, and we extend our love and care for them just as we would our next door neighbour."

The other half of the funds raised will be divided equally between the NOTL Palliative Care Community Service to mission." assist those who want to remain in their home and be cared for by volunteers passionate about supporting individuals at a crucial time; and to The Farmworker Hub, which supports migrant farmworkers by providing basic supplies at no cost.

Buxton-Cox, founder of The Farmworker Hub, said she was honoured to be "part of the team that serves the hardworking men and women who come here from all over. We are so grateful to them. The people who feed you need you," she said. "Let's continue to serve this part of the population who care for us. Let's care for them. Thanks for the funds from tonight to help us carry on our

She asked for warm clothes and pots and pans, and suggested checking out www.thehubnotl.ca/donate.

along with Coun. Erwin Wiens.

Minerva Ward, MPP Wayne Gates and Lord Mayor Gary Za-

lepa listen to Town Crier Tom Pekar read his proclamation,

town.

Reid, with an enthusiastic welcome from the crowd, issued them a warm welcome, thanked them for their support, and repeated his gratitude and appreciation to the community, "especially Jane and Julia."

He wished those in attendance "all the best for the holiday," before taking on the most important role of the evening the lighting of candles, made difficult by a strong breeze and then heading off in a Sentineal horse-drawn carriage to lead the stroll.

Lord Mayor Gary Za-

a lot of fun, with a crowd that seemed energized, enthusiastic, and "in grand spirits." He saw lots of locals participating as he walked the route, and lots of young people from

lepa spoke of attending the

stroll with his wife when they

had their first son — he slept

through it wrapped up warm-

ly on a sled — he said this was

It's a great kick-off of for the season," he said, giving credit to the organizers, and to Sentineal Carriages.

The rain stopped just in time, the weather co-operated, and it was good to see people out again, going into local stores and restaurants. "It all worked out great."





The Town Crier lights the candle of Ceto Reid, although it took several Olena Power lights her son Isaiah's candle. tries in the wind. Reid was chosen to lead the stroll. (Jane Andres)

Ceto Reid, Dwayne Edward and Julia Buxton-Cox head off in the lead Sentineal horse-drawn carriage. (Jane Andres)



A family stops to listen to the Lincoln and Welland The Lincoln and Welland Regiment Band entertain athe strollers. Regiment Band.

The crowd gathers outside before the stroll, waiting for it to begin.



Another weekend with win/loss split for Preds Fight in third causes

Mike Balsom The Local

early end to game

The Niagara Predators have developed a strange habit of alternating gritty, aggressive offensive performances with games in which they look like they left their fire at home.

seventh-place Preds gained two points on the sixth-place Northumberland Stars with a hard-fought 5-2 victory in front of a home crowd at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union melees the Predators were Arena.

They followed that up in North York Saturday.

Granted, the results from Friday's slugfest, during which close to 70 minutes in penalties were handed out in the second period alone, resulted in four Predators and head coach Kevin Taylor being handed suspensions, leaving Niagara with only 13 skaters for Saturday.

Northumberland's Pavel Smirnov opened the scoring Friday, and Noah Wyers responded for Niagara with a tying goal 90 seconds later. Cameron Savoie continued his hot scoring streak when he notched his fifth goal in four games with two seconds remaining in a power play.

The penalties got started in the second period when the Stars' Lorenzzo Sullivan was called for slashing 26 seconds in. The first fight happened six minutes later, and more were to come, as the Stars seemed thrown off by a physical style of play they weren't expecting from Niagara.

A fight between Northumberland's Justice Scheltgen and Tyler Gearing of Niagara resulted in both players

being tossed by the referees. Four more Stars were turfed that period, and the Predators' Cole Ellis got the boot when he jumped over the boards and onto the ice to join in the fray as his brother Riley was prone on the ice and getting pummelled.

Taylor's failure to stop Last Friday night, the Ellis from leaving the bench caused his ejection. He began serving a requisite threegame suspension during Saturday's road game.

> Somehow during all the able to jump to a 4-1 lead, with a power play goal by Declan by Wyers. The Stars also got on the scoreboard that period, with a shorthanded goal Gearing. Those guys love layby Nathan Ketcheson, who ing the body. That's all I told later was disgualified from them to do." the game for fighting with Riley Ellis.

> Niagara got another insurance marker in the third on a great play by Reese Bisci, showing the deft scoring games of the season. touch he had last season when he collected 13 goals and 19 assists in 32 games for Predators. And it puts them the Preds.

> the third, with more players er Metro Junior A Hockey thrown out of the game. And League's South Division, with the refs called the game off with 69 seconds remaining, when the entire Stars bench ent story Saturday against the emptied onto the ice. Then, North York Renegades. The one of the Stars left the ice Ellis brothers, Nick Savoie in an attempt to attack a vo- and Tyler Gearing were all cal Predators fan who was serving their suspensions unhappy about the bench- from the previous night. The clearing.

> around," Taylor said of the from the game with a possible Stars. "I told my guys to go out and play hard and win. I didn't tell them to fight. We his Niagara debut Friday, had set the message right away with our first shift, when we started the Ellis brothers and Shipton ran the bench in



with a humiliating 10-1 loss Fogarty and another marker Fights during the second and third periods resulted in players and the head coach being suspended for Saturday's game. (Mike Balsom)

Taylor lamented the inability of his squad to control their emotions throughout the game. He felt it put a mark on one of their best-played

Despite the suspensions, it was a hard-fought win for the only a point behind Nor-More fights took place in thumberland in the Greatfive games on hand.

It was a completely differ-Predators' leading scorer, "This team pushes people Jaroslav Dohnal, was held concussion from Friday, and Michael Santini, who made other commitments.

Assistant coach Connor

place of the suspended Taylor. With a short lineup, the team originally on the schedule. put forth a lacklustre performance, giving up four goals in the first period and three each in the second and third. Ryan until Wednesday. Fritz led the way for the Renegades with three goals and discipline and composure two assists. The lone Preds may have been an issue Satgoal came in the third off the urday. stick of Leo Savin.

Saturday's game was not In fact, the Predators weren't asked to play this game, originally scheduled for February,

Like the previous night,

game plan," Shipton told The Local. "We started puckwatching and took some stupid penalties. Every single penalty was stupid. And our defensive zone play was very bad."

Indeed, at least three of the North York goals came via

Continued on page 22

"We got away from our

Where is Ben?





The Preds' Reese Bisci scores the Predators' fifth goal. (Ben Foster)

The Local co-op student, Ben Foster, is discovering new locations in NOTL and wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com. Congratulations to Crispin Bottomley, who recognized Ben was at Navy Hall in last week's photo.

YocalSPORTS

World Cup may inspire young locals to play soccer

Ben Foster Special to The Local

I know hockey is the number one game in Canada, but the FIFA World Cup is here again. The competition started on Nov. 22, and the competition thus far has been incredible. It's so great at the start when every country still has a chance to win. The World Cup seems to bring people together, even those who don't usually have an interest in soccer.

The first official World Cup started back in 1930,

team beat Argentina 4-2. fans singing and waiting for This year there are 32 coun- you to win. A bit scary, too. tries taking part, for once something the world does to the pitch accompanied together. And for fans, there by a child. This started back is so much anticipation and so much preparation where to watch the game, when FIFA and UNICEF what top to wear, working out what's needed to get to the next round, all that even to promote and protect before you actually watch the rights of all children the games.

the pride of the country they represent. It must be so great statement, "Children are to stand, listening to our na- being given a prime role at ada is out of the next round,

Each team player takes at the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan, collaborated on a campaign called 'Say Yes to Children', to healthy recreation and Each team carries with it quality primary education. According to a Unicef press

in Uruguay, when the host tional anthem with all the each match, accompanying we still cheered them in less, their performance, eseach player onto the pitch in their game against Morocco a symbolic action reminding soccer enthusiasts that 2-1, scoring a total of two they have a major role to goals in the World Cup. play in building a world fit for children."

World Cup in 1986, when Flag by K'naan, which was it was played in Mexico, and more recently this year in motional anthem for South Oatar. Canada has waited 36 years for another World Cup game, and Alphonso Davies delivered the first goal ever by a men's team from this country. And although Can-

on Thursday, when they lost

I love the music that surrounds the World Cup. My Canada last got to the personal favourite is Wavin' chosen as Coca Cola's pro-Africa's 2010 FIFA World Cup. This year the official soundtrack for FIFA 2022 is Hayya Hayya (Better To*gether*). Have a listen.

The video game FIFA 22 was also just recently released, so that can be something to play as you wait for the next World Cup in 2026.

We are now in the knockagainst each other, something in the Honeymoon City. out stages. That's my favour-Niagara Falls the permanent for the teams and you're constantly on the edge of your seat because anything could happen. The top two Russell added, "We expect teams from each of the eight groups advanced to the knockout stage, which begins the round with 16. The all playing in one location. It final will take place Dec. 18, with the third-place match scheduled for the day before.

> When I first came to Canada about 10 years ago, and had lots of fun over the summers playing soccer. The number of children interested in playing this sport seems to have waned over the years. In 2021, there were no leagues to play over the summer at all, in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls or Niagara-on-the-Lake.

I am hoping the World Cup will bring about an increased interest in soccer, with returning and new players to the game.

I recently asked Mike Balsom, a volunteer with the NOTL Soccer Club, about Canada's World Cup journey and what it might mean for local interest in the sport.

He said the fact that

pecially in their first game against Belgium, was very impressive.

For young soccer players in this country, it's important to see Canada have success on the world stage, he said.

Our national women's team has had success for many years, "so it is great to see the men's program break onto the world stage finally," he added. "Every World Cup year seems to get young soccer players talking about the competition, but with players they can relate to, who hail from nearby places such as Oakville and Richmond Hill, it will certainly help to generate interest and excitement in the sport."

He can't wait to see how Team Canada does moving forward to the 2026 World Cup — all eyes will be on coach John Herdman and this team.

"It's important that they can keep the momentum going, and do whatever work it takes to move past pool play in the next tournament."

After all, Canada will be co-hosting World Cup games that year, with Mexico and the U.S., "so the pressure will be on to perform well in front of the hometown crowds."

He went on to say there's never been a lack of interest in the sport here in NOTL. "Before the pandemic, we consistently would have approximately 400 kids playing in town. Our focus has always been on development and house league competition, following the guidelines set out by the Ontario Soccer Association, while offering competitive travel soccer opportunities at various age groups when there is enough interest and available coaches."

Locally, he added, the Canada fielded an exciting 2022 season was a great reyoung team this year that turn to play for the NOTL qualified for the first men's Soccer Club after all the COVID-19 restrictions. Next year, "we plan on offering house league play from U4 all the way to U17 again, as well as travel options at certain age groups." Online registration will open early in the new year, he said. With the World Cup quarter-finals coming up this Friday, your team may or may not have been eliminated, but if they haven't I wish them good luck in their upcoming game. Unless you cheer for France, in which case, since I'm an England fan, GO EN-GLAND! Ben Foster is a Grade 11 Eden High School student doing a co-op placement with The Local.

'Starting to come together for Preds'

Continued from page 21

two-on-one or three-on-one situations, where Niagara was caught unprepared for the Renegades' rush.

Despite the hot and cold weekend, Shipton says it's all starting to come together for the Preds.

"We had a really tough schedule out of the gate, when we were still piecing the roster together," Shipton explained. "We have a lot of youth and inexperience. A lot of these guys still need to learn what junior hockey is all about."

The 7-9-3 Predators are in action Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. in Bradford against the 18-4-0 Bulls, who are tied for second place in the South Division with the Durham Roadrunners.

is Friday night versus the Greater Metro Junior A Windsor Aces. Game time is Hockey League's 7:30 p.m.

November player of the month

Nick Savoie was chosen by his teammates as the Predators Player of the Month for November. The 18-year-old rookie defenceman from St. Catharines has shown remarkable development over the first two months of the season. He received a gift certificate donated from Italian antees teams will be motivat-Pizza and Subs.

GMHL College Showcase coming to Niagara Falls

The annual college showcase is scheduled for next Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 14, at the Gale Centre in Niagara Falls. Sixteen teams will be playing two games each between the two days on three of the four ice pads there.

The showcase will bring Their next home game together teams from the North and South Divisions to play



that doesn't usually happen The GMHL hopes to make ite part, when it's win or lose during the regular season. "In addition, each game

played will count in the regular season team standings, explained GMHL Commissioner Ken Girard in a press release. "With this crossover format and with points at stake in every game, it guared to play hard, competitive hockey."

Predators owner Robert Turnbull says the allure of Niagara Falls makes the showcase a popular event. It was held a few years ago

home for this annual tournament.

GMHL President Bob many scouts and recruiters to be in attendance to scout the games with so many teams promises to be two days of exciting and intense hockey."

The Predators play the 6-13-3 South Muskoka Shield Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., and the I joined local soccer clubs 8-14-0 West Nipissing Lynx Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Admission to all games is free.





DEC 14, 2022



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Head coach Kevin Taylor with Player of the Month Nick Savoie and assistant coach Greg Wilson. (Mike Balsom)

World Cup in almost 40 years, was inspiring. And despite the team going win-

To advertise your Worship Se in this section, please contact:

karen@notllocal.com

CORNERSTONE

Sunday, December 11th

9:45 a.m. Kids Ministry Sign In (Nursery - Kindergarten) 10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering Online & In-Person

Message: Kevin Bayne Worshipping Jesus Matthew 2: 1-12

www.ccchurch.ca

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December 7, 2022 23





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LAMOTTE DECH, DOREEN (NEE MACVICAR)-Dec 9 1935 - Nov 27 2022

Peacefully with family by her side, Doreen passed away at the age of 86.

She is predeceased by her infant brother, Larry (1941), parents Lillian (Coulson) and Russell MacVicar, grandparents Mae and Duncan MacVicar

and Beatrice and Charles Coulson.

Doreen was the beloved wife of Henry Lamotte (deceased 1982) and Jacob Dech (deceased 2018).

OBITUARIES

Doreen leaves her sons, Kevin Lamotte (Cynthia), Jamie Dech (Ina) and the late David Dech.

Doreen was the proud grandmother of Henry (Sarina), Kate (Nic), Anne (Sam) and Charlotte Lamotte, Jeffery (Sofia), Josh (Cait), Joel (Toni), Jonathan (Marisa) Dech, and three great grandchildren Emelia, Ian and Elysia Dech.

She also leaves her dear aunt, sister and brother-in-law, cousins, nieces (each one of them, her favorite) and nephews from the MacVicar, Lamotte and Dech families.

On our way out the door, Doreen would say - "Make it a good day" often adding - "for you and someone else!" - Words that she lived by.

Visitation will take place on December 8, 2022 from 6 - 9pm at The Reid Funeral Home, 14 Russell Street, Learnington, Ontario. Cremation has taken place and a private family service with interment at Evergreen Memorial Park will be held later. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Doreen's honour to The Canadian Lung Association or a charity of your choice. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.reidfuneralhome.com



NESS, JOHN (IAN)-passed away peacefully on December 2, 2022, at the St. Catharines General Hospital, at the age of 98. Devoted father of sons John (Suzan) of St. Lazare, QC, Donald (Lynn) of Fort Lauderdale, FL, and daughter Margaret of Vancouver, BC. Adored grandfather of Leigh-Anne, Michael, Alexandra and Andrew, and loving greatgrandfather of Zoey.

Ian came to Canada from Scotland in 1966 at the prompting of his beloved sister and war bride Isabel and her husband Elmo Schaefer. Pre-deceased by his cherished wife of 50 years, Nancy, now reunited in their heavenly home, enjoying watching a game of fitba.

Cremation has taken place, arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home.

A service to celebrate the life of Ian. will be held at St. Andrew's

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

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1 Attics

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66 OT shipwright

67 Chart-toppers

70 Every family has one

Troublemakers, often

"Get Shorty" author

--- Leonard

Hydrophobia

9 Enthusiastically

6 Expression of relief

Property document

11 Former name of Psiloritis,

58 Mendelssohn's "Scottish

59 Living on land and in water

Symphony" key

49 Beaten by the Continental Army 13 Harley, often

10 Name

19 Retirement arrangement

Cretan mountain

- 21 Legend 25 Itemize
- 26 A way to disappear
- 27 Watery swelling
- 28 Sly fighter?
- 30 Pear-shaped stringed instrument
- 31 Ice hockey player Bobby ---
- 32 Beatle married to Bach
- 34 Forego
- 35 Bill Cosby's late son
- 37 Candidate's aim
 - 39 Merchandise
 - 41 Agnus ---
 - 44 Lymphatic tissues often
 - removed after infection
- 46 "Taken" star --- Neeson 49 Strait west of Wales, AK
 - 50 Slender
 - 52 Stocky horse
 - 54 "Lorenzo's Oil" actor Nick --
- 55 Rub out
- 57 Implement
- 58 Arthur --- stadium,
- Queens, NYC
- 59 Military nurses' group (Abbr.)

9

- 60 Besmirch 61 Pro bono TV ad
- 62 Crone
- 63 The Emirates





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Sudoku solution from

.69 Glee, 70 Tree. Amphibious, 64 Gala, 65 Nasal, 66 Noah, 67 Hits, 68 Crags, Vitro, 49 British, 51 Essence, 53 A-line, 56 Sort, 58 A minor, 59 84, 05 Trade, 42 Tomb, 43 Innate, 45 Real, 47 Tao, 48 Earlier, 29 Net loss, 33 Linda, 34 Wet, 36 Hurt, 37 System, 17 Film, 18 The big bang, 20 To come, 22 Dire, 23 Story, 24 Across: 1 Lame, 5 Sadr, 9 Edith, 14 Oral, 15 I A E A, 16 Audio,

61 P S A, 62 Hag, 63 U A E. Cob, 54 Nolte, 55 Erase, 57 Tool, 58 Ashe, 59 A V C, 60 Mar, 39 Ware, 41 Dei, 44 Tonsils, 46 Liam, 49 Bering, 50 Slight, 52 Rambo, 30 Lute, 31 Orr, 32 Starr, 34 Waive, 35 Ennis, 37 Seat, Hog, 191RA, 21 Myth, 25 List, 26 Into thin air, 27 Edema, 28 St, niTSt, sbl ft, dud 0f, yhages 9 (saids 8 (baad 7 dub, 13 dub) 7 dub. Down: 1 Lotts, 2 A riot, 3 Malcontents, 4 Elmore, 5 Site, 6

PUZZLE ANSWERS

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a memorial donation to the Niagara Health System. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



Presbyterian church (Simcoe Street) in Niagara-on-the-Lake on December 17, 2022 at 11:30.



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