

Don't miss
decorated
tractor parade
page 8

notllocal.com DECEMBER 8, 2021 Volume 3 • Issue 49



Devon Botbyl lights candles for his dad Scott, sister Elise, Nicole Cripps of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, and his mother Dani. (Penny Coles)

Candlelight Stroll led by Virgil teen draws excited crowd

Penny Coles
The Local

The excitement in the air was clearly evident as the crowd gathered outside the Court House Friday, grateful to be out on a perfect evening for the Candlelight Stroll, always one of the most popular events to celebrate the Christmas season in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As the Salvation Army Band played outside, inside, Dani Botbyl spoke about her son Devon being chosen to lead the stroll.

The 18-year-old Virgil resident was born with a rare chromosome condition that leaves him with global delays and autistic tendencies, and as if that isn't enough of a challenge for him to deal with, in June he had another added to his list when he was diagnosed with lymphoma, Dani explained. In September, he finished five months of immunotherapy and chemotherapy treatments.

The pandemic, Dani said,

"closed so many of his social doors," not only putting an end to hanging out with friends, but shutting down his programming at school and Red Roof Retreat. He's just started back, and he's thrilled, she added.

"Thank you from the bottom of our hearts," said Dani. "Having the support of the community, where we've lived our whole lives — words can't express how grateful we are."

Devon was delighted to be in the spotlight at the Court House — he has a heart-warming and boyish smile that couldn't help but charm those gathered to celebrate his participation in the stroll.

In addition to the event being an important tradition in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue, giving back is to the community is an important component. Helping out a local family

Continued on page 3

Tragic ending to search means Ashley Simpson is coming home

Penny Coles
The Local

After more than five years of waiting and searching, a tragic ending for a local family means Ashley Simpson is finally coming home to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Her mother Cindy Simpson says it's the best Christmas present the family could have wished for. While it's not an outcome any parent would have wanted, and they are deeply saddened by the

news, Cindy says it's what she and her husband John have been expecting from the moment Ashley went missing on April 27, 2016.

"We have the feeling now that Christmas has come early," says Cindy. "It's extremely sad that this is how she's coming home, but she's coming home."

"We knew what Ashley was like," Cindy continues. "We knew she would have contacted us. So we were prepared for the news."

Finding Ashley and bringing her home "has always been our main concern, first and foremost, and worrying about justice could come later."

Two RCMP officers from B.C. visited the couple's Lakeshore Road home, where they have lived for the last 12 years, last Friday, telling them Ashley's remains had been found Nov. 26, and a suspect was being charged. One of the officers who had been investigating the case

called ahead to say she would be in town on business, and could she stop by, Cindy says.

Other than that, they weren't given much information.

"I still have some questions," she says.

Ashley had disappeared without a trace from Salmon Arm B.C., after having an argument with her boyfriend. Her family and friends, Ashley's Army, never stopped trying to find her and bring her home.

During the time the RCMP was searching for Ashley, Cindy says she had questions that couldn't be answered, and had to wait, knowing the information would come out eventually. She would ask, and she would be told, 'you will know, but you can't know at this time.'

"That's how the last five years have been. I'd know they were working on the investigation and couldn't talk about it, and I understood

that. It was a big puzzle and they were trying to put the pieces together."

Derek Lee Matthew Favell is facing a charge of second-degree murder dating to April 27, 2016, and has a bail hearing scheduled for Thursday. "We may or may not know more then," she says.

Ashley will be cremated when that is allowed, and John and Ashley's sister Amanda will go to B.C. to be

Continued on page 4



**SAVE UP TO \$24
ON SELECT CASES**

AVAILABLE BOTH IN-STORE & ONLINE

Sale Ends December 19 • Visit konzelmann.ca

konzelmann
estate winery

NPCA meets with residents over conservation area

Penny Coles
The Local

While there are solutions to improve the Four Mile Creek watershed and conservation area, they won't be simple or quick, residents gathered at the lower Virgil reservoir heard Friday.

The informal meeting was attended by Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, town staff, and six residents living in the watershed area. Chandra Sharma, CAO of the NPCA, spoke of the possibilities, and also the roadblocks, to moving forward with projects that could turn the Virgil Dam Conservation Area from a source of irrigation to a place that also encourages and protects wildlife and habitat.

NPCA water resources senior manager Steve Miller explained the history of the ponds, going back to the 1960s, as part of an irrigation system for local growers. The system was intended to be "hands-off," with a simple series of wooden flashboards to allow water to drain in and out. "It's quite an unusual system in Ontario," he said.

There has been no upgrading to the system since it was installed, with the exception of replacing the flashboards in 2006, he said, and nothing since then, until very recently.

"In years past," said Brett Ruck, town supervisor of irrigation and environmental services, "vandalism wasn't a problem." It began in 2016, when boards were removed, either by growers desperate for more water, or vandals, but with the recent installation of solid steel over the boards, "they're not moving."

His concern at this point is a more sophisticated management of ponds, to have a reliable source of water for irrigation and the ability to release water in smaller increments, to avoid flooding.

Residents, however, while understanding the importance of the irrigation system, are focused on wildlife, habitat, protecting shores from erosion, and keeping the watershed clean from litter.

David Murray, a homeowner in the watershed area,

had asked the NPCA for the meeting with residents. He had been moved by a letter from youngster Morgan Mitchell to The Local last summer, and felt the NPCA should respond to his concerns. Murray says when Morgan, "a young person who wants to make a difference," spoke out and then was ignored, he arranged the meeting to give Morgan a chance to address the NPCA directly.

For most of his life, Morgan said, he has lived on the Virgil lower reservoir, and loves to spend time on it kayaking and fishing.

He had read an article in The Local by environmentalist Owen Bjorgan about the deteriorating state of Four Mile Creek, the largest watershed in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and wrote about the problems with water flow in his area due to vandalism.

"Our section of the creek was man-made, having been flooded to supply water for irrigation in the nearby farms, but has grown over the years into a huge ecosystem, supporting many species of amphibians, birds, and fish. When these

incidents happen, the creek, which isn't very deep, drains so much that fish get trapped in the shallows and die," he said.

"This impacts the whole ecosystem because the species that are dependent on the fish will lose their main food source. When these boards come out, it takes longer than it should for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to replace them, and currently, our creek is experiencing one of the worst water level drops this year."

Morgan, at the meeting with his father Michael Mitchell, asked whether security cameras would be useful, but was told by Ruck that while a camera might capture vandalism, the vandal would need to be identified and caught to be helpful. Instead, the plan was to make it extremely difficult for vandalism to occur, and Ruck felt that goal has been accomplished with the steel frame.

Murray suggested that although there are differing goals for the creek and ponds, irrigation for farms and conservation for residents concerned about

wildlife, habitat and the environment, "there has to be a way to marry them together. You need to have a plan, and a cost."

Part of the problem is the silt in the ponds, said Ruck, which has risen in some areas to reduce the water to about two feet deep, where they were originally six to eight feet deep.

He explained it would cost millions of dollars to remove the silt, but he has a vision of creating little islands that would offer habitat for wildlife and improve the flow of water for irrigation. "But that is for the future, and it will take community involvement to get plans in place. We're not quite there yet."

"That's exactly what we're here to talk about," said Sharma. The work of the NPCA has to be backed by science and legislation, she explained, but the NPCA and the town have been in discussion about the future of the conservation area for several years. A vision, in collaboration with all stakeholders, has to come first, to give them something to work

toward, "step by step."

Ruck, when questioned about a timeline, said it would be "pretty long term," and would need to be carried out piece by piece, in several phases.

When pressed, Sharma said "we can't do it overnight," but it's also not a 20 year project, she added. "Let's get together and come up with a vision that's feasible. We have to start visioning and planning as a group."

When asked by 13-year old Morgan whether there could at least be a clean-up of litter along the shorelines, Sharma said the NPCA doesn't have the resources for that, and suggested forming a Friends of Four Mile Creek group. Residents could help out with basic maintenance, such as picking up garbage, as a start, but there is more that can be done to be good stewards of the watershed.

In the meantime, "for Morgan," Sharma said, the NPCA can install signs asking people not to litter, and will look into placing garbage cans for people walking in the area.

Plan underway to form Friends of Four Mile Creek

Penny Coles
The Local

If there is interest in starting a Friends of Four Mile Creek group, there is help available.

When residents recently asked for some help cleaning litter from the creek and Virgil Dam Conservation area, CAO Chandra Sharma suggested that with NPCA resources stretched, and only two staff members to look after all the watersheds in its jurisdiction, the formation of a Friends group could help with basic maintenance, and could also look at ways of preserving wildlife habitat.

Residents whose properties border the ponds attended a meeting at the Virgil reservoir Friday, and expressed an interest in a Friends group.

Jim Handman and David Murray, both of whom live on properties between the two Virgil ponds, met Monday night to discuss how to move forward with a Friends of Four Mile Creek group, and have taken the first step — Murray laughs and says he elected Handman chair of the board.

It's very early days yet, with

nothing set in stone as to how to move forward, but Handman has created an email address and hopes to begin hearing from some of his neighbours and others in the watershed area who would like to be involved. He can be reached at friendsof4mile@gmail.com.

Kerry Royer, the coordinator of community outreach for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, says there are a number of examples of such groups across the NPCA watershed jurisdiction, including Friends of One Mile Creek in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The NPCA works collaboratively with these groups through volunteer recruitment, offering advice and technical support, and providing letters of support for grants.

If there is enough interest, those starting up the group would have to develop informal terms of reference to determine what their goals and initiatives would be, and what they want to achieve, she said.

Royer also suggests members of Friends of One Mile Creek, "a group that has been around for a very long time," might be able to offer advice,

and might know of others in the area that are interested.

Before the formation of the Friends of One Mile Creek, Chautauqua resident Gerry Beneteau says the Chautauqua Residents Association wanted to get some work done on the creek, and asked Ducks Unlimited to talk to them about how to proceed.

After a meeting of 20 people, he then recalls going to breakfast with Michael Rose, manager of Land Care Niagara, who explained his group could teach people how to clean up the creek.

Their first step was to get rid of some logs blocking the flow of water at the beginning of the creek, he says, "taking it upon ourselves to cut them."

That was in 2001, and by 2003, some of those living in the creek watershed got together to form the Friends of One Mile Creek. Beneteau, now 89, still considers himself a steward of the watershed, "but in name only."

He doesn't get around much any more, he says, but stays informed, and adds "the NPCA has been a godsend, helping out and keeping us in line. And when I look back,

I feel so proud of all the volunteers, and of the NPCA. I consider them all friends, and what we were able to accomplish together was definitely very rewarding."

Klara Young-Chin, now project co-ordinator for the Friends, says when the group was formed, there were about 35 members, mostly landowners whose property abutted the creek, who were interested in cleaning it up.

When the property owners came together, they formed a group and created bylaws, "doing everything hand in hand with the NPCA," says Young-Chin.

They always had a staff person as a liaison between the Friends and the NPCA, she adds, "and they have been incredibly helpful. They were the experts, and we didn't do anything without them."

Soon after the formation of the group, the NPCA paid for a watershed study, says Young-Chin, providing a framework to restore the creek, and later, partnered on a landowner's stewardship guide, a very "user-friendly" resource for residents.

With support from the NPCA, they educated landown-

ers on how to improve water quality and quantity, including how to improve the riparian plantings, which would also improve water quality and quantity, as well as wildlife habitat.

Group members have organized clean-ups, tree-plantings, a pollinator garden at the corner of John and King Streets, and another at the William Street Park.

And through it all, "even during the dark days of the NPCA, we have had a fantastic relationship with the NPCA."

Her advice to those thinking of starting a Friends of Four Mile Creek group would be that a membership with fees, and the paperwork that goes

with it is not really necessary.

"What is important is to have a really tight communications strategy, and to reach out to landowners."

Once they've decided on a strategy and a goal, create some door hangers to explain who they are and what they want to accomplish, she suggested.

A great way to get people involved is through organizing clean-ups, "and once you're huddling together, it's a good time to start talking about a group."

She would also encourage working hand in hand with the NPCA. "They have never dictated anything to us. They just helped by providing their expertise."



Morgan, 13, and Spencer, 9, helped clean up garbage along the creek recently. They do that regularly. (Photo supplied)



MAC INC.



Jessie MacDonald
Broker

Evan MacDonald
Sales Representative

CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE HOME EVALUATION

905.262.8080

FINE ESTATES
— TEAM —



REVEL
REALTY INC., BROKERAGE

Andrew Perrie
Team Leader
Sales Representative

REVEL
ON-THE-LAKE
REAL ESTATE GROUP

Crowd excited to be part of Candlelight Stroll

Continued from page 1

ily “reminds us of our sense of community, reminds us of our Christmas spirit, and who we are. It is so important to keep up these traditions.”

The advance sales of candles indicated the community’s support for Devon, and for having the Candlelight Stroll back after a year’s absence, he added.

The moment the candles are lit is always magical, but this year even more so as Devon made his way down the steps

of the Court House to share his candle flame with those waiting for the event to begin. The local teen struggles with mobility issues, but there was no mistaking the joy he experienced as he carried out his role as leader of this year’s stroll.

“This is the season, and you are the reason why we gather to celebrate the bounty of this year in our community,” said Town Crier Tom Pekar, as he welcomed those gathered at the Court House, and introduced Devon.

“By the powers invested

in me, I declare the opening of the 2021 Candlelight Stroll. Huzzah! Huzzah! Huzzah!”

This was the 32nd Candlelight Stroll organized by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, and Pekar explained for those new to the event that it was started by local resident Arthur Nieuw-dorp, who developed the idea in 1988 during the lead-up to the Calgary Winter Olympics. He watched the Olympic torch relay as it travelled across the country, and was inspired to

create a community event that would reflect the spirit of giving and the beauty of a NOTL Christmas. The funds raised from the sale of the candles that first year were donated to a young girl with cystic fibrosis.

This tradition has continued, to help someone in need with a donation from the money raised from candle sales going to families and children in need, and other important causes.

In recent years, a portion of the proceeds has also helped migrant farmworkers.

This year, says Lafforgue, \$1,000 will go to support the farmworkers’ Hub at Cornerstone Church, run by local volunteers, and the remaining funds, about \$6,500, will go to Devon’s family. They are hoping to install an elevator in their home to help Devon access the second floor.

Lafforgue says the funds raised were about the same or maybe slightly more than 2019, with two generous anonymous donations, and others who gave more than the price of the candles.

“We are so happy that it

went so well. Everybody was wearing their masks. My team, Stan Harrington and his grandchildren, the ambassadors and all the volunteers of all ages were fantastic and so helpful — real team work.”

After stopping for photos beside a horse-drawn Sentineal carriage, Devon and his family wound their way through the streets of the Old Town behind dignitaries leading the way, followed by an excited crowd and the glow of their candles lighting up the holiday season.



Dani and Devon Botbyl prepare to lead the stroll in a Sentineal carriage. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Devon Botbyl gets a chance to meet Cinderella, while Coun. Erwin Wiens says hi to his long-time friend Scott Botbyl and Devon.



Friends are happy to be out and participating in the 32nd annual Candlelight Stroll.



Paul MacIntyre, chair of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce board, Edward Lafforgue, president, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and MPP Wayne Gates get ready to take their places at the head of the stroll.



A good-sized crowd gathered at the Court House steps, enjoying the Salvation Army Band and waiting for the start of the stroll.



One of the many families at the Candlelight Stroll waiting for it to begin.

Special stop on Rotary House Tour



The sold-out tour of the McArthur Estate on John Street is stunning outside and in, where NOTL Rotarian Lorna Penman poses with Santa, and even the barn is decorated for Christmas.

EXHIBIT

WINTER 2021

Opens Saturday, December 11, 2021
Featuring a Different Artist Bi-Weekly

Visit our website for details
13thstreetgallery.com

Ashley a person you'd never forget - warm, caring

Continued from page 1

there and bring her home.

"They were the two who spent so much time looking for her," says Cindy, while she was working as a cook on the boats. "They should be the ones to bring her home."

Before heading out to B.C., Ashley was working with her dad, also a cook, at a summer resort in Huntsville. In the winter, she worked at an Avondale Food Store on Carlton Street in St. Catharines.

When John was offered a job out west, at a camp in Pink Mountain in northern B.C., Ashley was excited to go along.

While there, she met Favell.

"Ashley loved the outdoors. She was excited to see the mountains, and talked about panning for gold. The last time I talked to her, the morning of April 27, she told me she had found a real garnet, and was going to give it to me when she came home. She loved adventure. She had the word 'gypsy' tattooed on her forearm. She loved to explore, to do new things. But this was home for her, and she loved to come home."

With three sisters, Amanda, Amy and Tara, and seven

nieces and nephews, Ashley loved to play with the kids, and they loved her.

One of the activities she looked forward to the most was going to the NOTL Christmas Parade with them. "The kids are going to be devastated to know now they will never see her again."

Derek also had young children, and Ashley was always talking about the fun things she was enjoying doing with them, says Cindy.

"I feel so bad for his kids. They loved Ashley."

She was a kid magnet — fun, outgoing, and if she saw a glimmer of good in someone, she wanted to help them.

If she saw someone with their hand out for money, she had to stop to get them something to eat, and was always buying food for a homeless man that used to sit near the Avondale where she worked, even taking blankets from home to protect him from the cold. "That was Ashley. It didn't matter who you were, she treated everybody the same."

A woman Cindy met in NOTL recognized the shirt she was wearing with Ashley's picture on it — she knew her as the girl who worked in the Avondale. "She said Ash-

ley was the type of person you'd never forget — so bubbly, so warm and caring."

Over the last five years, as John was going back and forth to B.C., Cindy says money was tight, and there were fundraisers to help out, including garage sales and

golf tournaments.

The people of NOTL have been very generous, including supporting the annual golf tournaments held at Heritage Woods, organized by Shane Michaels, who founded Wings of Mercy to help the Simpson family

find Ashley.

As soon as the news was released that she had been found, another friend started a GoFundMe page called Bringing Ashley Simpson Home, to help "lay her to rest with dignity and respect." It will also help with costs as

the Simpson family travels from Ontario to B.C. for the court cases to come.

Donations can be made at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/bringing-ashley-simpson-home?qid=1fcd9fbd401df0ac62c552bf5e5afafa>



Cindy Simpson sent The Local this 2015 photo of happier times, with the four sisters and their dad, Amy, John, Amanda, Ashley and Tara, at Amanda's wedding. (Photo supplied)

JUST LISTED
\$2,688,300

SOLD
\$5,200,000

JUST LISTED
\$3,249,999

JUST LISTED
\$3,799,000

JUST LISTED
\$1,799,000

EXCLUSIVE
\$1,200,000

JUST LISTED
\$3,799,000

JUST LISTED
\$1,799,000

REVEL
ON-THE-LAKE
REAL ESTATE GROUP

905.262.8080

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR
FREE HOME EVALUATION

MAC INC.

905.262.8080

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR
FREE HOME EVALUATION

Andrew Perrie
Sales Representative

CLHMS

905.262.8080

Jessie MacDonald
Broker

CLHMS

905.262.8080

Evan MacDonald
Sales Representative

CLHMS

905.262.8080

Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: United Way Niagara

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

MNP shows local love this holiday season

Respect, Integrity, Community and Fun. These are not just words at MNP, they are just a few of the company's core values and they are backed by actions. MNP is a national leading accounting, tax and business consulting firm, with offices in St. Catharines and Niagara, and is home to some of the community's most innovative leaders.

MNP truly stands by its values and culture by supporting the communities in which it operates. Early in 2021, partners at MNP put their heads together to come up with one way they could support the local community. It was decided that they would make a transformational commitment to fighting poverty in Niagara, a problem that has only gotten worse in the last two years. Bill Sloper, Regional Managing Partner at MNP, speaks for his whole team when he says they are proud to partner with the United Way to sponsor the \$25,000 'New Donor Match', a partnership that provides double the impact to the community for each donation made.

"MNP is committed to being part of and supporting the communities where we live and work," said Sloper, "Partnering with the United Way, an organization that understands the challenges Niagara residents are facing, allows us to give back and increase the impact that we have in our communities."

Poverty has long been an issue in Niagara but has been amplified since the start of the pandemic. The most recent statistics show that 1 in 7 people were living in poverty prior to COVID-19. The pandemic has only exacerbated the disparity between high and low-income families, leaving lower income earners staggering behind. Government benefits certainly helped many families, but as they dry up, it is only a matter of time before front-line agencies start to see the real impact on the most vulnerable members of our community.

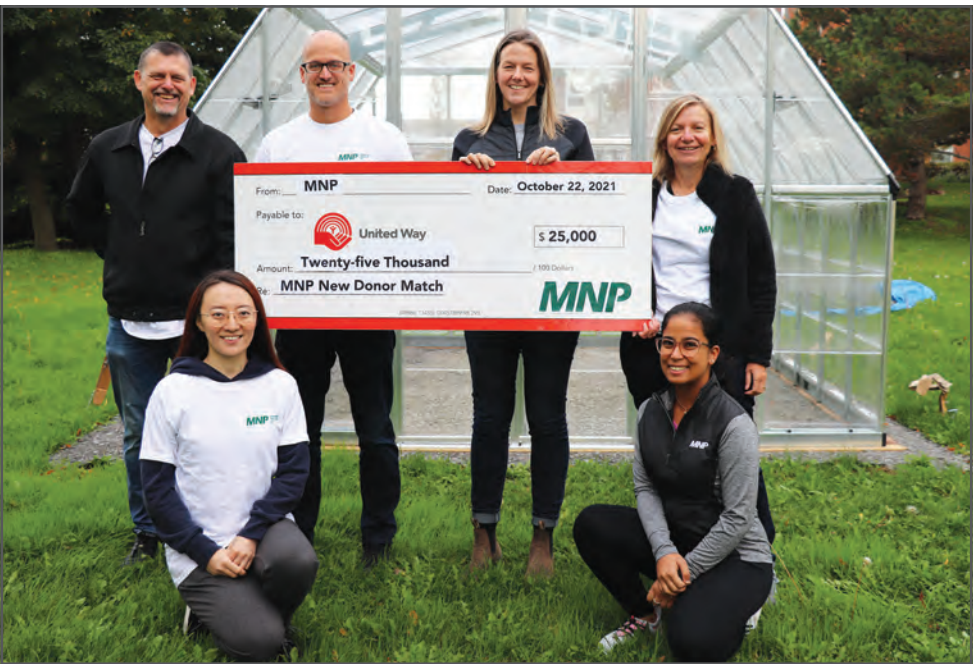
United Way's investments meet issues head on, funding vital programs and services that address the root cause of poverty. Last year, a network of 130 programs were funded that support

people living in poverty, right here in Niagara.

"Our team members have supported United Way Niagara individually for a number of years – the New Donor Match has allowed us to come together to support this campaign in a more impactful way and directly make a difference to the lives of people in the Greater Niagara Region," says Sloper.

MNP has built a strong foundation of supporting local agencies through United Way, and this year was no different. On top of their monetary contributions, partners and staff also donated their time to help food security initiatives in the community. Supporting community gardens and social hubs through the addition of greenhouses will allow local growers to have longer planting seasons, expand plant variety and help increase community connection and food security for those in need.

If you want to become a part of the change in your community, supporting United Way Niagara is just one way you can help a vi-



Left to right: Alvin Klassen, Travis Dolinski, Pam Lilley, Liz Klassen, Yolanda Cui and Hasmita Arora

tal network of local agencies and services that combat poverty right here in the re-

“ Partnering with the United Way, an organization that understands the challenges Niagara residents are facing, allows us to give back and increase the impact that we have in our communities ”



**United Way
Niagara**

**LET'S NOT GO BACK TO *NORMAL*
LET'S DO **BETTER.****

MNP
New Donor Match



YOU DONATE



THEY MATCH



**DOUBLE
THE IMPACT**

**YOU CAN HELP YOUR COMMUNITY
RECOVER
IF YOU CAN, PLEASE GIVE.**

ONLINE *most efficient! www.unitedwayniagara.org

☐ Cheque ☐ Post-dated Cheque

Name: _____

Address: _____

PC: _____

Phone Number: _____

EMAIL: _____

**To receive periodic updates on our impact and other news.*

Please make cheques payable to United Way Niagara
Mail to: United Way Niagara, 63 Church Street, Suite LC1
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3C4
By phone: 905-688-5050 Monday to Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm
UN21B

EDITORIAL

Lots of holiday events to enjoy, safely

Last Friday the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce held what has to have been the best Candlelight Stroll ever.

It may not have been record attendance, but the level of excitement made the crowd seem twice the size it usually is. Everyone was happy to be out, enjoying the Christmas season. Queen Street and the Court House looked magical with all the lights and decorations — and the candles, of course.

Chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue said Monday he thought about \$6,500 was raised for Devon Botbyl, a most charming young man,

with possibly more donations expected this week. Let's hope his family gets the elevator he needs so he can get to the second floor of his home.

Thank you to the chamber staff and about 60 volunteers who ensured there could be a safe and spectacular event as we begin to emerge from pandemic mode.

The Rotary Club Holiday House Tour was sold out, again with spectacular homes to view, including the out-of-this-world McArthur Estate on John Street.

There are, of course, two very good reasons for celebrating the season. Not only are we leading up to the

holidays, we are also leaving behind the worst of the pandemic restrictions — permanently, we hope — and are feeling more and more like life is returning to what it once was, with some exceptions to keep it that way.

And still to come, the Santa Around Town event Saturday, and Santa at the community centre next Saturday, Dec. 18, both great events for families and kids.

Another truly fun event to look forward to: Dorothy Soo Wiens is organizing, of all things, a Christmas Tractor Processional.

She and Erwin are calling on some friends to dec-

orate their tractors, trucks, and even a grape harvester. Next Thursday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m., the parade will begin in Virgil from the arena parking lot, and after a route that will take them past Pleasant Manor, for the seniors to enjoy, it will wind up back at the arena.

After just a few hours on Facebook, it was already gaining traction, with lots of support and excitement for the event.

We're all missing the NOTL Christmas Parade, but what could be better as an alternative in a farming community like this one than a parade of decorated trac-

tors. Only in NOTL, and only Dorothy could have come up with such a great idea!

On the practical side, the town council is starting to talk about meeting in-person, or at least in a hybrid model. Some or all of the council members hope to be in the council chamber for the Dec. 20 meeting. Lord Mayor Betty Disero sounded pretty pumped at Monday's meeting — she's been pushing for this for quite a while. Councillors who choose not to attend can do so virtually, although all sounded enthusiastic about being back together. Staff will be elsewhere in the town hall offices, at-

tending virtually, and members of the public will not be allowed in just yet.

We're still being asked by Public Health to follow the usual precautions, to get vaccinated — especially the five to 11 age group — and hopefully we'll all be able to continue getting together with family and friends, and feel good about being able to do so.

We've all worked hard to get to this point, and we've earned this — let's have some fun with all these great events being offered to us, and do it safely!

Penny Coles
The Local

The grey months, and why they deserve our attention



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

November and December are often qualified, in my mind at least, as the grey months. The captivating fall colours have moved to the forest floor, and it is not systematically cold enough to deliver the bountiful beauty of snow.

What stands before us is a fascinating barcode of trees. vertical, opaque pillars of wood and history dancing

in the wind. To many, these months are bland and dreary. To the inquisitive eye, this is a unique opportunity to assess the bare bones of the landscape that surrounds and nourishes us, even as it appears to be going to sleep.

The grey months are upon us. The wildlife is beginning to hibernate, their DNA blueprints steering their bodies into underground crypts beneath the freeze line, and into the hollow cavities of trees. Some birds have migrated toward warmer global locales — across our fabricated lines of humanity we call borders — without a passport or a peep.

The last snake I saw was

on Remembrance Day. As the eastern garter snake symbolically retreated into the mosaic of rock and mud off the side of the Bruce Trail, it was a moment of acceptance that the seasons have changed.

As snakes and mother nature shed their skin, their true form is revealed.

In Short Hills Provincial Park, I can see many valleys over the horizon. In the summer months, you feel encapsulated by the nation's richest ecosystem, our Carolinian Forest. All of that broadleaf foliage allows you to focus on one valley or creek at a time. Now, with virtually all greenery dormant, we have

an appreciable opportunity to understand the true lay of the land,

I can see a ridge behind a ridge, and a valley behind a valley. I can now process how this landscape is draining, how it was formed by events of glaciation and erosion, and how one valley is of a different character from the one beside it.

A profound observation is how certain tree species grow exclusively in the bottomlands of these landscapes, such as sugar maples and towering American sycamores. This is where they thrive.

Up the hillsides, another group of organisms makes themselves at home. The unmistakable cedars and east-

ern hemlocks, both conifers, cling to life on the cliffs which they were historically forced to survive on.

After our last glacier began retreating 12,000 years ago or so, these evergreen species dominated the landscape. As the warming climate set the stage for maples, oaks, and hickories to further infiltrate and succeed in southern Ontario, cedars and hemlocks were literally forced to the outskirts to live a meagre but self-sustained lifestyle on the edge.

Along the hilltops splitting the valleys, deer trod on their well-worn trails to remain attentive to their surroundings. Funny, how I use said ridges to assess the true physical form of the

landscape for information and pleasure, while another mammal walks upon this route to survive and avoid becoming prey.

Standing on one of these ridges, I notice the copper veins of beech trees slicing their way through the landscape by means of the valleys. I imagine myself as a red-tailed hawk, soaring above at this time of year, seeing the valleys, but not the hilltops, lined by the deep orange of beech trees — strings of colour weaving through a sea of brown and grey. Beech trees are one of two deciduous tree species to keep their leaves for the winter, and they love grow-

Continued on page 7



Letters!

We want letters!

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



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The Power of the Dog (Netflix, 2021), a highly acclaimed film, is magnificent to watch and wonder at its nuanced storytelling. I responded to its urgency and passion, yet I must watch again as I know I missed so much of its richness.

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



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

Editor:
Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com
905-246-5878

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowsell
composing@notllocal.com

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

notllocal.com facebook.com/notllocal instagram.com/thenotllocal [@thenotllocal](https://twitter.com/thenotllocal)

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

DISTRESS CENTRE For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711	KIDS HELP PHONE Service for youth 416-586-5437 1-800-668-6868 (Crisis Line) kidshelpphone.ca	ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE Mobile calls to: #SAFE (#7233) 1-866-863-0511 (Toll Free)
MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS (Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205	ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark's Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting 905-682-2140	CRIME STOPPERS 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip
GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS 905-351-1616		

COMMENT

Habitats, caves exposed

Continued from page 6

ing on hillsides of valleys.

All in all, it is not a coincidence where certain tree species live. November and December are a perfect time of year to visually sort that out.

Diving into a micro-scale of life and patterns, the ridges on the red oak tree's bark remind of the ridges that span multiple kilome-

tres in the park. The fungus curiously grows inside of the grooves, but not on the elevated plates in between. We are scaling millimetres against hundreds of metres, but the visual theme remains the same. Nature doesn't know perfection, but it is almost perfect.

At this time of year, animal habitats such as burrows and caves become exposed. Previously occluded by plant

life, the rocky realms of the Niagara Escarpment and beyond are now visually withered down to their basic framework. As a biologist and tour guide, this allows me to take notes for spring and summer next year.

If I had a dollar for every pond, cave, or secret ravine I have discovered in the grey months, I would be rich in happiness for better understanding the land.



This conservation area along the Niagara Escarpment is a great example of seeing the true form of the landscape in the grey, grey months. (Owen Bjorgan)

Local LETTERS

Ignoring public opinion bad journalism

Your editorial (NOTL can be a better diverse, inclusive community, The Local, Dec. 1) is clearly biased journalism. How can you argue otherwise? This is a disgrace to any journalist in itself, and it seriously affects the credibility and integrity of The Local in the opinion

of many residents whose voices may be unheard because of editorial bias.

It is also dishonest in the selectiveness of its support claims and again ignores the importance and relevance of majority public opinion by publishing only what it agrees with or is in sympathy

with. This also contradicts your previous statement concerning the absolute importance of varied opinion to good journalism.

This can hardly be seen as the trusted voice of our community.

Derek Collins
NOTL

Local LETTERS

A Canadian is a Canadian, that's all that matters

I have read the letter from Jordon Williams regarding the placing of a rainbow crosswalk at King and Queen Streets.

To believe that installing a rainbow crosswalk is going to build "a prosperous and sustainable economy" might lead one to believe that the local economy is in a state of crisis. Pre-COVID the streets were packed with people causing some people in town to complain that there is too much tourism.

He equates the rainbow crosswalk as showing we take all citizens "equally and seriously." He goes on to say that the rainbow crosswalk seems to represent a number of groups such as the Indigenous peoples and the African Canadians. I am not sure I have had either of these groups state that the rainbow represents them in any way, shape or form.

He next addresses the need for the crosswalk to be a permanent feature. So, assuming that all attitudes change to his satisfaction, why would we need to have this as a permanent feature? Should the In-

digenous peoples or the African Canadians have their own crosswalk or flag raised? What about the white supremacists (God forbid)? I do believe that a Canadian is a Canadian and that is all that matters. The Canadian flag represents all Canadians.

He addresses the economics. Not sure that trying to buy support through proposing this will increase business is the right way to go. I think you would be hard-pressed to find a business in town that discriminates against any group. As an accommodation owner, we have hosted many LGBTQ folks. I don't see how the crosswalk would increase the LGBTQ traffic in any substantive way. People come to NOTL for the wineries, the theatre, the history. These are the aspects that need to be promoted that attract people to town regardless of any differences. He tells us that the LGBTQ population is 4.5 per cent of the population but spend about eight percent of the disposable income. This means that 91.5 percent are not from this group. Siting the dis-

posable income of LGBTQ persons represents \$1 trillion also doesn't mean that they all will be headed for NOTL to spend that money. It might be interesting to know what percentage of American LGBTQ folks come to NOTL (not suggesting doing a survey would be good).

To suggest that we need to brand ourselves as supporting any group in order to attract more of those people is farfetched. I do feel that making any group what might be considered to be special is the wrong way to go. I disagree with having a month long celebration of any group. We only celebrate being Canadian for one day. Often rainbow crosswalks in other communities have drawn the ire of others and been damaged. A \$7,000 investment that has the potential to be damaged and have to be redone doesn't seem like the way to go. As Mr Williams states, this topic "stirs up emotions." Pursuing a topic that divides the community is not advantageous.

Doug Johnson
NOTL

Local LETTERS

Let's get balanced views on topic of pride crosswalk

Once again you have given carte blanche approval to the unsubstantiated claims (So many reasons for paying attention to LGBTQ+ community, Nov. 17) made by Mr. Williams, who stated that economic advantages will emanate from the LGBGT community, if they feel more welcomed, more so, if a rainbow crosswalk is introduced to our town.

In addition, you state in your most recent editorial (NOTL can be a better diverse, inclusive community, The Local, Dec. 1) as to why you choose not to publish any contrary viewpoints, because you do not wish for the LGBGT community to feel unwanted. What absolute rubbish. I was asking the contributor to substantiate his claims. Something per-

haps you should have done before giving him so much press.

Surely, your job as an editor of a local newspaper, is to be representative of the entire community, not just a portion of it. Let's see some facts and figures and let's get some balanced views and comments in your newspaper.

Jean O'Malley
NOTL

Local
The Niagara-on-the-Lake
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

Christmas GIFT GUIDE

Advertise your business in our special section!



***SPECIAL BONUS FOR MINIMUM 1/4 PAGE AD**

We will match your minimum quarter page ad size with equal space for your submitted story about your product or service.

Publication Dates:
December 15, 22

Booking Deadlines: Fridays prior to each publication date at noon

Next Deadline: Friday, December 10

NOTL businesses contact

Karen at **905-641-5335** or **karen@notllocal.com**

Businesses outside NOTL contact

Julia at **905-934-1040** or **julia@notllocal.com**

Santa Around Town this Saturday

Town Staff

This Saturday is the day for Santa Around the Town, the alternative event planned when the traditional Christmas parade was cancelled.

The event features Santa riding in his sleigh on a float which will be driven through

all five Niagara-on-the-Lake communities, providing residents with an opportunity to wave and shout a Merry Christmas to everyone's favourite man in red.

The event begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, although it could be changed to Sunday, Dec. 12 in the case of bad weather.

Santa's route begins in Glendale, then takes him to St. Davids, Queenston, and the Old Town, to finish in Virgil.

Santa's route is outlined in the map at <https://notl.com/santa>. The map will be interactive so residents can track his route as he makes his way through town.

Santa to visit community centre Dec. 18

Town Staff

Santa is coming to town to spend a morning at the community centre chatting with local children.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, he will be onhand to sit and visit with children, beginning at 10 a.m.

In addition to having the opportunity to talk to Santa, colouring tables will be set up, and there will be a colouring contest, with prizes offered.

At about 11:30 p.m., Santa will read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* for families gathered in the community centre.

The event is being offered

by Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Services, partnering with the town.

Hot chocolate and goodies will be provided by Sweets & Swirls Cafe.

Photo opportunities will be available until 11:30 a.m., with the event wrapping up at noon.

Health and safety measures will be followed, with mask-wearing and physical distancing, and mandatory vaccination requirements are in effect at the community centre.

The local palliative care organization has exceptional support from Santa, who was available to make this special

visit to the community centre, says executive director Bonnie Bagnulo, and it seemed a perfect opportunity to provide a fun event for local kids, who have missed out on so much during the pandemic.

"We hope parents and kids will be excited about his arrival," says Bagnulo.

The Palliative Care Services is taking this opportunity to show the community "we are about quality of life, at all stages of life."

Santa also visits local long-term care homes, she says. "He likes to bring happiness wherever he can."


A decorated tractor parade — in NOTL!



When Dorothy Soo Wiens decorates a tractor, she goes all out. She is arranging a Christmas Tractor Processional for next Thursday, Dec. 16 put together with love for her community. The route will begin from the arena parking lot at 6 p.m. will go right onto Four Mile Creek Road, cross Niagara Stone Road and continue to Pleasant Manor Lane, where neighbours will have an opportunity to see the parade. It will continue on to Eldon Road, left onto Line 1, back across Niagara Stone Road to Concession 4, to Line 2, and then right onto Four Mile Creek Road and back to the arena. It will be an event for everyone to enjoy. (Photo supplied)



Santa has been visiting lots of children virtually, but has time to chat in person with local children Saturday, Dec. 18.



Petar's

Diamonds are our specialty

Petar's Jewellery
268 Geneva St., St. Catharines
(opposite Fairview Mall) | 905-937-7340

McGarr Realty Corp. Brokerage
The House of McGarr | Niagara-on-the-Lake
Proudly Welcomes
Michael Wassif Salama, Sales Representative

Michael has over two decades of extensive experience in customer and clientele relations, specializing in the Photo and Digital Capture Services industry. His personable yet professional demeanour has allowed him to excel at building and maintaining successful and long-lasting working relationships. His finely tuned interpersonal skills, commitment to client satisfaction, and extensive knowledge of the Niagara Region inspired him to pursue a real estate career with The House of McGarr in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Buying and selling real estate is a huge endeavour, and Michael knows how important it is to make sure that his clients fully understand all of their options and have all of the information they need before moving forward. He is dedicated to finding the perfect solution to meet the needs of every single client he takes on, and guiding them through every step of the process is an obligation he does not take lightly.

Michael Wassif Salama,
Sales Representative

"Welcome to the House of McGarr! When choosing Michael as your realtor, you're guaranteed an enjoyable, encouraging, and reliable experience when buying or selling a home."
-Sally McGarr, Broker of Record

House of McGarr
McGarr Realty Corp. Brokerage
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
1507 Niagara Stone Road

 McGarrRealty.com
 905-347-2010
 Michael@McGarrRealty.com

Wishing you
another
Socially-Distanced,
Extraordinary,
Happy, Healthy
Holiday!

Niagara
on-the-Lake
Realty

1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage



Be like Santa – shop local



Submitted by OLIV

Owners of OLIV Tasting Room, Rick Jorgensen & Colleen Cone invite you to visit them in-store this Christmas to check out the wide variety of Christmas gift ideas they have to offer.

“2020 was scary for everyone. The pandemic was new, the lock-downs were something not seen in more than a hundred years. Yes, we were worried for our families and, of course, our store. Even 2021 started out worrisome.

But, we’ve survived and so far this year things are looking better and we remain positive,” Jorgensen said.

This positive outlook is, to a large degree, the support and strength we have received from the local area residents, who have continued their strong support for our business.

“We had to pivot quickly last year and opened our own direct online store, olivniagara.com. This helped us take orders and provide curbside pick-up. Something we still do to this day. Customers can order online and drop

by to pick it up at the store,” explained Colleen. “I think customers have come to enjoy that service.”

OLIV has also added to its product line with new food items, like olives, tapenade and spreads. The store also has a wide range of olive wood products, made from reclaimed olive trees that no longer produce fruit.

“We are always looking to provide our customers with new high quality products.”

From OLIV us to all of you – “Merry Christmas. Stay safe. Thanks for your support.”

Even Santa Shops at OLIV

Santa’s got us prepared for Christmas with ready-to-go gift baskets; custom-made gift baskets; and, a whole range of other great gift ideas!

SHOP IN-STORE OR ONLINE
118 Queen St., NOTL | 289.868.8898
olivniagara.com

Vaccination appointments available at NOTL clinics

Penny Coles The Local

The best way to protect against an increased spread of COVID infection is for more children to be vaccinated.

Dr. Azim Kasmani, Niagara’s associate medical officer of health, says that’s where the greatest risk is, and vaccinations are the best way to reduce that risk.

He explained that out of caution Niagara is one of 26 of 34 public health units in the province that has issued a letter of instruction, under the terms of the provincial COVID recovery legislation — the Reopening Ontario Act — to organizations and businesses operating indoor sports and recreational facilities, implementing restrictions to prevent more outbreaks.

Kasmani says the younger age group is where outbreaks are spreading, although they are not beginning in schools, but out of concern for privacy, he wouldn’t release information about where outbreaks are originating.

The instructions regarding further restrictions require the following:

1. Controlling the capacity in the highest risk areas of sports and recreation facilities (e.g. change rooms) to facilitate

physical distance and reduce the spread of infection.

2. Closing exceptions and loopholes in the current proof of vaccination requirement to use indoor sports and recreational fitness facilities. Operators are now instructed that everyone aged 12 and older must show proof of vaccination to enter these facilities, unless a person has a valid medical exemption.
3. Requiring a vaccination policy for employees of these facilities. Given vaccine-eligible patrons must be vaccinated to protect each other and the staff of the facilities, staff should provide the same protection back to patrons.

“Over the past six weeks, children have had the highest risk of being infected from COVID-19, and participation in sports and athletics has unfortunately become a significant contributor to those infections,” said Dr. Mustafa Hirji, acting chief medical officer of health. “When these infections get into schools, classes are closed, children must isolate and fall behind in learning, and parents must stay home to care for them. The narrow, targeted measures we are requiring will keep children safe and in school as we head into the holiday season, when infections are likely to surge, and we potentially face the omicron variant.”

said Kasmani. They may also help to ensure people can keep their plans to get together over the holidays, after being denied that pleasure last year, he added.

With cases going up in some areas of Ontario, the province has been leaving it up to individual health units to handle restrictions locally, although that might change if the number of cases continues to rise.

In Niagara there was a jump in cases to 41 on Friday and 42 on Saturday, down to 29 on Sunday, Monday to 24, and up to 29 on Tuesday.

“I would really encourage everyone to get their children vaccinated before the holidays to protect the community and our children,” said Kasmani.

By Monday, 5,200 doses had been administered to children five to 11 in Niagara, or about 16 per cent of the 32,500 children who are eligible, he said.

If clinic appointments fill up, Public Health is ready to scale up their clinics. “This remains a priority for us.”

“We’ve been really encouraged by the growth (in the number of vaccinations) every day,” he added.

“It’s a very safe vaccination. If I had children in that age group I would vaccination them without hesitation.”

There are three clinics planned at the community centre in NOTL, beginning Friday, with 53 appointment slots still available at press time, 90 on Dec. 11, and 122 on Dec. 12.

To make an appointment for children aged five to 11, visit <https://niagararegion.ca/health/covid-19/vaccination/clinic-schedule.aspx>

Dr. Kevin Clark and Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark
Dentists
and their registered
Dental Hygiene Team

369 MARY STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009

HONoured TO BE YOUR VOICE IN OTTAWA

TONY BALDINELLI, M.P.
NIAGARA FALLS
NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 905-353-9590
FORT ERIE OFFICE: 905-871-9991
TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA • TONYBALDINELLIMP.CA

Get in touch for a Free Home Evaluation

Together we achieve more

RICHARD MELL
Broker
289-219-0304
rmell@sothebysrealty.ca

DONNA D'AMICO
Sales Representative
905-380-9390
ddamico@sothebysrealty.ca

Sotheby's Canada
INTERNATIONAL REALTY
Sotheby's International Realty Canada, Brokerage. Independently Owned and Operated.

Archaeological digs turn up interesting artifacts

Penny Coles
The Local

During a recent two-week field visit, teams of two to four Parks Canada archaeologists were in Niagara-on-the-Lake to dig test pits and explore areas of Parks Canada properties.

They were working at the location of the British Indian Department Council House and the military hospital, Butler's Barracks, Navy Hall and the NOTL Golf Course.

During their explorations, communications officer Elizabeth LeBlanc explains in an email, "the archaeologists found what they were expecting would be present at these sites, where people have lived for extended periods of time."

Artifacts found in NOTL included "a really small amount of material from the 1830s onward, including a couple broken clay pipes, a chin scale from a British army shako (a shako is a tall, cylindrical military cap, the chin scale a leather strap), and construction debris – broken bricks and foundation stone.

"They may have found a section of the military hospital's foundation, but that will have to be confirmed through additional archaeology and comparisons with original plans and drawings of the sites," says LeBlanc.

The archaeologists will very likely be back on site in the spring to continue their explorations once

the weather is better, she added.

Archaeology and the care of our cultural resources are fundamental parts of Parks Canada's mandate," explains LeBlanc.

"It's an important and regular part of the work that we do, either in advance of a project or just to try and gather more information for the future. From a practical perspective, it helps us gain a better understanding of these special places and their uses throughout history so that we can work with our Visitor Experience teams at the sites to interpret these stories in the future."

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, she adds, "we are fairly familiar with how the British Army used this land, but we are always looking to learn more about how the people who were here before the 1800s used and connected with the landscape."

In Canada and even here in Niagara, there is an incredible amount of archaeological and cultural resources, and they reflect the diversity of people and communities that moved through or occupied the land over thousands of years, she says.

"Through archaeological investigations, research and analysis, archaeologists work somewhat like detectives to uncover clues that allow them to understand the people who once inhabited the land. The archaeologists' research and

interpretations contribute to the understanding of Canadian history and of history in general."

"As you can understand," she continues, "the national historic sites that Parks Canada administers on behalf of the people of Canada are important spaces. These sites allow us to learn more about history in Canada, including the diverse cultural communities who make up Canada, and the histories and cultures of Indigenous peoples. They may be sacred spaces, archaeological sites, battlefields, heritage houses, historic districts, landscapes, and much more."

The British Indian Department Council House on the Common between Butler's Barracks and Fort George played an important role in consultations between the British Indian Department and their Indigenous allies. It later became a hospital and the area where it once stood is marked today with interpretation panels and benches to encourage visitors to sit and reflect.

The site of the British Indian Department Council House has special significance for Indigenous people. "We continue to collaborate with Indigenous communities and key stakeholders to better understand and honour the depth and breadth of cultures and histories in the Niagara Region, to jointly and respectfully share these stories in the future."



Rachel Brooks, Parks Canada archaeologist, explores the earth on the Commons at Butler's Barracks National Historic Site. (Parks Canada photo)

CELEBRATE THE
HOLIDAY SEASON



Bravo niagara!
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS



Bravo Niagara! TD Jazz Series presents



DEC 16

Pavlo

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

With very special guests

DEC 20

Molly Johnson

IT'S A SNOW GLOBE WORLD

New holiday album



NEW!

Niagara Airbus shuttles from
Niagara-on-the-Lake now available!

7:30PM

FIRSTONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE | ST. CATHARINES

Concert and shuttle tickets available at

www.bravoniagara.org

For more information call

289-868-9177

Garden club decorates McFarland House garden

Penny Coles
The Local

The pandemic has brought some changes for the Garden Club of Niagara, as for everyone, but members have continued to share their design skills and love of gardening with the community during the holiday season.

The McFarland House has been one of their annual projects since the club was formed in 1995, and began partnering with the Niagara Parks Commission, which owns the historic site.

In past years the outdoor gardens and the house itself have been decorated for the Rotary Holiday House Tour, and in the afternoons the house was open for events in the tea room.

This season, with the house closed to the public due to COVID for the second year, garden club members went all out designing and creating A Winter Garden, an outdoor exhibit to continue their connection to the house tour, and for the pleasure of those walking along the Niagara Parkway recreation path. The garden was designed to represent the early life of 19th century Upper Canada, with natural decorations.

"We wanted to do something at McFarland House, as we have in the past," says garden club president Kit Thompson. "Last year, the house was

closed, so we didn't do anything, and locals driving by asked us about it, telling us they missed it. We were going to ask if we could just put a wreath on the door this year, but every time we start to do something, it grows into something else. And we decided if we were going to do it, we wanted to go as big as we could."

What it grew into included two beautiful Christmas urns overflowing with greenery at the entrance, an elaborately decorated Christmas tree, and of course a wreath on the front door. In addition, Thompson and club members created a woman, child and music stand as the focus of the design, made of natural materials scavenged from members' gardens., saved just for this time of year.

"Some members have one particular thing they've saved that they want to incorporate in the decorations," says Thompson.

"In the past, the focus was on the inside, but this year, the outdoor garden had to be really welcoming. That's where the theme of a winter garden came from, and we began making these figures."

Most of the work took place in Thompson's garage.

Members start thinking about a design in August, and have had several workshops to plan and make the decorations, with members gathering in

small groups, and some making them at home.

The figures had to look like they belong in the War of 1812 era, with their Regency clothing, "and we took it from there," says Thompson.

The forms were shaped by chicken wire over a metal frame, with the woman over six feet tall, so she would be visible from the road.

Then, members used ingredients such as ginkgo leaves, dried acanthus blossoms, moss, bark, pine and redwood cones, and other materials to complete the figures.

"Trying to interpret the pieces of clothing in natural materials — that was the fun of the project," she says.

"And there is enough double-sided carpet tape holding everything together to carpet a whole house. There could be some windy days, and you never know what might happen."

There was one extremely windy day before the holiday house tour, and the Christmas tree, although firmly secured, blew over, but was quickly repaired Friday morning. The figures remained unscathed.

Thompson says she likes to name her figures, so given the Regency period and the Scottish heritage of the McFarlands, the woman in the garden is Ephigenia, and the boy, around 10 or 11, Bartholomew. The music stand is to indicate



Kit Thomson, Kathy Humphries and Gail Santsche pose around the Christmas tree the Niagara Garden Club decorated. (Photos by Penny Coles)



The Winter Garden figures at the McFarland House represent the Regency Period, made of natural garden material.

there might be some carolling planned. "She'll be warm enough — she has a good coat on."

Rebecca Pascoe, manager and curator of McFarland House, was on hand to open the doors and make the house accessible for garden club members to get out of the cold while they worked.

She says visitors respond to the heritage garden, appreciating the authentic and historic nature of the site. While there are beautiful and interesting modern designs to decorate homes, "people enjoy visiting the heritage site, coming back every year to see it — it's always different," she says.

"It's become one of the local family traditions for a lot of people, and one of the most popular stops on the house

tour. It gives people a sense of community connections, something you revisit every year. It makes your heart feel alive in a very special way."

A visit to McFarland House at Christmas "has evolved to become a town and family event. Events like these allow us to slow down and have these important connections with friends and family."

"Kids would come to tea with their grannies, year after year," adds Thompson. "It was a given, the weekend after the house tour. Next year we're hoping to be able to return to decorating the outdoors and indoors," she says, and once the holiday decorating is finished, members will begin to meet to design the heritage garden they plant every spring.

Planning their projects and

carrying them out, including the summer and winter gardens, another design at Table Rock in Niagara Falls, decorating the Simcoe Street home on the Rotary House Tour, and regular virtual meetings and monthly presentations, are what have helped keep club members connected during the pandemic.

"We're not meeting in person, but we've done as much as we can on Zoom," says Thompson. "Not everyone could join in, but we did little practice sessions before the meetings, and some members have been helping others. It's been a good learning curve."

The club's 25th anniversary celebration and other events had to be postponed, "but we'll get back together and make up for it when we can."

Christmas TOY DRIVE

NIAGARA PENINSULA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

Join Butler Funeral Home as they support the Niagara Peninsula Foundation for Children's

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

taking place November 1 until December 14, 2021. Donations of unwrapped toys, food, toiletries, gift cards or cash will be gratefully accepted at

Butler Funeral Home
424 Niagara Street,
(at Scott) St. Catharines
More Info: 905 646 6322

Butler Funeral Home
Niagara Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

Martin Sheppard Fraser LLP

ASHLEY M. LIPINSKI
Family Law

email: lipinski@msflawyers.com
phone: 905.354.1611 x 266

SHAW
FESTIVAL 60

2022 SEASON
FEBRUARY 9 — DECEMBER 23
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, ONTARIO

2022 SEASON TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

JOIN US! GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY.



SHAWFEST.COM | 905-468-2172

TIM CARROLL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
TIM JENNINGS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KIMBERLEY RAMPERSAD, ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

OUR 2022
SEASON
FEATURES:

DAMN
YANKEES



GASLIGHT



THE
DOCTOR'S
DILEMMA



CYRANO DE BERGERAC • THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST • CHITRA • JUST TO GET MARRIED • THIS IS HOW WE GOT HERE • TOO TRUE TO BE GOOD • AUGUST WILSON'S GEM OF THE OCEAN
EVERYBODY • FAIRGROUND & SHAWGROUND • OUTDOOR CONCERTS & EVENTS • A SHORT HISTORY OF NIAGARA • A CHRISTMAS CAROL • IRVING BERLIN'S WHITE CHRISTMAS

Museum lecture focuses on freedom-seekers

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum will host its final virtual lecture of the year next week with historian Rochelle Bush, as she enthusiastically shares the fascinating history of *The Lesser Known: Uncovering some of the Black people of Old Niagara*.

About NOTL, Bush exclaims, “My gosh, the rich Black history that is there!”

As the resident scholar and trustee for the Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Catharines, Bush usually focuses her talks on the church’s most famous parishioner, Harriet Tubman, one of the

most famous “conductors” on the Underground Railroad. She helped hundreds of freedom-seekers escape U.S. plantations to Canada, living in St. Catharines and attending the Salem Chapel where Bush’s great-great-grandfather served as the minister-in-charge.

Her upcoming lecture will be a bit different from others she has delivered, this one focusing on specific stories about freedom-seekers who arrived by way of the Underground Railroad and settled in NOTL before moving throughout the region. While these stories have a connection with Tubman, it is the personal connection that they have to Bush that she has

been exploring. In September 2020, Bush received her results from a DNA test and the findings took her some time to process. “For about three days I was really shook up, thinking, ‘what the heck’ Then it dawned on me, there is not enough Black people testing, so as a Black North American, a lot of them came up as white people,” she explained. “When they escaped from the U.S., a lot of them were already multi-racial-looking then. It was the shock of my life. Then by the third day, I thought ok, I get it now. Some branches of my family all appear white now.”

As a result of the recent knowledge of her genetic makeup, Bush set to work on

researching her own genealogy and connection to the region she calls home. “Most of the talks that I have given this year have been connected to my genealogy in Niagara.” Bush has a deep affinity for NOTL in particular. “After St. Catharines, that has the Tubman component, my second favourite in the Niagara Region is NOTL. It does not get any better,” she continues.

As the sole proprietor and primary guide of Tubman Tours Canada, Bush takes great pleasure in taking guests on a “slow drive” through Old Town. As she explains, “people are able to see the property where Black folks lived who were once slaves. They are able to see the house where

Jefferson Davis was residing in for a short period of time. It’s phenomenal!”

Museum staff confirmed that, due to popular demand, these virtual lectures will continue in the new year. “The NOTL Museum lectures have enjoyed huge popularity amongst the general public, as well as the museum membership,” says Barbara Worthy, visitor and members services assistant. “During the year these lectures have explored topics that range from the history of railways and tennis in Niagara, to treaties, land claims, and women who were not always so saintly.” Worthy reminds us that the lectures are over for the year but not forgotten. The NOTL Museum

has uploaded the lectures to their YouTube channel in case you missed one, or you want to enjoy them over again.

This week’s virtual lecture will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m. For more information email aklassen@nhsm.ca or call 905-468-3912. For registration visit www.nhsm.ca/events.



Rochelle Bush



Rochelle Bush will speak about Black history in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including the Daniel Waters Cottage, as well as the St. Catharines Salem Chapel. (Photos supplied)

MOVING
WATER
FORWARD

[Whoosh] The burst of water splashes on your toothbrush’s bristles. [Swish, Swoosh, Swish] You start to gently brush. [Slurp, Schwish] You take a sip to rinse. [Yawn!] Time for bed.

Clean water.

Brought to you in part by Niagara Region

Niagara, we’re here for you.

Whether it is turning on a tap, getting around on a Regional road or bus or supporting our residents at every stage of life, we are here for you, Niagara. We have made significant progress on delivering priorities that improve our communities and the lives of our residents.

#HereForYouNiagara

Scan to
learn more

Historic Smithy building moved back to Queen Street

Local Staff

The historic Smithy building has been successfully moved from Gate Street back to Queen Street.

The blacksmith's shop, dating back to the 1920s, is part of the property belonging to 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa.

It was moved temporarily to Gate Street during construction on the property, and was recently returned to its home set back from Queen Street.

William Gollop's blacksmith shop was originally located in the laneway behind William Gollop's family home at 118 Queen

Street, which now houses the Budapest Bakery and OLIV Tasting Room. The Smithy has been located on and a part of the 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa property in recent years, and has been carefully moved several times within the block of Victoria, Queen and Gate Streets while the property and surrounding areas expanded, explains Amanda Hansen, director of sales for the hotel and spa.

In 2011, the building became Canada's first Museum of the Paranormal, with a gift shop downstairs, and more recently was used as the front desk reception area for the hotel, luxury

guest rooms, and an executive meeting space.

The building, weighing more than 60,000 pounds, was carefully moved by a team of experts to its final resting place, where Hanson says it can "continue to be cherished with the other historical buildings" which are part of the hotel, as an extension "nestled into the back gardens of the 124 on Queen grounds."

The interior will be refreshed, and the surroundings will be landscaped "so that the original building fits in seamlessly with the expansion of the property and the gardens that will be located onsite."



Weighing 60,000 pounds, The Smithy, built around 1920, has been moved back to Queen Street. (Photo supplied)

Two Collisions on York Road

St. Davids and Virgil firefighters were sent to the intersection of York Road and Concession 6 shortly after noon Tuesday, where a motor vehicle collision had occurred at the intersection. There were six patients in total, all out of the vehicles when firefighters arrived, treated and transported to hospital by the EMS. However, reported NOTL Fire Chief Nick Ruller, there was a secondary collision at the scene while the NRPS and fire crews were still at the intersection, waiting for regional staff to address fluids that had leaked into the roadway ditch. The second collision was minor, and crews remained on scene with NRPS to assist with road closures until the area could be reopened to traffic, said Ruller, which occurred just after 1 p.m. This is an intersection that has been discussed by council as a concern because of an increase in collisions since Concession 6 was opened as a through-street to Niagara Falls. (Photo supplied)



OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

**BARREL
HEAD**

PIZZA IS BACK!

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT • ICEWINE COCKTAILS • LIVE MUSIC FRI & SAT EVENINGS

CALL FOR TAKE OUT (905) 468-3147 - 1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

FOLLOW US @BARREL.HEAD

ANY
TWO

\$50

ANY TWO PIZZAS

INCLUDES A BOTTLE OF TEAM CANADA
RED OR WHITE

\$10

TAKE HOME PIZZA KIT

CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA HOUSE DOUGH, HOUSE
RED SAUCE OR HOUSE OLIVE OIL, MOZZARELLA

\$99

FAMILY MEAL

INCLUDES A BOTTLE OF TEAM
CANADA RED OR WHITE

**FOUR
PIZZAS,
TWO
SALADS**

*VACCINE PASSPORT REQUIRED FOR INDOOR DINING



OPEN

WED-THURS 4-9PM

FRI-SUN 12PM-9PM

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

FULL MENU AT PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELHEAD

LOCALS GET 15% OFF

*DINE IN ONLY

PILLITTERI
ESTATES
Winery

New Rezza brothers release deals with COVID experience

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake brothers Adrian and Lucas Rezza drop their aptly titled new album, *Anthems & Icons* this Friday, Dec. 10, their first to be backed by legendary hip hop label Fat Beats Records.

The follow-up to 2020's *Legacy* sees the brothers cement their reputation as defenders of the hip hop faith. They've gathered a collection of legends for a set of 17 tracks that often evoke the early days of the genre as well as the roots of gangsta rap.

Swiftly McVay (Eminem's D12 crew), KRS-One (Boogie Down Productions), DMC (Run-DMC), Slaine (La Coka Nostra), Kurupt (tha Dogg Pound) and Layzie Bone (Bone Thugs-n-Harmony) all make appearances on the record. Actors Theo Rossi (*Sons of Anarchy*) and Raoul Max Trujillo (Mel Gibson's *Apocalypse, Mayans M.C.*) chip in, and Jamaican reggae artist Sizzla puts his stamp on the dancehall-tinged song *Hardcore*.

The set is more hard-edged than its predecessor, perhaps in part inspired by Adrian's nightmarish bout with COVID-19 that saw him spend most of May, 2021 in hospital.

"It went through the whole family," Adrian says, "My family of four, my mom and dad, who had moved in with us, and Luke's family of four. Everybody got better, but I got progressively worse. One morning my legs felt rock solid and I was spitting up blood. COVID gave me blood clots in my legs and chest, pneumonia, pleurisy and a partially collapsed lung."

Though he was never moved to the intensive care unit, his doctors said he was fighting for his life, his ability to breathe on his

own disrupted. He credits the staff at the St. Catharines hospital site as well as the love of his family for getting him through what he calls a "scary, bloody experience."

The collapsed lung is mentioned in *I Ain't Looking Back*, a collaboration with rapper Papa J that has a groove reminiscent of something from one of Prince's later albums. Adrian sings in his high register "I've been through hell and back, and I ain't looking back, 'cause I'm still here, I'm still living, I'm still standing, I keep on singing, Luke's beats keep banging, I'm still breathing."

Besides documenting his battle with COVID-19, that track also sheds light on the 80 Empire creative process. Luke lays down the beats in his Old Town basement studio, while Adrian sings the hooks and raps, something he does more of on *Anthems & Icons* than he has on past productions.

On the first single, *Salute Me*, he spits rhymes about basketball legends Hakeem Olajuwon and Wyclef Jean and pairs "crocodile" with "versatile," holding his own against Boston rapper Slaine, who takes the second verse.

Oh Too Well begins with a mandolin strum right out of the Godfather soundtrack, laying bare the Italian roots of the Rezza brothers (as does the album cover, which shows the pair in front of the Colosseum in Rome, a concept created by There Be Monsters Design).

Their love of smooth pop-soul sounds shows up in *Runaway Girl* and *Hollywood Dreams*, and the album ends with *Stand for Something*, a slow, mournful number on which Adrian showcases some of his best vocal work alongside the rapping of speedy Michigan rapper Jon Conner.

"It's a bit more of an aggressive album," Adrian

admits, "but it ends gently. That's kind of who we are right now. I've never met anyone who is the same temperament all the time. The mood gradually changes to softer."

In conversation, the lasting effects of the virus on Adrian are evident, though the upbeat, energetic and very talkative singer/rapper doesn't let that stop him from enthusing about the latest 80 Empire project, and others still to come. And it surely comes as a relief that he was still able to find the breath to reach so many of those high notes on *Anthems & Icons*.

Leading up to the Dec. 10 release, Adrian and Luke invited about 50 locals to a listening party at Spirit In Niagara Distillers. Also showing up were friends from their days growing up in Toronto, some of whom were with them as teens as they first started their hip hop journey with the help of their father, who would shop around their mixtapes to local clubs.

Influential DJs such as legendary hip hop artist Chuck D of Public Enemy and electronic musician DJ Eclipse have spun *Salute Me* in the past few weeks, giving the record a big push.

In the hip hop world, authenticity brings respect. The legends working with 80 Empire on this release definitely show their respect to the brothers.

"They see the passion," Adrian says. "Music transcends colour barriers and neighbourhoods that you live in. Everybody can identify with struggle. The title of the album, and the songs, they can relate to it."

Anthems & Icons hits Spotify and other streaming services Friday, Dec. 10. A CD released by their own label Gladiator Records and distributed by Fat Beats will also come out that day, with a vinyl release planned for early 2022.



The new *Anthems & Icons* album cover shows the Rezza brothers in front of the Colosseum in Rome, a concept created by There Be Monsters Design. (Photo supplied)



Adrian Rezza, Lucas Rezza and childhood friend Michael Duenas from Toronto, known as DJ Spice, at Spirit in Niagara in November. (Photo supplied)

NOTL gives back to needy

Town Staff

The town is helping out with a drive-through NOTL Gives Back event for Newark Neighbours Friday.

Residents are invited to drop off non-perishable food items, new and gently used clothing, warm winter coats, scarves,

mittens, or toys. Donations of food and Christmas gifts will be collected for Newark Neighbours' Christmas Food Hamper and Gift programs, and new or gently used warm winter clothing will be collected for Newark Neighbours, Community Care, in St. Catharines and Thorold, and The Mobile Closet, a former food truck transformed

to provide free, new and gently used clothing and other daily necessities to the unsheltered and low-income population in the region.

Participants are encouraged to come dressed in festive wear to help get everyone in the holiday spirit.

The drive-through event is being held at Newark Neighbours, 310 John Street East, Friday, Dec. 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Town staff and Newark Neighbours volunteers will be on-site to assist donors during the event.

New and used clothing should be separated, and donations can be dropped off in advance in one of the donation bins throughout town, including at the community centre on Anderson Lane.



Santa in Cannery Park on his trip through NOTL in December, 2020.



Old Town Niagara at your doorstep.
Charm, convenience and fun!

47 Ricardo St. | \$1,093,000



Buying or selling in NOTL?
Give me a call. 905.329.1563
TRISH BADHAM | SALES REPRESENTATIVE
O: 905.468.8600
C: 905.329.1563
E: trish@bosleyrealestate.com
Bosley Real Estate Ltd., Brokerage
5-233 King Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
L0S 1J0 | P.O. Box 1556

One of the few homes in Old Town with stunning views across the Niagara River to Fort Niagara in New York State, not far from where the Americans stormed the beach in the War of 1812. Entertain in the elegant sitting room off the foyer then take your guests through to the well-appointed dining room/library with its designer tile and wood floors and custom shelves and cabinets.

BOSLEY
REAL ESTATE

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

**SWING INTO THE HOLIDAYS
WITH JAZZ & BLUES AT
SPIRIT IN NIAGARA DISTILLERY**

NEW HOURS
SUNDAY TO THURSDAY 11-7PM
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 11-8PM
COME FOR A COCKTAIL, STAY FOR DINNER!

NEW YEARS' EVE @ SIN

A NIGHT OF JAZZ, COCKTAILS, AND FABULOUS FOOD,
TICKETS AT SPIRITINNIAGARA.COM

458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NOTL. 905-934-1300 INFO@SPIRITINNIAGARA.COM

Festive Sip, Nibble & Shop

ANTIQUES ON CREEK

Friday, December 10th & Saturday, December 11th

Extended Hours: 10 am - 8 pm

1579 Four Mile Creek Rd., NOTL | 905-468-1995

Serving Niagara Since 1977
SIMPSON'S

Shop from the comfort of home
www.simpsonspharmacy.ca



FREE HOME DELIVERY

We are open
in store and online
and offer curbside
pick-up and free
delivery



CURBSIDE PICKUP

We will do everything we can to support you.

Pharmacy: 905.468.2121 | Apothecary: 905.468.8400

Follow our Facebook Page for Updates | www.simpsonspharmacy.ca

Creek Road Paints

is still **mixing** things up!

Open for in-store shopping
(5 Customers at a time)

Monday to Friday - 8 am to 5 pm,

Saturday 8 am - 12 pm

Place your order in advance and
we can have it ready for you.

Call 905-468-2412.

Creek Road Paints

1573 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil

the IRISH HARP pub

*Winter
Ice Festival*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE EVENING FEATURING...

**LIVE ICE SCULPTING BY ROSS NAVARRO
& LIVE MUSIC BY RYAN THOMAS SMELLE**

FULL MENU AVAILABLE • HOMEMADE CHILI SPECIAL • FESTIVE COCKTAILS
ICE WINE TASTINGS • HOT CHOCOLATE, APPLE CIDER & MORE!

FREE TO ATTEND • RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

ICE SCULPTING STARTS AT 6:00PM. OUTSIDE EVENT.
DRESS WARM. PATIO HEATERS WILL BE ON.

CALL 905-468-4443 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

**THE
FARMHOUSE
CAFÉ**

Open For
Lunch Daily

Reservations Strongly
Suggested

Online Booking Now Available!

Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814



CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

**WINE BOUTIQUE
& TASTING BAR**

Open Daily for Wine Tasting

Come Check Out Our
Great Giftware Selection
and NEW Holiday Giftware

Reservations Strongly
Recommended for
Wine Tasting

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com



CHRISTMAS COLOURING CONTEST

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MAPLE LEAF FUDGE,
PHIL'S INDEPENDENT
& THE NOTL LOCAL

Get out your markers, crayons,
coloured pencils and enjoy!

Choose from either of the colouring
pages. Drop off your entry to
Maple Leaf Fudge at 114 Queen Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake or to
Phil's Independent at 1551 Niagara
Stone Road, Virgil (deposit in box in the
buggy area) to be eligible to win either a
beautiful gift basket courtesy of
Maple Leaf Fudge (5 and under category)
or a wonderful gift basket courtesy of
Phil's Independent (6-10 category).

Age categories are, 5 & under and
6-10 years old. Contest closes
Thursday, December 16th at 5 p.m.

NAME: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



Maple Leaf Fudge

World's Finest Fudge made with Real Butter



- TY Products
- Candies & Maple Sugar Products Available

114 Queen Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake
www.mapleleaffudge.com



Independent

Your Independent Grocer

- Natural & Gluten Free Products
- Meat/Deli • Meals to Go
- Produce • Bakery



1551 Niagara Stone Rd., Virgil
905-468-3286 | yourindependentgrocer.ca



LESLEY BROWNE

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Direct: 905.708.8980
lesley@royalpage.ca



ROYALLEPAGE

NRCC Realty, Brokerage, Independently Owned & Operated



SUBWAY



242 Mary Street,
Unit 6, NOTL
289-868-9607

Store hours:
DAILY 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.



konzelmann

estate winery

Happy Holidays
FROM OUR
FAMILY TO YOURS

konzelmann.ca



Winter PROGRAMS FOR KIDS



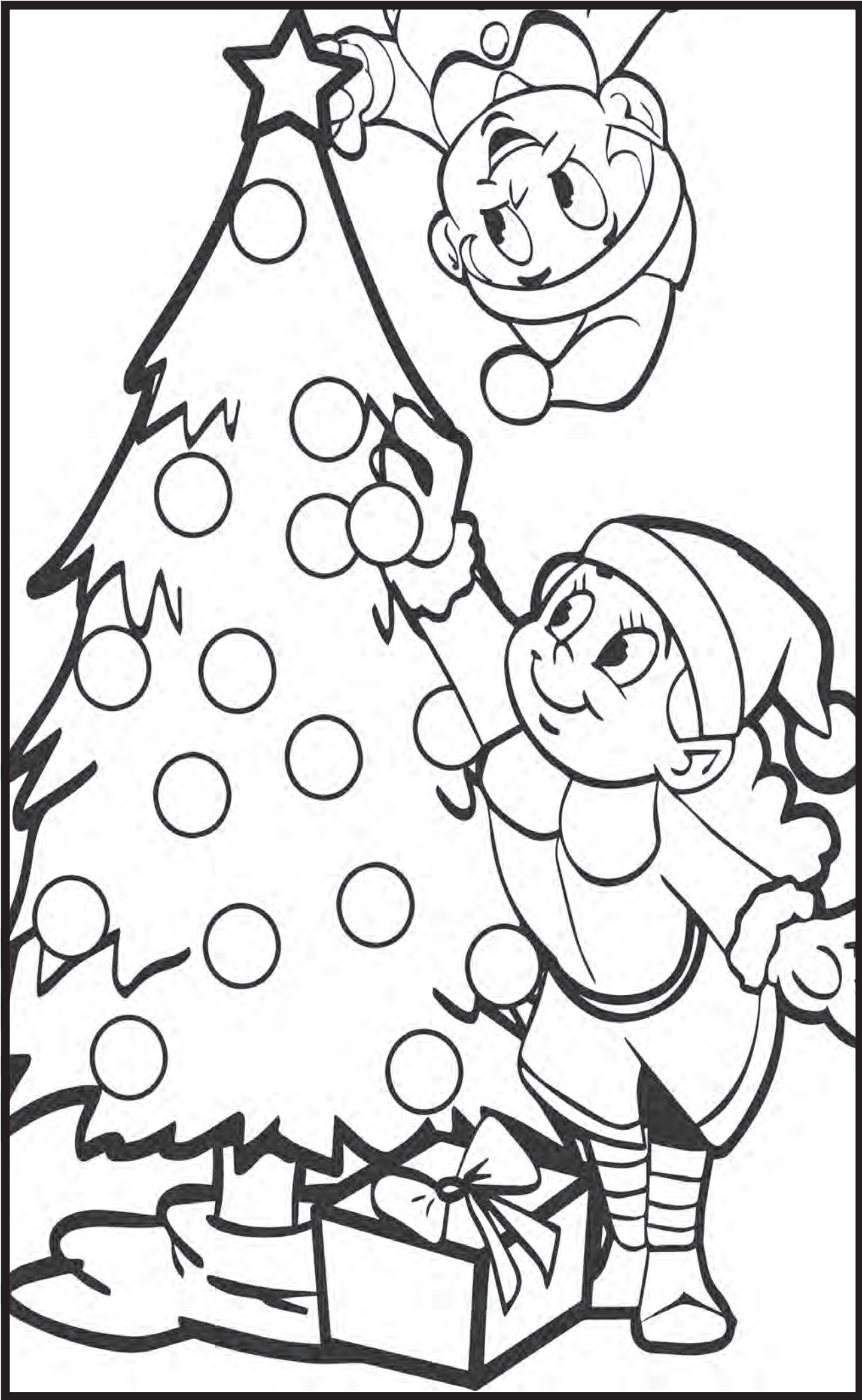
Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre

❄️ Register for Winter Break Workshops for Ages 6-12 ❄️

PAINT! - Jan. 4, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | SCULPT! - Jan. 5, 2022 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

🌐 niagarapumphouse.ca/programs
☎ 905-468-5455
✉ office@niagarapumphouse.ca

❄️ Family-Friendly Online Studio ❄️
Learn to make a beautiful honeycomb ornament to adorn your tree!
Visit niagarapumphouse.ca/programs



CHRISTMAS COLOURING CONTEST

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MAPLE LEAF FUDGE,
PHIL'S INDEPENDENT
& THE NOTL LOCAL**

Get out your markers, crayons, coloured pencils and enjoy!

Choose from either of the colouring pages. Drop off your entry to Maple Leaf Fudge at 114 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake or to Phil's Independent at 1551 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil (deposit in box in the buggy area) to be eligible to win either a beautiful gift basket courtesy of Maple Leaf Fudge (5 and under category) or a wonderful gift basket courtesy of Phil's Independent (6-10 category).

Age categories are, 5 & under and 6-10 years old. Contest closes Thursday, December 16th at 5 p.m.

NAME: _____

AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____



John F. Brown
CFP, FMA, FCSI
Financial Advisor
Manulife Securities Incorporated

1512C Niagara Stone Road, Virgil
(289) 868-9500
john.brown@manulifesecurities.ca

Niagara on-the-Lake Realty
1994 Limited Real Estate Brokerage

www.notlrealty.com



Happy Holidays

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VIAGGIO DI MONTI CONVEGNO REGIONI, BURELLI
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

Season's Greetings
AND HAPPY READING!
from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE
PUBLIC LIBRARY
pursue knowledge

The O'CONNOR Team

Wishing you a happy, safe and healthy Christmas and New Year!

905.327.5589 cell | 905.468.4214 office | theoconnorteam.ca

ROYAL LEPAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated



james o'connor
sales representative



margie vangelder
sales representative

Pavlo's *Home for the Holidays* includes guitar giveaway



Pavlo's Bravo Niagara! performance at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre will include selections from his 2013 album, *Frostbite - Music for the Holidays*. (Photo supplied)

Mike Balsom Special to The Local

Pavlo Simtikidis estimates he has given away more than 1,500 guitars since beginning his solo career in 1998. It's his way of spreading the love he's felt for the instrument since his days as a 10-year-old in Toronto, when he first began to play.

One lucky local fan may leave the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre after Pavlo's *Home for the Holidays* Dec. 16 Bravo Niagara! performance with the very same Pavlo Signature Series guitar played that night by the masterful picker. Each giveaway is valued at \$850, and made by Canadian manufacturer Godin.

"I never need a string sponsor," laughs the 52-year-old from the Florida home he shares with his wife Sandra and their daughters Dimitra and Viola. "I never change my strings. I play a new guitar every night."

Known for his melding of Greek, Spanish and Latin music with pop sensibilities, a style that has become known as the Mediterranean sound, he originally gave away Yamaha guitars, until Robert Godin introduced himself following a Pavlo concert in Quebec. Godin offered to help the guitarist inspire others with an original, homegrown Pavlo-designed luthier creation.

"I always made a pact to myself that if I had any kind of success, I would try to give back, try to help in my own humble way," Pavlo explains. "One of those dreams was to give away a guitar at my shows. Apparently I'm the only person in the world who's ever done this."

"I call it the gift of music," he continues. "If someone starts playing at the age of eight or 70, or learns a few chords to play for their better half, it makes me feel good. I have people who come back to me and tell me they've been playing ever since they won one of my guitars years ago. It makes me happy."

While growing up with his parents in the Danforth area of Toronto, Pavlo was originally inspired to pick up the instrument after hearing the Beatles. As a teen, he loved the progressive rock stylings of British group Yes and Hamilton-based band Saga, but it was Alex Lifeson of Rush who really caught his attention. A 16-year-old Pavlo and his friends formed a Rush tribute band called YYYZ, named after the band's instrumental that immortalized Toronto's international airport code.

But with parents who were both born in Greece, it didn't take long for the music he heard around the house to begin to influence him.

"I developed this real love for flamenco, Latin, and classical guitar," he says. "My mom would have Greek music playing in the house. Slowly, without even knowing, I started to combine all this stuff into my songs. I used to write little fusion songs, and I would stick a little flamenco, or bouzouki in there."

It's not a stretch to hear the influence of Lifeson or Steve Howe of Yes in Pavlo's mostly-instrumental oeuvre. Those guitarists have always been known for introducing classical music elements to rock audiences.

And his 2014 Juno-nominated album *Trifecta* was a collaboration with Chilean-Canadian guitarist Oscar Lopez and Rik Emmett, longtime guitarist-vocalist with heavy rock band Triumph. As well, Pavlo has shared the stage with the likes of Kim Mitchell and singer-songwriter Marc Jordan.

"Most people in my genre sit down to play the nylon string guitar," Pavlo says. "My performance style is almost like a rock band. I stand, I dance, I jump into the audience. I created a sound based on the influences I had growing up. I call it feel-good music. It's about having a good time and being positive."

His 16th album, *Santorini*, a live recording of a concert on the island located about 200 kilometres from the Greek mainland, is ready to be released. It will also be a PBS TV special. Alongside original compositions that feature his signature sound, the record sees him take on an old Armenian folk song, as well as Bon Jovi's *Make a Memory*, and the Moody Blues classic, *Knights in*

White Satin. Though he loves to put his stamp on music written by other artists, Pavlo calls himself first and foremost a songwriter.

"I wrote my first song when I was 12 years old," he tells The Local. "Songwriting is the most important thing that I do in my life, and in my music career."

Some of those Pavlo originals, including *The Ambassador* from the new album, a song he refers to as the best he's ever written, may make it into the setlist for the Bravo Niagara! performance. It's a given, though, that much of the concert will feature material from his 2013 Christmas-themed release *Frostbite - Music for the Holidays*.

And to ensure the mood is set perfectly for the season, he'll be accompanied by the 40-member Chorus Niagara Children's Choir, conducted by Amanda Nelli. As well, Luke McMaster, who collaborated with Pavlo as one of 11 guest vocalists on the guitarist's 2019 album *Together*, will take a guest spotlight to sing his version of the George Michael/Wham! 1984 song, *Last Christmas*.

Pavlo loves to have guests on stage with him. Even during non-pandemic times, when he plays between 150 and 200 gigs a year, he makes an effort to feature local artists in every one of his shows.

"I think we all have a responsibility to help others out," he says. "When someone is trying to make it, all we really want is the opportunity to play in front of people. I think anyone who has any kind of success should always be inviting fellow musicians to the stage to help spread the word. Music is about sharing, camaraderie and making great memories."

On Dec. 16, everyone in the PAC audience will have a new memory to take home. And perhaps that lucky fan who leaves with a new guitar may one day take the same stage with the man who presented it, sharing Pavlo's enthusiasm for the gift of music.

Tickets for Pavlo's *Home for the Holidays* are \$50 and available at bravoniagara.org.

For both the Pavlo show and the Dec. 20 Molly Johnson concert, Bravo Niagara! has partnered with Niagara Airbus to offer a shuttle service. For only \$10 per person, ticket holders can purchase a seat on the shuttle which leaves the NOTL community centre at 6:30 pm. After the show, the shuttle will pick up guests from the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in St Catharines for the ride back to NOTL. Visit the Bravo Niagara! website or call 289-868-9177 to reserve your spot.

LOCAL REALTORS®

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
MARKET
SNAPSHOT

NOVEMBER 2021

HOME PRICE INDEX is an accurate portrayal of the average sale price.

*as reported to The Niagara Association of REALTORS®

NOTL

20

OF NEW LISTINGS

18

OF SOLDS

12

DAYS ON MARKET

\$1,266,000

HOME PRICE INDEX*

\$672

PRICE PER SQ.FT.

VIRGIL

11

OF NEW LISTINGS

3

OF SOLDS

16

DAYS ON MARKET

\$986,600

HOME PRICE INDEX*

\$590

PRICE PER SQ.FT.

ST. DAVID'S

4

OF NEW LISTINGS

6

OF SOLDS

23

DAYS ON MARKET

\$1,220,100

HOME PRICE INDEX*

\$413

PRICE PER SQ.FT.

Jo-Ann Cudmore*

James O'Connor*

Margie van Gelder*

*Sales Representative

125 Queen St., Niagara-on-the-Lake

Direct: 905.468.4214

ROYAL LEPAGE

NRC Realty, Brokerage. Independently Owned & Operated

Predators run their winning streak to eight games

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The Niagara Predators run their winning streak to eight games after beating Windsor Friday and sweeping a home-and-home series against Northumberland this past weekend.

Their first meeting with the Windsor Aces this season was a lopsided affair in Virgil. The Aces brought only 13 players to the Meridian Credit Union Arena, leaving 10 back home. General Manager Johan Eriksson expected the small roster, as Windsor's older players who attend university don't usually board the bus for road trips.

Niagara outshot the Aces 24-3 in the first period, taking a 6-1 lead into the first intermission en route to a 10-3 win. Alexander Insulander led the way with three goals and an assist, while captain Mario Zitella added a pair of goals.

Also scoring Friday were Pontus Madsen, Jesper Eriksson, Henry-Pierre Jayet, Noah Caperchione and the newest Predator, Alessandro Massi, the younger brother of winger Dante Massi, Niagara's leading scorer with 43 points.

Called up from the Junior C Niagara Riverhawks, Alessandro is three years younger and a few inches taller than his older brother. The age gap has meant that during their minor hockey years, they've never had a chance to play together

officially until this opportunity with the Predators came about.

"I was hoping for it," Alessandro tells The Local. "My brother is getting older, so there was just a short time left to see if we'd get to play together. It happened, and I'm pretty happy. My parents like watching us play together too."

They had the chance this weekend to take some shifts together, and the joy on both of their faces was evident. Alessandro clearly admires his brother's style on the ice.

"He plays like he's 6'2", Alessandro says of Dante, who is listed as 5'7". "He's my hero. I've always looked up to him, and the way he plays. His work ethic is above anyone else I know."

"He's a really good two-way player," Johan Eriksson says about Alessandro. "He can grind, he can skate, he's smart. He's going to help us a ton. They (the brothers) are not the same type of player but they complement each other."

Though they came away with two more wins Saturday and Sunday against the Northumberland Stars, those games were remarkable for reasons other than the scoring.

In Saturday's game in Colborne, a total of 90 minutes in penalties was handed out, 53 to the Stars and 37 to Niagara. Northumberland was given three 10-minute misconducts, and defenceman Liam Boyle was kicked out of the game,

while Niagara's Reese Bisci received a misconduct penalty in the second period.

The Predators took a 4-1 lead into the second intermission, but with defenceman Pontus Madsen serving a five-minute major for cross-checking, Northumberland tied it up with three power play goals to begin the third period. Jesper Eriksson and Henry-Pierre Jayet put the Predators back on top for good in a period that saw 32 minutes in penalties handed out and two fights.

The animosity carried over into Sunday afternoon's tilt back in Niagara. It was clear from the first roughing penalty assessed 32 seconds in to Northumberland's Matthew Bazarin, who ended Saturday's game with a fight against Matthew Bredin of the Predators, that the Stars did not come to play hockey.

Pontus Madsen opened the scoring on the power play with his fifth goal of the weekend just eight seconds later. As the first period progressed, though, the Stars took 32 minutes in penalties and Bazarin was thrown out of the game for his continued rough play. Dante Massi, Mario Zitella, Jesper Eriksson and Brenden Morin all scored during a power play that lasted almost 10 minutes for Niagara.

Things settled down in the second as Northumberland's Chance Hill and Logan Kofman solved Niagara goaltender Iain Riordan, but Jesper Eriksson scored twice more and Alessandro added a single to put the game out of reach for the Stars by the end of the second.

The ugliness returned for the third, as the Stars repeatedly shoved and cross-checked Niagara players after the whistle. Josh Davidson was run hard into the boards and suffered a separated shoulder. The referees assessed 26 more minutes in penalties to Northumberland.

The lone item of beauty in the third was a goal by Niagara defenceman Georgy Kholmovsky, who skated with the puck end-to-end, deking around multiple Stars to score a highlight reel goal on Northumberland's Ryan Bray.

Immediately after that, things got rough again, and Northumberland's Liam Chapman was handed a 10-minute misconduct. At that point, with more than four minutes left in



Jacob Collaco covers up as Brett Lee, Logan Baillie and Mario Zitella help out during Sunday's game against Northumberland. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Alessandro Massi at home against Northumberland.



Jesper Eriksson completes his Sunday hat trick, scoring on Stars goalie Gavin Haug.

the game, the Stars coaching staff sent the entire team off to the change room.

The Predators were left on the ice alone, whiling away the time as the clock ran down to make their 9-2 win official. It had to have been one of the most bizarre junior games ever played in Virgil.

"It's ridiculous," GM Eriksson said. "They had 18 penalties. They weren't here to play hockey. They were out to hurt, and they did. In both games. Everyone on our team is feeling it, hurting somewhere from both of these games. I'm a bit mind-blown."

Eriksson assumes the

league will assess suspensions on some of the Stars for the incidents in both games. As of Sunday night, both Josh Davidson (shoulder) and Noah Caperchione (knee) were expected to miss an unspecified period of time with injuries suffered in the Northumberland games.

Head coach and team owner Robert Turnbull wouldn't say much about the Northumberland players and coaching staff in a post-game interview, but instead lauded his own squad for their comportment throughout the game.

"I told our guys to be quiet and act accordingly," Turnbull

said. "I expected it to get a little crazy, and it did. We turned the other cheek. Our goal this weekend was to get six points, and we got 6 points."

At roughly the half-way point of the GMHL season, the Predators are 16-and-4 and hold third place in the South Division, two points behind North York and four behind first place Durham. Their last loss, somewhat ironically a 3-1 decision on the road to the Stars, was Nov. 13.

The Predators will host a short-handed Windsor this Friday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m., and the 5-and-17 Streetsville Flyers Sunday, Dec. 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Meet the Predators

Name:
Joshua Davidson

Jersey number: 5

Age: 18

Birthdate:
February 20, 2003

Hometown:
Thorold, Ontario

Nickname:
Davo

Favourite hockey player:
Auston Matthews

Favourite 'hype' song:
Bad by David Guetta & Showtek (feat. Vassy)

Hockey highlight:
Being awarded Defenceman of the Year

Other sports you play:
Basketball

Favourite "cheat" meal:
Cinnamon Sticks from Pizza Pizza

Secret talent:
When I knock on my head, it sounds hollow!



**ANDREWS LAW
PROFESSIONAL
CORPORATION**
Barristers & Solicitors

905.468.0081
info@rjwandrews.ca

REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS

**Proud to support
local news!**



Wayne Gates

MPP Niagara Falls Riding proudly
representing Niagara-on-the-Lake

905-357-0681
wgates-co@ndp.on.ca



Painting by Steve

• Over 20 Years Experience • Drywall Repairs
• Interior Painting • Low Rates, Fully Insured

**Attention to detail
with the customer in mind**

Call today for your FREE estimate!



cell: **905-630-7630**
paintedbysteve@gmail.com

LocalSPORTS

Jr. B. Thunderhawks folding, without a miracle reprieve

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Last week's announcement of the folding of the Niagara Thunderhawks Junior B lacrosse team prompted St. Davids native Ryan Wagner to reflect on what his time with the organization meant to his development.

Now in his sixth season playing in the National Lacrosse League, Wagner was first called up to the Thunderhawks for one game as a midget in 2010, and pro-

ceeded to spend the next five seasons playing for his hometown team.

"It's tough to see, especially with an organization that gave so much to people like Jay (Thorimbert, currently of the New England Black Wolves of the NLL), Johnny (Ryan's brother, a member of the Rochester Knighthawks) and myself," Wagner says from his Toronto home. "You just kind of assume it was always something that was going to hang on in the community. It was always

in my mind to come back and help out some day."

Wagner says a poster was circulating around the lacrosse community looking for volunteers to try to keep the Thunderhawks franchise alive. His work commitments in Toronto and his pro lacrosse career with the Philadelphia Wings, who played their first 2021 NLL game this past weekend, precluded him from swooping in to lend his support.

The organization sent out a press release last week



Ryan Wagner (left), Brad Thomas and Johnny Wagner (right) when they played together for the Jr. B Thunderhawks. The photo was taken at the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena, in Six Nations, summer of 2016 season. (Photo supplied)



Ryan Wagner plays with the Philadelphia Wings. (Photo supplied)

announcing the news that the club was folding.

The Thunderhawks started in 2003 when Mike Jones gathered a number of volunteers to bring Junior B lacrosse back to NOTL under a new name. The team was made up of players from the NOTL Minor lacrosse system, including players from both NOTL and the Tuscarora Indian Reserve located across the Queenston-Lewiston bridge in New York state.

Though they didn't bring any Founder's Cups, the championship trophy of Canada's Junior B lacrosse leagues, back to the Meridian Credit Union Arena, the team was successful in developing players who were recognized by teams at the Jr. A and professional levels as future stars.

Besides the Wagner brothers and Thorimbert, Thunderhawks Devin Sartor, Corey Fowler, Bryan Neufeld, Chris Weier, Hunter Lemieux and most recently Aidan Buis have all moved on to careers in professional leagues.

But in 2018 the Thunderhawks executives rec-

ognized that dwindling registrations for Niagara-on-the-Lake's minor program was limiting the number of players graduating to play Junior B. They applied for and received a one-year leave of absence from the league to try to build numbers for the 2019 season.

Then, the pandemic forced the shutdown of sports and had a detrimental effect on all aspects of the Thunderhawks organization. Most of the members of the executive stepped down, core players aged out of the Junior ranks, and others lost an important developmental year for their opportunities to move to Junior A. As well, minor players lost exposure to Junior B and many players drifted away from the game altogether.

Though there have been some rumblings in the wind at press time that a last-minute reprieve may save the T-hawks, it seems that a long-standing NOTL tradition has come to an end.

"My last two years I split some time between Niagara and St. Catharines (Junior A Athletics)," Wagner reminisces, "but it was Niagara through and through. Growing up, it was the coolest thing ever when you're playing minor and the Thunderhawks would play. It would be a packed house. All I could dream of doing was to play for the Thunderhawks."

Wagner says the family-like, hometown aspect of the team was important to him. He felt loyalty to the Thunderhawks, which is why he continued to play for the team from 2011 to 2015. His father Mike also helped out on the coaching staff and made many road trips with his two sons.

Wagner holds out hope that future aspiring NOTL Junior B players won't have to travel to St. Catharines to play at that level.

"It begs the question of how we get back to the fundamentals, how do we get more players coming out from the minor program. How do we address that from the grassroots to make sure kids coming through minor are inspired to play for the Thunderhawks, like everyone was when I was going through that same point."

"Growing up in such a small town," Wagner continues, "the NLL is always kind of a pipe dream. The fact that you see so many guys coming out of here and St. Catharines making it, it's an avenue to get there."

The five years Wagner played with the Thunderhawks, learning from coaches Randy and Roger Chrysler, and general manager Al Janzen, are the only reason he got to the NLL, he says.

The minor lacrosse program in NOTL did return this past summer with some changes. With indoor activities still off limits at that time, the game was played outside. As well, players from Fort Erie, Lincoln, Pelham and St. Catharines all joined with NOTL to ensure interested players from all those areas had a chance to play.

"I hope the minor program continues to get the numbers," Wagner says. "If it's not Junior B that I can help out with, down the road, maybe I can help out with the minor Thunderhawks. Who knows, maybe some time down the road there will be an opportunity to revive the Junior program. Time will tell, I suppose."

LocalWORSHIP

CORNERSTONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday, December 12th
First Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Worship Gathering
Online & In-Person
(Registration Required)

Message:
Kevin Bayne - Making Room
for the Miraculous

Our services are also streamed
online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our
website for more information!
www.ccchurch.ca

To advertise your
Worship Services
in this section, please contact:
karen@notllocal.com

Local CLASSIFIEDS

classified@notllocal.com



Compassionate
Transparent
No Pressure
www.morganfuneral.com

EARN
EXTRA
CASH

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

To place your classified ad, contact Karen:
classifieds@notllocal.com
Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.



FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

(Mixed Hardwood)

Free local delivery

\$105 a cord

call:
905-933-1926

OBITUARY



MERRITT, PETER — Peacefully, on December 1, 2021 at St. Catharines General Hospital at the age of 84. Beloved husband of Marge for 59 years. Loving father of Sandra Cutts (Mark) and Ted (Carol). Predeceased by his grandson Corey Peacock (1997). Survived by his brother Wayne (Shirley) and sister Joyce Pospiech and by his in-laws Charlie Webster (Judy), Jerry Webster (Cathy), Tom Webster (Shellie), Lynne Wallace (Jim), and Bill Webster (Cecile). He will be lovingly remembered by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

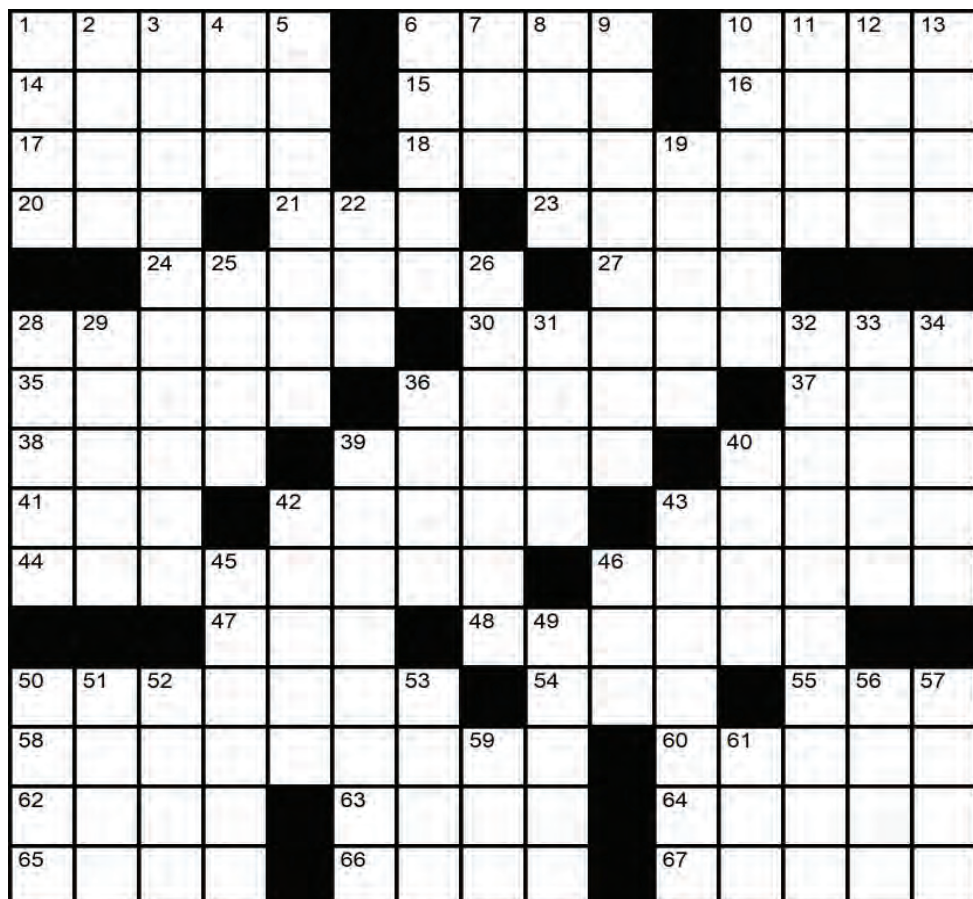
Peter was a very active member of the St. Davids Lions Club for 50 years. He was an avid sports fan and will be missed by all who knew him.

Special thanks to all of the nursing staff and doctors at St. Catharines General Hospital for the support and care that Peter was given.

Cremation has taken place. A celebration of Peter's life will be held at a later date. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



CROSSWORD



Across:

- 1 Palpitate
- 6 Commanded
- 10 Exultation
- 14 Laughing scavenger
- 15 50-50
- 16 "Arrivederci" --- "
- 17 Stimulant
- 18 Gives added assurance
- 20 Episcopate
- 21 Crackpot
- 23 "... Sleepin' in the --- sun!" (Mercer/Carmichael)
- 24 Powerful chopper
- 27 Bad toupée
- 28 Apparel
- 30 Field or box sport
- 35 Hot iron
- 36 "Good Time Charlie's got the ---" (Danny O'Keefe)
- 37 "Iron Man" Ripken
- 38 Bunyan's ox
- 39 Change
- 40 Defeat decisively
- 41 Be unwell
- 42 Slumbered
- 43 As before
- 44 Asks Rene about footwear
- 46 Tune in
- 47 Sugar spirit

48 Wipes clean

50 "--- of the Cave Bear" (Auel)

54 Chicken precursor, or not

55 "Runaway" singer --- Shannon

58 Retail soy all over the place for ongoing income

60 Long-continued practice

62 Kind of tournament

63 Concerning, in legalese

64 Literary miser --- Marner

65 "There is a --- in the affairs of men ..." (Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar")

66 Category

67 Former Senate majority leader --- Lott

Down:

- 1 In this way
- 2 Promote to excess
- 3 Not just one-shot
- 4 Unity
- 5 Seven Sisters NYC college
- 6 Shelf-like sleeping space
- 7 "---, Caesar!"
- 8 Faculty head
- 9 Implements
- 10 "Old ---" (1989 Gregory Peck/Jane Fonda movie)
- 11 Conrad's "--- Jim"

12 "Nanny McPhee" star Thompson

13 Piece of cake

19 Bridge teams

22 Spam

25 Loblolly, for example

26 Orbital path

28 PLO Chairman Mahmoud ---

29 Bridal follower

31 Bertie Wooster's Agatha, for example

32 Taliesin West locale

33 Fry briefly over high heat

34 John with an Oscar and a Tony

36 Transvaal trekker

39 Virgin's bower

40 All do this in court

42 Brain box?

43 Revulsion

45 Known to just a few

46 Barrel stave

49 Bowling alley button

50 Hurry

51 Kachina maker

52 Inspected

53 Barcelona boy

56 Alaska's first governor

57 "--- we forget" (Kipling)

59 Sin

61 Respectful form of address

JEANNE MADELEINE MARY LYS-RAFFERTY



With great sadness the LYS-TEDESCO-TRIBE clan said Goodbye to JEANNE ("Jenni") of Ottawa on November 30, 2021.

Eldest daughter of MARY TEDESCO-TRIBE ("Marilou") of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the late ANDRE ADRIEN LYS.

Predeceased by sister JACQUELINE and brother SEAN, JEANNE is survived by devoted siblings CHRISTIANNE, MARC, DANIELLE and STEPHANIE; dear husband RAYMOND RAFFERTY and beloved daughters MADELEINE and LINDSAY.

Too, she will be greatly missed by a large extended family and many friends in Canada, UK and France.

A life cut short but lived with passion...from photographer, flute player, distance swimmer, marathon runner, pursuer of all things music, fine arts and theatre...to so much more. Forever a nomad, JEANNE embarked on this, her latest adventure accompanied by Dmitri Shostakovich Piano Concert #2 (opus 102), Le Trio Jacques Loussier, and Jazz icon the celestial Molly Johnson.

Au revoir, notre chère, et
Bon Voyage
Requiescat in Pacem

All arrangements private

JEANNE will take her rest in Prince Edward Island

Condolences: Box 1777 NOTL
289-257-6279 Text only

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution for December 1, 2021

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

Across: 1 Throb, 6 Bode, 10 Clee, 14 Hyena, 15 Even, 16 Roma, 17 Upper, 18 Hopi, 52 Eyed, 53 Egan, 57 Left, 59 Err, 61 Sir.
Clematis, 40 Rise, 42 Skilt, 43 Disgust, 45 Arcane, 46 Lag, 49 Reset, 50 Trot, 51 Elipse, 28 Abbas, 29 Train, 31 Aunt, 32 Scottsdale, 33 Saurie, 34 Elton, 36 Boer, 39 Enforces, 10 Ghringo, 11 Lord, 12 Emma, 13 Easy, 19 Fours, 22 U C E, 25 Pine, 26 Down: 1 Thus, 2 Hypo, 3 Repeatable, 4 One, 5 Barnard, 6 Barth, 7 Ave, 8 Dean, 9 60 Usage, 62 Open, 63 in re, 64 Sillas, 65 Tide, 66 Sort, 67 Trent.
Sneakers, 46 Lister, 47 Rum, 48 Erases, 50 The Clan, 54 Egg, 55 Del, 58 Royalties, 35 Brand, 36 Blues, 37 Cal, 38 Babe, 39 Coins, 40 Rout, 41 All, 42 Slept, 43 Ditto, 44 Reaffirms, 20 See, 21 Nut, 23 Noonday, 24 Apache, 27 Rug, 28 Attire, 30 Lacrosse, 54 4, 6, 1, 7, 2, 9, 3, 8

**PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

Wolves narrow 4-3 loss an entertaining game

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Coach Phil Leboudec's U15 Wolves hockey team has a record of 2-5-and-1 after last weekend's narrow 4-3 loss to the Stoney Creek Warriors. But according to the longtime NOTL coach and owner of Your Independent Grocer on Niagara Stone Road, the record doesn't tell the whole story.

"From a coaching standpoint, we take a bottom-up approach," he says. "Every practice, every drill is designed based on the skill level on the ice. It's all about development. I told them right from day one, no one comes into the dressing room angry. I will never be mad at you for losing a game, but I might be disappointed if you're not trying."

"The goal is to have fun," he continues. "Yeah, you want to win the game, there's still that competitiveness, but in this local league it's all about development and having fun."

The Niagara District Local League (NDLL) is a loop that takes the two NOTL U15 teams, composed of kids aged 13 and 14, across

Niagara. They play a 24-game schedule against 13 teams from Fort Erie, Pelham, Port Colborne, Thorold, Stoney Creek, Welland and Wainfleet.

"We're struggling a bit to win," he tells The Local, "but the schedule has put us up against some pretty tough teams at the beginning. All the games are very competitive, very close. As the season goes on and the kids get better I think we'll get there."

Last Saturday the team held its own against a tough Stoney Creek Warriors team in a very entertaining game. They played a spirited game, clawing back into contention for a tie with a goal in the third period. Leboudec pulled their goalie for one last frenzied attempt, but they couldn't put one past the Stoney Creek netminder.

"They're a tough team, they're in second place, and that was a great hockey game," he laughs. "When we went back to the dressing room I didn't even say anything to them. I just fist-bumped every kid and walked out."

Leboudec is joined behind the bench by Jeff Dyck, Dave Coleman, Sean Quinn,

and Gord Neufeld for the team that is, ironically, wearing jerseys with the Harvest Barn name on them.

"Ain't that something," Leboudec jokes. "When I played in my own bantam year, I played for the Harvest Barn team myself. Those jerseys haven't changed much over the years, by the way."

In previous years Leboudec shared coaching duties with James Cadeau. This year, Cadeau is coaching a "rival" U15 team that coincidentally has an identical 2-5-and-1 record.

"We were able to balance the teams fairly evenly," Leboudec says. "We played a pre-season exhibition game and we tied 6-6. I don't think you can balance teams better than that."

Those two teams will meet for the first time in the NDLL on Dec. 19 at the Meridian Credit Union Arena.

The NOTL Local would like to feature other NOTL minor hockey teams in future editions of the newspaper. If parents or coaches would like to submit game reports and photos, please contact Mike Balsom at balsomm@gmail.com or 905-348-6405.



Last Saturday the Harvest Barn Wolves lost 4-3 to a tough Stoney Creek team. (Mike Balsom)



FREE HOME EVALUATION

CALL OR TEXT GREG DIRECT

905.329.3484



RE/MAX
NIAGARA
REALTY LTD., BROKERAGE
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

This market is wild and the average sale price of a Niagara-on-the-Lake home is now nearing \$1,200,000. If you want to know what your home is worth, call Greg now for a free evaluation.

GREG SYKES

real estate TEAM



GARY DEMEO DEBI CHEWERDA GREG SYKES MATT DI PALMA CAMERON JONES