

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



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Candles were lit from the Court House steps, with Lord Mayor Betty Disero, NOTL Chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue (top), Community Health Care Worker Moises Vasquez, (top right), and chamber vice-chair Andrew Niven lighting a candle with Nancy Garner, executive director of Quest. (Mike Balsom)

Small Candlelight Stroll ceremony held Wednesday Public lit candles Friday

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Despite the move to a virtual candlelight stroll last Friday, Jan Ellis and her King Street neighbours weren't about to let the yearly tradition pass without gathering and singing carols.

When Ellis heard of the cancellation of the popular holiday event for the first time in its 31-year history, she quickly purchased 30 candles and got the word out to her friends in the Kingsview Estates neighbourhood. Quickly, all 30 candles were spoken for, and plans were put in place to gather together and hold their own stroll.

Just before 6 p.m. Fri-

day is when the action started. The doorbell rang at her home, as the first of her friends came calling. Jan donned her winter gear and grabbed her candle. As the pair stepped outside, their candles were lit, and their march through the subdivision began.

Like a snowball rolling downhill, the group got larger as they passed the other homes. Porch lights came on, garage doors opened, candles were lit, Christmas greetings were exchanged and the stroll around the island continued.

After two loops around the circle, the group of just over 20 gathered for a photo.

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'Civil' 5G discussion provokes attack on councillor

Penny Coles
The Local

When Coun. Sandra O'Connor decided to introduce a motion to council regarding 5G technology three weeks ago, she didn't expect it to be controversial.

She certainly didn't think Coun. Wendy Cheropita, who introduced the "context for the motion," to be the subject of a public attack in the media.

There was a discussion,

and a vote on O'Connor's motion, which was simply to endorse the motion from the City of Niagara Falls, which was included in the Nov. 19 information package before council.

Niagara Falls councillors voted recently to ask their city staff to reach out to other municipalities that have introduced 5G, and report back with information about the new technology.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake vote was tied amongst coun-

cillors, Lord Mayor Betty Disero breaking the tie with a vote against it.

The Niagara Falls motion had passed with only one dissenting vote, and also endorsed inviting a Health Canada representative to come to the municipality to discuss the fifth generation of wireless communications.

Health Canada has approved 5G service.

O'Connor says she and Cheropita had both been approached by NOTL residents

who said they are concerned about the technology, and had decided to bring that concern to council.

"The Niagara Falls motion was in the information report. It seemed a good opportunity for us to look at the 5G issue, in light of the Niagara Falls request. It was asking Niagara municipalities to have the same consultation on the placement of 5G, which is a much smaller antenna, and can be placed on a telephone pole, or a building.

It doesn't need a big tower, so let's talk about where it will be placed."

Cheropita introduced the issue as a lead-up to the motion, says O'Connor. "We just wanted to address residents' concerns. Wendy paved the way with the context of this motion. She was painting the picture of how we could move forward. I didn't expect it to be controversial, and I don't know why Wendy got so much flak for it," she says.

"It was no big deal. The

motion was defeated. That's democracy, and now we move on."

The criticism of Cheropita in the media over buying into debunked conspiracy theories was unwarranted, she adds.

"Yes, there are conspiracy theories, like 5G causing COVID. That's not what this was."

The personal attack on Cheropita, she says, is the

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Stroll recorded Wednesday, for Friday viewing



Tim and Janice Slade, with Patricia Hartman and Jim Reynolds, sing Christmas carols outside the Court House for the video of the Candlelight Stroll. (Jack Custers)



Neighbours from Kingsview Estates stroll along their street, listening to Christmas music and joining in the Candlelight Stroll. (Mike Balsom)



Judy Thornton and Briar Collins enjoy a Sentineal carriage ride through town. (Jack Custers)



Community Health Care Worker Moises Vasquez, Nancy Garner, executive director of Quest chat with NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue. (Mike Balsom)

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tograph under the street-light. Then, full of Christmas spirit, they headed back off into the winter evening, singing We Wish You a Merry Christmas joyfully.

The Kingsview Estates group was just one of many through the town to take things into their own hands after the stroll was cancelled.

On Wednesday evening last week, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, NOTL Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Lafforgue and Chamber vice-chair Andrew Niven gathered on the steps of the Court House to record their speeches for the Virtual Candlelight Stroll.

Lafforgue told The Local that when it was announced that there would be a recorded opening ceremony to air on Cogeco YourTV Niagara at 7 p.m. Friday, there was some confusion about the timing of the recording. The music had already been recorded, and the speeches were originally to take place for the cameras Friday.

However, a large number of calls and emails to the Chamber made it clear that many interpreted that to mean the entire program would take place live at that time, drawing crowds to the Court House to watch. This, in spite of the article in last week's Local, when Lafforgue was quoted as saying "We really don't want people congregating there."

"We had various emails that were accusing us of creating an "authorized focus of infection," said Lafforgue.

"We thought that the best thing was pre-recording even the speeches, and not only the carollers and the carriage ride."

Lafforgue contacted Niven and Disero, as well as Jack Custers from YourTV Niagara, and the speeches were completed on the steps two days prior to the event. A drive through Queen Street at 7 p.m. Friday night confirmed that the plan worked, as there was no

evidence of a gathering crowd.

Also present Wednesday evening for the opening speeches and the lighting of the candles were two representatives from Quest Community Health Centre. Executive director Nancy Garner and community health worker Moises Vazquez were on hand to light the first candles as Quest's Seasonal Farm Workers Health Program is one of the recipients of the proceeds of this year's candle sales.

In his opening speech, Lafforgue pointed to the challenges faced by Quest this year to continue offering health care and guidance to farmworkers. "Their health professionals were able to provide care virtually through digital platforms," he explained. "There was also a significant increase in required mental health support this year."

He continued, "Seasonal agricultural workers in Niagara are essential workers. They deserve the same respect and service as any citizen, including access to quality health care. They are our neighbours."

Another \$1,000 is being donated to the farmworkers' Christmas gift program to help purchase welcome kits and reflective vests for offshore workers.

As of press time, candle sales, at \$3 each, were sitting at around \$4,000. Lafforgue said that is "much less than last year," but it's understandable. "Last year we got a lot of American money, and we had many tourists," he explained. "There is also a donors' fatigue. They have been solicited so many times this year by so many different causes. We are still proud of what we (the community) accomplished and the money will be in the charities hands by the end of the week."

The chamber also held its annual food drive in association with the stroll, and donations were dropped off at Newark Neighbours Monday.

The Candlelight Stroll ceremony can still be viewed on the YourTV website, at yourtv.tv/niagara.



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COVID case numbers in Niagara up and down

Downward trend needed to consider lifting restrictions, says medical officer of health

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara Region saw a bit of a spike in COVID cases on the weekend, but the numbers coming down early in the week, says Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Niagara Region's acting medical officer of health.

That's not enough to draw conclusions, he says, noting that while the number of cases was high two weekends ago, it was followed by lower numbers the following weekend.

"Individual numbers tend to jump up and down," he says. Over the course of a few days, he said Monday, "it's not so bad."

Niagara saw 26 new cases Saturday, 38 Sunday, 20 on

Monday, and a jump to 34 new cases Monday.

It was Nov. 14 when he instituted his Section 22 restrictions, which included the controversial one household per table at eating and drinking establishments, and while he says he isn't seeing cases originating in those venues, he's still not ready to consider rescinding them.

"Our numbers are not going up very much, and that's good, and quite different from our neighbours in Hamilton, Halton and across the border."

With evidence that bar and restaurant restrictions are working, "I wouldn't want to change them. We're not seeing links to restaurants any more. We seem to have been

able to sort them, so the restrictions had the intended effect. I think we would want to see case numbers come down with a margin of safety first.

He said with Niagara in the middle of the orange zone still, "there's not enough of a buffer to take them away."

He's mindful of the holidays coming up, but any decisions will continue to be based on the number of COVID cases in the region.

"I would love to give people an early Christmas present and lift these restrictions, but ultimately the best decisions are based on what is best for the community."

There have been a few ongoing outbreaks, with new cases linked to households where cases are spreading

from one family member to another, and socializing with friends and co-workers.

There are also "a few more cases of community spread" where the origin is unknown, he says, including one of the new cases in Niagara-on-the-Lake, which is now recording a total case count of 63 from the start of the pandemic until Tuesday.

The other new NOTL case is from someone in close contact with family members.

One of those was in the 40

to 60 age group, the other in the 60 to 80 category.

Across the region, the 20-something age group is still representing the highest number of cases, although with a shift downward, while the 40 to 60 group is moving upwards, he says.

"We're not sure of why yet."

He said he hopes the restrictions targeted at the younger group members are working, but has no explanation about why there is a

trend upward in the older groups.



Dr. Mustafa Hirji

5G 'not a municipal matter'

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type of journalism that adds to "the erosion of trust of the media."

Cheropita says there have been "insulting, angry, vile emails" sent to the Town, from people who believe she is spreading conspiracy theories against 5G technology, while she has received more than 30 letters of support from residents.

When she spoke at council three weeks ago, she says she wasn't "taking a position" for or against the new technology, but was simply laying out a reason for the municipality to look into it, as Niagara Falls is.

She believes she was taking a "responsible approach" to representing residents' concerns.

While she acknowledges there are scientists who think 5G is safe, there are also some who don't.

"I was saying if there are

health concerns, let's as a council do our due diligence. That was all we were trying to do," says Cheropita.

Other councillors said they accepted the science that supports the safety of 5G technology, and that it is not a municipal issue to investigate. The Town has already signed a deal with Telus for 5G services.

Calling the council discussion "civil," Coun. Allan Bisback says he voted against it because the technology is regulated by Health Canada, and is not within the municipal jurisdiction.

He was also concerned about giving staff more to do, when there are already many issues on their plate.

"I wasn't trying to take a position contrary to Coun. Cheropita. I just didn't think it was appropriate to send staff down this road."

Bisback said the discussion began as support for the Niagara Falls motion, "but it got off on a tangent. I'm not

suggesting it's not important, it's just not something to ask staff to investigate. It's not a municipal issue."

However, he added, differing opinions is what council discussions are all about. "We can agree to disagree."

Cheropita says her intention was not to take a stand for or against the technology. "I was just representing constituents' concerns. I ran for council with political idealism, wanting to make a difference, to do the right thing, to listen to people. When I do that, I'm doing my job."

The personal attack on her in the media recently was "an example of why the public is losing trust in traditional media, why that trust is eroding."

Cheropita says she supports honest, open dialogue, not journalism that "creates anger, and causes divisiveness. This is a small, unbelievable community of wonderful people, who deserve to have their concerns represented."

Candlelight Stroll, Creekside style



Residents from Creekside Senior Estates in St. Davids gathered with candles and lanterns Friday to stroll through their community of more than 130 homes. Santa led the way on an ATV with the lights all aglow, pulling a trailer behind, where folks along the route filled it with donations of food and cash for their charity of choice, Newark Neighbours. Those that could not join in the walk came out on their porches to listen to the holiday tunes, and the occasional Christmas carol. (Photo supplied)

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Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

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MPP still pushing Province to help local businesses

Penny Coles
The Local

MPP Wayne Gates says he is continuing to use every chance he gets to put pressure on the Province, hoping to have relief funds made available to local businesses.

The issue continues to be that with Niagara in the orange zone, it isn't entitled to any part of the \$600 million in provincial funding that restaurants and bars in red zones and lockdown are receiving, but with the added restrictions imposed by the Niagara Region acting medical officer of health, business operators are suffering just as much.

Gates says he has talked to the minister of finance, and to Conservative MPP Sam Oosterhoff, who represents the Niagara West riding.

"Businesses in his area also need help as well," says Gates, but Oosterhoff pointed to federal financial relief programs that could help Niagara business owners, and said the provincial money Gates is trying to access is meant for regions in red and lockdown.

While Gates says he doesn't begrudge those regions the help they need, "at no time should it be at the expense of our wineries, restaurants and other tourist

operations in Niagara."

He speaks to MPPs at Queens Park daily, taking every opportunity to highlight "the fair and reasonable request" for the Province to support Niagara, he says.

"I'm talking to as many people as I can, telling them we have a whole area begging us to be allowed to apply for that money."

The solution is simple, says Gates.

He's been told that when the language was put together for the bill that covers the \$600 million in relief money, it was never anticipated that any region in Ontario would use the Section 22 that Dr. Mustafa Hirji has employed to layer his own local restrictions on top of provincial regulations.

The answer to the problem is to include language that allows for situations such as those in Niagara to be considered, and permit local businesses to apply for that funding, says Gates.

"I'm doing the best I can with the government, but I just don't understand. They (Conservative MPPs) were in Niagara this weekend to give \$12.8 million to the Niagara Parks Commission to keep their lights on, when we're begging the Province to give us some money to save our businesses, so they can keep their lights on. Tourism recovery in Ontario will start in Niagara. Our businesses need help. I'm doing the best I can to put forward a fair and rational argument."



Wayne Gates

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‘Please stop’ destroying decorations, pleads Homestead Drive woman

Penny Coles
The Local

Sarah Boshart and her family are celebrating their fourth Christmas in Virgil. Boshart loves to decorate for the holidays, and for their first Christmas at their Homestead Drive home, they put out 12 deer, in different sizes. “Last year they were down to four,” she says. “Someone keeps destroying our decorations, and they’re expensive. We’re really hoping it won’t happen again.” For some reason, she thinks maybe because they’re on a corner lot, at Frontier Drive, every year they’ve been there, they’ve woken up Christmas morn-

ing to find their decorations trashed. One of those years, they were facing the holiday after suffering a family tragedy, she says. Last year, she was dealing with the death of her mother. “People just can’t know what anyone is going through when they do something like that.” The couple has seven children, five adults and two younger ones at home, this year, aged eight and nine. “They love the decorations. They were devastated to wake up and see them destroyed.” There have been two other homes with decora-

tions also vandalized, she said. Last year, one of the houses along the street had its lights ripped off, and wound around the neck of a “magnificent, gold deer on our lawn.” The deer was dragged to the neighbour’s house, and it was destroyed. I was crushed.” She thinks, possibly, since it’s always Christmas Eve, that there is a home in the neighbourhood that has visitors each year, maybe teenagers who don’t have anything else to do, “playing a pretty silly game.” “We love our home. We love this neighbourhood. The only problem we have is at Christmas,” she says. “Please stop this.”



This is a photo of the Homestead Drive house decorated last year. The homeowner is devastated by the continued destruction of her decorations, and hopes it will stop. (Photo supplied)

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Submitted by
Thomas TV

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lives, so how can we make this experience better? Every space is different, so knowing how you intend to use your music system is key. Do you want a small system for your office or bedroom? Do you picture music filling in key zones of your home, such as the kitchen, family room and dining room? Do you want to see the equipment, or do you want it tucked away, controlled with an app on your phone or tablet? Making good sound even better, is what we

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EDITORIAL

Make this holiday about doing something meaningful

Holidays should be joyful, but they can also be difficult, often due to loneliness, or for many, because of financial issues.

Most of us like to think of the holidays as a time to show others how much we care about them, but traditionally that means shopping, buying gifts for family and friends that we hope they'll like, and of course planning extravagant meals so we can all sit down together to celebrate.

However, that was pre-pandemic, when all we had to worry about was how much we were spending and if we'd forgotten anything.

This year is forcing us to think creatively, and to look at life differently. We're being encouraged to stay away from stores, or if we shop, to be cautious. We're looking for other ways to give gifts, maybe ordering online through websites of our local businesses, using safe pickup, giving gift cards that don't entail spending much time in stores.

But gifts aren't top of mind. Many of us are far more concerned about not seeing our families. That really puts our priorities in perspective.

There are people in our community who are struggling. Those in need appear to be pretty well looked after by the many food, gift and toy drives, and those who have contributed to try to make their holidays special, even in difficult times. We know, and are reminded time and time again, that this is an incredibly generous community. Loneliness is a very different problem, and not so easily solved, so maybe it's a time to look inside ourselves.

With the holiday season upon us, it seems our focus has shifted from the pandemic — which we mustn't forget — to the many heart-warming efforts of local residents and businesses to help others. Each week we hear of others in need, and each week we learn of those who have jumped in to help. Locals looking after locals.

If shopping is on your mind, think of how little most of us need. Maybe a great gift would be a donation in someone's name. Red Roof Retreat comes to mind. Or the foundations the Catholic and public school boards have to help their students in need. What could be a better gift than helping a child

or young adult?

How about a handmade craft created with love by someone out of work, and trying to earn a living during COVID? A gift card for a local business or restaurant — so many of them are struggling.

There is no doubt that living through a pandemic changes our focus, making us realize that loving each other, being kind, and finding ways to look after others, is really what counts.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg left behind many oft-repeated quotes, reflecting her wisdom and her strength.

One seems especially appropriate for those trying to live a meaningful life during a pandemic.

"Do something outside yourself, something to repair tears in your community," she said. There are certainly tears in our community that could use repairing.

The rest of her quote suggests doing "something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for one's self, but for one's community."

There are so many people

in this community already doing just that. Thank you to all of those who have stepped forward. For the rest of us, there is never a better time to follow

her advice than now, as we approach a holiday, during a pandemic, with so many in need in so many different ways. If you want to do something for your

community, you won't have far to look.

Penny Coles
The Local

Local conservation efforts and environment under attack – again



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

As much as Niagara-on-the-Lake's character comes from our historic features, I would argue just as much comes from our natural features. This town, and our whole region for that matter, would cease to be the wonder they are without our incredible Greenbelt, our lush vineyards, our shorelines, our trails or our natural heritage features found throughout our neighbourhoods.

Yet time and time again, we seem to find certain politicians who happily ignore the will of our residents, the looming climate crisis, and seemingly common sense in their drive to hand developers the reins over our protected environmental spaces. Three times now our Premier has tried to open our Greenbelt to development, and three times the torrents of public opposition have forced him to reverse course. Facing off against these forces are supposed to be our local conservation authorities, tasked with protecting our environment and natural features while balancing the needs of

conservation with the need for economic development.

In the midst of this global pandemic, I looked forward to seeing what our Province could offer in the way of relief during this devastating public health and economic emergency. Instead, buried deep in the pandemic budget, we found Schedule 6, which took unprecedented steps to dismantle the structure of our conservation authorities. Following lawsuits against citizens, claims of workplace dysfunction, and arguably the abundance of pro-development decisions of the last board of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the people of Niagara organized like never before. Their demand was simple – the conservation authority should be focused on environmental conservation, not acting as an arm of developers.

We succeeded in changing the mandate of our local board and returning its seats to environmentalists, conservationists, long-time community volunteers and local veterans. Since their appointment we've heard refreshingly very little news about the NPCA. Residents didn't want front-page stories about allegations of the workings of the NPCA. A return to the quiet normalcy of their work was just fine.

So, what does Schedule 6 do? It takes us backwards. It removes citizen appointees from our board and gives development powers to Premier Doug Ford's MPPs. It puts environmentally sensitive areas at risk, it politicizes the permit process, and attacks flood control plans in the name of development.

Considering how hard we've worked to protect our environment, it goes without saying that the Official Opposition will be opposing this with everything we have. Beyond the question of what it does, one must ask why this would even be included in a pandemic budget bill? However, when we've put that question to Ford, we've been met with silence.

In fact, as of this writing, seven members of Ford's Greenbelt Council have resigned in protest over Schedule 6; including its chair and former PC MP David Crombie. Residents are writing record numbers of letters to the Premier's office opposing this decision.

We've won three times before and we'll keep going until we win again. How hard is it for elected officials to understand that the same beautiful environment we inherited is the one we want to give to our grandkids, regardless of how much money a developer can make?

LETTERS

Thanks to community and volunteers

The Niagara North Family Health Team wishes to thank the community for their positive comments on our recent drive-thru flu vaccination clinics.

We could not have managed any of this without the assistance of the NOTL community centre staff, and the many volunteers from the Rotary Club of NOTL.

It was a new undertaking for us as organizers, and we couldn't be happier with the way everything came together to make it such a successful event.

We particularly wish to thank John and Anna Petrie from Niagara Trailers for the donation of the RV, which was used to keep our staff warm and our coffee hot for all five

clinic days. Your kind donation made us a lot more comfortable.

We also wish to thank Phil Leboudec from Phil'svalu-mart for the donations of juice and water for our patients.

You were all awesome! Thank-you!

Niagara North Family Health Team Staff in Virgil



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.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL

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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 Gowse
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,
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View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The First Wives Club (Prime 1996) is a celebration of hope. Three college friends, Goldie Hawn, Bette Midler and Diane Keaton, saddened by the suicide of a mutual friend and embittered by their own failed marriages, link forces to seek justice. This romp is full of brilliant wit and joy. For me it deserves 10 stars.

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.

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

COMMENT LETTERS

Support offered for councillor with science of 5G discussion

I suspect it is a sign of the times that a rational, well-informed discussion around a particular topic cannot be asked for or held without partisanship.

Such appears to be the case in response to Coun. Wendy Cheropita's call for such discussion on the topic of 5G during Niagara-on-the-Lake's town council meeting. In that meeting Coun. Clare Cameron suggested that "someone has to stick up for science," albeit the councillor did not actually speak to the science, thereby suggesting she simply was taking an uninformed position. So, what does science have to say?

Dr. Anthony B. Miller is a physician epidemiologist who specializes in cancer etiology, prevention, and screening, whose CV includes such positions as director of the epidemiology unit of the National Cancer Institute of Canada, chair of the department of preventive medicine and biostatistics at the University of Toronto, head of the division of cancer epidemiology at the German Cancer Research Centre, and consultant to the division of cancer prevention of the U.S. National Cancer Institute, as well as conducting research into the correlation between electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and cancer. Dr. Miller states that in his scientific opinion the preponderance of scientifically conducted research which has occurred since the World Health Organization classified radiofrequency electromagnetic field (RF-EMF) radiation as a "Group 2B possibly carcinogenic to humans" agent in 2011 is clear, unequivocal and sufficient to re-classify RF-EMF as a "Group 1 carcinogenic to humans" agent.

Dr. Miller is not alone in his concern. As of 2020, over 250 of the world's leading scientific experts in the field of RF-EMF radiation bio-effects (representing over 2000 peer-reviewed research papers published on the topic) are signatories to an Open Letter directed to the United Nations Human Rights Advisory Committee in which they stated:

"Wireless communication technologies are rapidly becoming an integral part of every economic sector. But there is a rapidly growing body of scientific evidence of

harm to people, plants, animals, and microbes caused by exposure to these technologies.

It is our opinion that adverse health consequences of chronic and involuntary exposure of people to non-ionizing electromagnetic field sources are being ignored by national and international health organizations despite our repeated inquiries as well as inquiries made by many other concerned scientists, medical doctors and advocates."

This letter follows on from appeals made to the UN, the WHO, and UN member states in 2015, 2017 and 2019 from the same group in which they write:

"We are scientists engaged in the study of biological and health effects of non-ionizing electromagnetic fields (EMF)... Effects include increased cancer risk, cellular stress, increase in harmful free radicals, genetic damages, structural and functional changes of the reproductive system, learning and memory deficits, neurological disorders, and negative impacts on general well-being in humans. Damage goes well beyond the human race, as there is growing evidence of harmful effects to both plant and animal life. These findings justify our appeal to the United Nations (UN) and, all member States in the world, to encourage the World Health Organization (WHO) to exert strong leadership in fostering the development of more protective EMF guidelines, encouraging precautionary measures, and educating the public about health risks, particularly risk to children and fetal development."

I could go on, but a reasonably thorough and systematic search of publications such as Physics in Medicine and Biology, Electromagnetic Biology and Medicine, The Lancet Oncology, International Journal of Oncology, Environmental Health Trust (<https://ehtrust.org>), Bioinitiative.org, etcetera, will result in many, many publications in this vein.

Interestingly, WHO's position on RF-EMF as a Group 2B (possible carcinogen) remains without change since 2011. However, recently (due I suspect to the mounting scientific evidence) the WHO has determined to 'prioritize' a complete review within the next three years.

Unfortunately, Health Canada's modus operandi has always been 'It's OK until it's proven harmful,' and there is a long list of examples when, even after something is proven harmful, they maintain it is OK to use. Witness glyphosate which was re-licensed for sales in Canada after it had been proven a carcinogen and, by that point in time, U.S. courts had awarded legal settlements totalling over \$8 billion (and Bayer had placed over \$60 billion in reserve for anticipated settlements on legal cases currently in process).

It seems to me that Health Canada might serve the citizens of this country better if they required any new technology to be proven safe before licensing and certainly before the federal government entered into any agreements (in the case of 5G that would be the CRTC leasing bandwidth to the telecom companies). This reasonable guiding principle, if adopted by Health Canada, would save us, our children and grandchildren from being used as guinea pigs.

Of course, if Health Canada is confident its position on the matter is correct (even in the face of the leading science on the topic), a simple letter both absolving the Town and assuming any liability associated with possible future legal suits that may arise from adverse health effects resulting from 5G exposure should not pose a problem. But, based on Niagara Falls' experience, that's not going to happen.

Finally, speaking to 5G network requirements, a quick visit to the website of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (www.spectrum.ieee.org) and a search on "Everything You Need to Know about 5G" will bring up an article which explains that: 5G will employ millimetre waves in the 30 to 300 GHz range (current cell phones operate below 6 GHz); operate using Massive MIMO (multi-user multiple-input multiple output), which will require dozens of antennas on a single antenna currently on cell towers; and that the network will require "small cell base stations" (read 'antenna') placed every 250 metres. Something apparently no

telecom representative saw fit to explain during the meetings with the Town.

And all this largely so that a cell phone is enabled to download large files (like a movie) 75 per cent faster. It won't make any difference to voice or text, and only marginal benefit to internet search functions. The real benefit to 5G is on your desk or laptop (what self-respecting gamer plays on their cell phone?) and that can be run on a hardwired fiber-optic network and Wi-Fi in

your own home.

As for Coun. Cheropita, who brought this important topic to council for discussion, I thank her whole-heartedly. I applaud her courage, integrity and concern wanting to advocate for and ensure that NOTL has a safe technology plan. Other municipalities and cities in Canada and the U.S. are doing so.

When both science and world-leading experts in the field are raising the alarm concerning EMF, there clearly is no "misin-

formation" and is not, as Coun. Cameron suggested, a waste of time to discuss. As such the question becomes, will the Town listen?

I'd like to believe that civilized behaviour and clear-heads will prevail, democracy will be upheld, and the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake will have an open and informed discussion on this important issue. Time will tell.

J.G. Byerlay
NOTL

Support for Coun. Wendy Cheropita

I felt compelled to write my support for Coun. Wendy Cheropita and the motion (actually made by Coun. Sandra O'Connor) to get council to explore the latest technology being rolled out (ie. 5G).

I am grateful that council listened to her arguments thoughtfully and didn't immediately dismiss her information as debunked (it is not so by many scientists).

Although, it was disappointing to find out that she was short one vote to get the issue discussed more thoroughly. We live in times where rapid technological development is often pushed upon citizens and sadly, the long-term effects are barely investigated.

Politicians are beholden to the people, and we expect that you take the time to do adequate research (beyond biased

mainstream sources).

In these polarized times, standing up and questioning the dominant narrative is an act of bravery, as your reputation can be quickly sullied.

Thank you Wendy for your courage and integrity. You will always get my vote!

Louise Gazzola
NOTL

Democracy at work

The recent coverage of Coun. Wendy Cheropita's invitation to vote for more research concerning 5G technology comes across as a personal hatchet job on a councillor concerned for her constituents' best interests.

Whatever the right or

wrongs of the argument regarding 5G, the councillor had done some research and presented it to council for further consideration; council voted and the motion was turned down with a small majority. That's the way democracy works. Of course the small print notes the coun-

cillors supporting the motion but interestingly does not dwell on them. Coun. Cheropita is the messenger who should not be hung out to dry in this unfair way.

Peter Warrack
NOTL

Please consider opinion of a 5G expert

Dear Lord Mayor and Councillors,

I was appalled to read the attack in the media on Coun. Wendy Cheropita's concerns regarding potential effects of 5G technology.

As the environment convenor for the National Council of Women of Canada, and of the Provincial Council of Women of Ontario, several times over many years, I have researched a variety of issues, where Health Canada has been reluctant to act, such as bovine growth hormone, pesticides, nuclear radia-

tion and asbestos, and in at least one case, of scientists who were fired when they spoke out.

I realize that the Town has signed a contract with Telus to install 5G technology. However, I see no harm in council at least recognizing that there could be health issues, discussing them, and then supporting the Niagara Falls motion (for staff to report on the safety of 5G, invite a Health Canada representative to discuss the issue and that staff look at city responsibility). Or alternatively, council could send its own questions to Health Can-

ada and other independent experts, in order to educate themselves and properly, politely, respond to residents' concerns.

To put things into perspective regarding the claims of "misinformation" and the legitimate questions and concerns of Coun. Cheropita, I respectfully request that you take note of the opinions of world renowned radiation expert Dr. Anthony Miller, a former neighbour who I regard highly.

Gracia Janes
NOTL



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The Niagara-on-the-Lake

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Dead ash trees easy to see in winter

Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Ash trees have led to ecological, residential, and even political conversations in Niagara.

I've gotten good at identifying them by bark, even in the winter months. It's especially easy to spot a dead ash with so many of them hidden in plain sight. They are often standing around the maples and oaks. Their bark looks mottled and peels off with ease, sometimes in big sheets.

In the summer, it's harder to see their bare canopy and their destroyed innards.

Halloween is over, but let's just say they stand as the dead among the living. Sounds creepy.

Our four native ash tree species in Niagara are hanging by a thread, as the invasive emerald ash borer has been targeting and cutting off the circulation of these trees. It does so by laying its eggs inside the bark. The eggs change into larvae, grubs which eat their way through the living wood. In doing so, with thousands of friends, they become fiends to ash trees.

Considering that the mortality rate for infested ash trees is nearly 100 per cent, there are massive implications for forest ecosystems when the ash trees start to drop, causing a loss of biomass in the forest.

Biomass is the amount of wood, or living material, a species represents in the forest, relative to other tree species. So imagine having a forest where half of the biomass is ash trees. There's a considerable loss to the area's structure and integrity when they die.

In comparison, it would be like removing half of the buildings on Queen Street, and the community finding ways to fill those voids again, which is exactly what the forest community wants to do, as well.

Ecosystems have a remarkable, slow motion skill to properly repopulate disturbed areas. More pollinator-friendly species will take hold in the newfound sunlight. Nearby, red maples will blow their helicopter-pod seeds into an exposed patch of soil. Meanwhile, a salamander sleeps under the log that fell last year, and the coyote stays sheltered in the heap of bony tree branches. There is still biodiversity to be considered in a landscape like NOTL, even if the forest is full of dead trees. That's because any habitat is better than none, considering our town's severe lack of forest coverage.

If a solid amount of the forest's trees are dead, and the deceased happen to be ash trees, that doesn't give immediate permission to write the area off as insignificant. To an animal living in the forest, it would be

like having the roof blown off of its house, but he's still able to make do, living in the basement. The basement, in this case, is the understory of grasses, young trees, and a labyrinth of logs from the fallen.

NOTL has seen ash trees, and woodlots containing high numbers of them, removed over the past few years. Around Virgil, Queenston, and the outskirts of downtown, we have seen woodlot loss in the name of filling in our development boundary quota. Forests which didn't score high enough on paper were dismissed as lacking in value. In all of these cases, many of these forests contained large numbers of dead ash trees. Essentially, we ended up removing the habitat corridors through which animals move unabated, and the hollow trees which provide for owls, raccoons, and rare bat species alike.

These wooden beams of complexity lie scattered across the forest floor when ash trees tip to their fate. In ecosystems where ash trees are numerous and dense, you can tell when a heavy-duty wind storm has passed through recently. We're talking the kind NOTL receives only once or twice a year. Taking a hike near a local woodlot of the Niagara Escarpment shortly after the weather event will reveal several giants, freshly cracked and toppled over in

the same direction. All lying there, like match sticks who struck a deal with the wrong insect. Upon investigation, 90 per cent of the trees are ash species.

To come full circle, even in the dead of winter, you can

pick out some ash trees in most Niagara forests, considering that many will be snapped in half, blown over, or seemingly flattened to the earth. If you also make a closer investigation, you'll see the squiggly, uncannily beautiful tracks of

the grubs, who ate their way through the wood and caused this scene before you.

I hope to see a greater respect for our ash forests in the New Year, and give them time to recover and heal. They'll figure it out.



Dead ash trees hide among the other species which are still alive. Such forests still require protection for a variety of reasons. (Owen Bjorgan)

Santa looking forward to visiting NOTL this weekend

Penny Coles
The Local

Santa Claus hopes to see lots of boys and girls when he travels through the streets of Niagara-on-the-Lake Saturday.

His plan is to start in Glendale around 9:30 a.m. Saturday, although if it's raining, it will be Sunday.

"I'm delighted to be coming to town this weekend. The planning and organizing has been really well-done, to try to keep everyone safe. It's going to be a lot of fun," says Santa. Although it's a bit disappointing there couldn't be a parade, like other years, "I'm really looking forward to seeing the kids," he says.

He expects it could take as long as about six or seven hours to see everyone, much longer than a typical parade, but he's happy he will be getting to all the villages in town.

"It's going to be fun for me, and fun for everyone who comes out. I am very grateful to be part of this. Santa likes to see lots of happy faces, and all the parents and kids smiling and waving."

He's hoping parents will hold up name signs, to help him in case he forgets any of the names of the children who come out to see him, he says. It may also be hard to recognize them if they're wearing masks.

"Santa has been making all kinds of preparations for this year. The elves are working very hard, preparing for the many visits around the world, and I know we'll get to all of them. I'm very confident when Christmas Day comes, we'll be delivering presents in all the homes in town and around the world, wearing all the COVID protective gear. And don't forget Santa's favourite cookies are chocolate chip, although I'll be happy with any

cookies and milk." There is a map of Santa's route on <https://notl.com/christmas>

After starting in Glendale, his sleigh will travel along Queenston Road to York Road into St. Davids, through a few neighbourhoods in the village, before continuing along York Road to the village of Queenston, then back to Concession 2, up to East and West Line, along Niagara Street to the Old Town, to Chatauqua, Garrison Village, out Lakeshore Road to Four Mile Creek Road to Hunter Road, to Niagara Stone Road, back to East and West Line, and then on through a couple of Virgil neighbourhoods, ending around Concession 6 at Niagara Stone Road.

To follow the route the day of Santa's journey through NOTL, and the time he'll reach each area, visit the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page.



Santa will be riding in a different sleigh as he makes his journey through town, and he won't be winding up a large parade, but he will have fun waving to local boys and girls. (File photo)



BE IN THE KNOW WHEN IT COMES TO SNOW!

Residents are reminded that restrictions on snow removal and street parking are in effect during the winter months.

Please be a good neighbour and consider the safety of other road users.

Visit **www.notl.com** to see full restriction details.

Thank you for your cooperation!

St. Davids organizes massive contribution to 3-in-1 drive

Penny Coles The Local

With help from local businesses, a group of St. Davids families made a massive contribution to the Town's 3-in-1 donation drive Saturday.

It was kind of a last-minute decision of three families who wanted to do something to contribute, says St. Davids resident Adriana Vizzari.

"We just wanted some small little way to help out at this time of year."

Vizzari and friends Ronal-

da Clifton and Judith Atwood decided to organize a collection for the Town's donation drive, and Shannon Passero of The Post Office, a boutique clothing store in Thorold, quickly jumped in and offered bags.

Advantage Restaurant Supply & Service, and Bloom & Co. also came onboard, donating bags, as did Sobey's when approached.

The women made up a flyer, asking for support in the way of food, warm clothing, and gifts, and took their kids through a few St. Davids neighbourhoods to drop it off, sta-

pled to the empty bags.

They asked residents to fill the bags with donations, and said they'd be back to pick them up.

"Turn on your holiday lights, put out your decorations, play your holiday music, and we will merrily collect all donations to help St. Davids give back this holiday season," the flyer said.

Vizzari says the St. Davids community never ceases to amaze her with the way it turns out to help, but this time, it exceeded even her expectations.

With 200 full bags to pick

up, she enlisted her two brothers and their trucks to help.

"People were waiting for us, really happy to see us. And the kids worked so hard."

The youngsters also helped when they got to the community centre, carrying the bags from the vehicles to the front door.

"They were happy to be part of this. They really stuck with it. I think this young generation is going to be one to give back. They're more aware of what's around them. Maybe it's because of COVID. I just feel they're going to do great things."



Vivienne Atwood displays the bag and flyer St. Davids families delivered to village subdivisions.



Three local moms and their kids helped pick up donations throughout St. Davids subdivisions. (Photos supplied)



The group of families celebrate the end of a successful donation drive to help out at the holiday.



The donation drive collected 200 bags of food, clothing and gifts.



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Thinking of students in need at Christmas

Local Staff

Christmas is a joyous time of year for most, but with families facing financial hardship it can be anything but merry.

It's hard to believe that every day in Niagara, one in five students goes to school hungry and waits in line to receive a breakfast. For lunch, some eat pizza scraps from the previous night's supper. In recent school years more than a million meals have been served annually in Niagara Catholic District School Board nutrition programs.

Other statistics reveal that 80 per cent of classroom learning is done through the eyes, and that one child in four suffers from some kind of vision problem severe enough to impact learning. Many students do not have the financial resources to purchase eyeglasses. The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education has developed a program called Seeing Clearly, assisting students in need to purchase the necessary glasses. Several other students lack daily essentials

such as warm clothing, shoes, personal care items, money for school uniforms, equipment for special needs, or the financial means to pursue a rewarding education.

Earlier this year, when COVID-19 forced school closures, the foundation stepped up to assist the Niagara Catholic District School Board by providing \$10,000 in funding for wireless internet access that permitted students in need to learn from home. The foundation also provided further financial support to purchase grocery cards for families who required assistance.

Foundation executive director Jim Marino says we often associate poverty with developing countries, perhaps little realizing that poverty exists right here in Niagara. Even during "normal" times, the lack of nutrition and other essentials of daily life can be very worrisome for students in need, says Marino, "but this situation is now more compounded by the serious impact of COVID-19."

He says offering as much assistance as possible to stu-

dents in need, especially at these more difficult times is the epitome of the foundation's existence and purpose, and that the foundation fully realizes it would be impossible to offer such financial support without the generosity of kind and caring individuals, organizations, and businesses who make up a thoughtful Niagara Region.

Students who receive foundation support are truly grateful. One student writes, "Thank you for your assistance. I promise it will be put to good use during my future endeavours in furthering my education, and will promote the important lessons I have learned as a Catholic student."

Another writes, "It's not always easy to juggle school and work, but with your generosity, it has made it much easier. When I graduate I hope I can make a difference in people's lives, like you have in mine."

Marino says that these examples of gratitude are proof positive that cheque or credit card support is much more than a donation. It's a long-term solid investment that will

pay big dividends for students in need who require assistance right now.

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education is a registered charitable foundation and receipts are issued for tax purposes. Donate online using PayPal and view the foundation's video at www.nfce.org. The mailing address is: Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, 427 Rice Rd., Welland, ON L3C 7C1. Phone 905-735-0247, ext. 210, or email jim.marino@nfce.org for more information.

Drive-through food collection a success



Project Share in Niagara Falls received 805 lbs of food from the St. Davids Lioness food drive Saturday, as well as \$523 in cash. Mary Randall and Glenda Hall were two of the Lioness on hand at the York Road Lions Hall to lift food from vehicles during the drive-through food drive. The Lioness expressed their gratitude to the generous community that made their food drive a success. While the Lioness collected food at the York Road Lions Hall Saturday, the Lions were busy selling Christmas trees, which were sold out by Sunday. (Photo supplied)



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Submitted by
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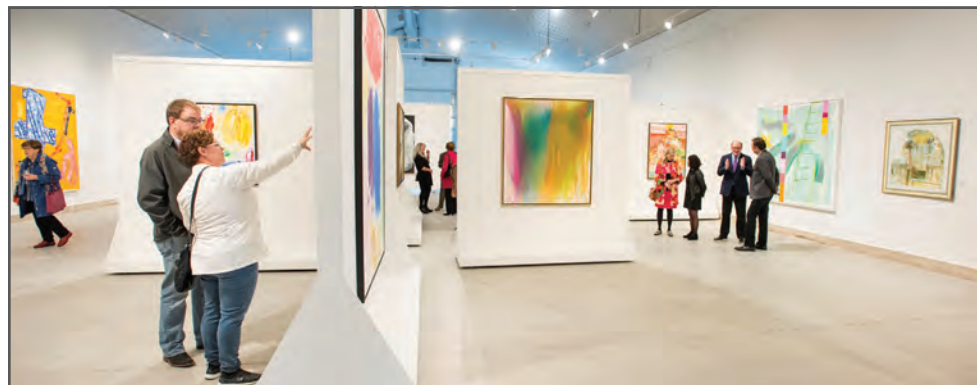
Everyone will be glad to see this crazy year end. We sure are! But, we are also optimistic about the future and are very pleased to announce that we will be moving into the old Starbucks location in 2021.

This will give us more space to help our customers experience our unique products and flavours, created and bottled right here in Niagara.

We look forward to serving you this Holiday Season!



Deck your walls this holiday season



Opening Day Nov. 2, 2019 photo by Denis Cahill

Submitted by
13th Street Gallery

When 13th Street Gallery opened its doors on November 2, 2019, the art community suddenly took notice of the growing winery in St. Catharines. Co-owner of 13th Street Winery, John Mann has been collecting and living with art for over fifty years. Art has always been an integral part of the Winery's vision to provide visitors with a unique experience that stimulates all the senses. The Gallery offers guests original artwork from Canada's best contemporary artists.

The Gallery's collection

includes works by some of Canada's most celebrated artists, including members of Les Automatistes, The Painters Eleven, exciting young artists as well as esteemed senior contemporary artists. The Gallery is dedicated to showcasing and selling Canadian art while providing a full range of services that meet the needs of every art collector.

This year's annual group show *Abstracted Together* opens on Saturday, December 12, 2020. The exhibition will focus on some of the most significant paintings, sculptures, and artists from the collection as well as names that are new

to The Gallery. The Gallery will also be featuring different artists bi-weekly. For more information visit www.13thstreetgallery.com.

13th Street Gallery is nestled amid an impressive contemporary sculpture garden. Visitors will encounter a unique and dynamic environment that will expand their relationship to Art, Wine and Food. It is a place for visitors and clients to escape, relax and discover. Open daily, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, contact info@13thstreetgallery.com or call 289 968 1830.

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Featuring Different Artists Bi-Weekly



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Backstage Bazaar helps theatre people sell their art

Penny Coles
The Local

Theatres are dark, but there is a bright light shining on the creativity and ingenuity of theatre people whose livelihood has been put on hold during the pandemic.

This recent development is an online umbrella website called the Backstage Bazaar, a virtual marketplace free to members of the theatre community, to showcase their art while work has dried up due to COVID-19.

It has been organized locally by Shaw backstage employee Truly Carmichael, with Erin Slattery-Black, a New York City friend and colleague — they both studied costume technology for master’s degrees — and

links online shops of actors, designers, directors, stage managers and technicians from the global theatre community, including several from the Shaw Festival.

Once Carmichael and Slattery-Black decided what they wanted to do, they worked quickly to have the website up and running in time for Christmas shopping.

It was designed so each artist would have their own individual store, receiving 100 per cent of the sales, with no fees or commission to the website co-founders.

Carmichael is a Shaw backstage employee who would, in better times, be working as a liaison between costume designers and the team of stitchers she supervises. She is also a

cutter and tailor, mainly dressing men cast in Shaw plays, she says, “whether they’re wearing dresses or three-piece suits,” and occasionally tackling costumes for women acting in men’s roles, such as some of the soldiers in *Prince Caspian*, intended for the 2020 season.

Once the season was put on hold, she and other backstage employees transitioned to making gowns for local doctors, who were still seeing patients but were short of personal protective equipment.

When they had completed 1,200 gowns, the sewers began making masks, and Carmichael began using her technical background on audio and visual editing of the digital content the Shaw was producing.

But as it became clear there

was not going to be a 2020 season, and many theatre people had lost not only their full-time job but whatever their back-up work was as well, Carmichael transitioned once again, to find a way to help them put food on their tables.

“I don’t know too many people in theatre who don’t have at least one other career,” she says. “It’s just the nature of the beast. Typically a good solid contract is nine months, and for the other three months of the year, we have to do something else. I was more prepared than many, able to rely on my technical writing job and online sales.”

But many artists move from one theatre to another, she says, and instead, this year, moved to an Etsy store, selling

masks, wall art, pillow covers, and other crafts that creative people turn to.

“But they’re not Etsy professionals, they’re theatre professionals,” she says.

“People are floundering, they’re moving back home, not able to keep their apartments, and making amazing things. We just wanted to find a way to gather them all under one umbrella.”

Once they decided how to proceed, “it happened almost over night,” says Carmichael.

She says she and Slattery-Black “joke that our degree is actually figuring things out and getting things done, with no budget and no time.”

They put out on social media what they intended to do, and quickly had friends volunteering to help, including Ben Deschamps, an “under-employed” musician with expertise in developing complex websites. He was able to create something people could volun-

tarily join, adding their individual information in a way that’s easily searchable — and he did it on an “insufficient budget, basically building it for free, and getting it up and working in two weeks.”

They also had the support of Laura Hughes, senior communications manager at the Shaw, who came on board, reaching out to two social media students who helped to get the word out.

“We thought we’d get maybe 25, 50 people,” says Carmichael. By Saturday, they were up to 125 vendors, “and it’s growing every day.”

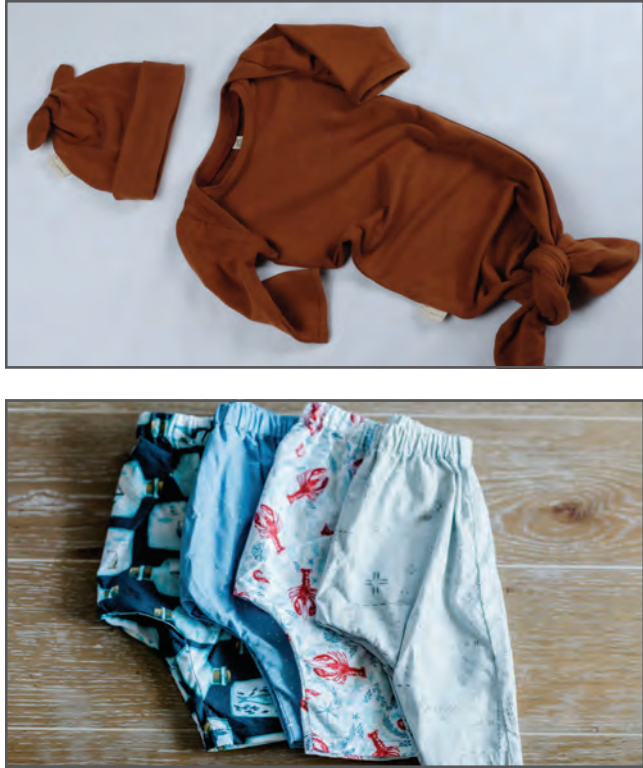
Since it’s online, geography doesn’t matter. There is a theatre guy in the UK, a young student from Peru who is going to school in New York, and another who is based in Jerusalem. “These days, the world has no borders,” she says.

“For as long as there are

Continued on page 13



Jo Pacinda sells masks, hair accessories, and baby clothes, which she sells at Jo Pacinda Designs. (Photos supplied)



Tara Rosling displays a gift box from her Little Green Shop.



Krystal Kiran sells Indian clothing, including shawls, at her House of Kiran.



Judith Bowden's store is Sorrel and Stitchwort, where she sells botanical prints and containers.



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REAL ESTATE WILLS BUSINESS

Local Shaw employees sell their wares online

Continued from page 12

people who have the perfect shop, we will keep adding to it," says Carmichael, adding she will likely keep it going, even after theatre resumes, to help those who have "cobbled together a piecemeal living, between several different endeavours. There are never enough theatre jobs."

Carmichael describes Jo Pacinda, a young member of the Shaw, as "a prime example of who we are trying to boost."

Pacinda was thrilled to be working in costume design, before suddenly finding herself out of work.

"Design has been a dream of mine since I was little," says Pacinda, a NOTL resident. "I've always loved fashion and design." The website has become a creative outlet for her while theatres were closed. "I started with face masks as a way to keep others safe. For every 10 masks I sold, I made five scrub caps for the local St. Catharines hospital."

She added baby clothes to her site after a number of friends and family had babies, she says, and hair accessories for the holidays, as perfect stocking stuffers.

"Since joining Backstage Bazaar I've seen traffic to my website increase. It's a fantastic way for highly-skilled artists to share their passion and side projects," says Pacinda. "During these difficult times it's so important to be able to support small and independent businesses."

Tara Rosling is another local artist and entrepreneur who has joined the Backstage Bazaar. After 11 seasons with the Shaw, she opened her Little Green Shop, all eco-friendly, locally-sourced, "wonderful things" for the home and body that will also make perfect stocking stuffers, says Carmichael.

Judith Bowden offers unique home goods, under the name Sorrel and Stitchwort, including plant prints and contact dyed containers, from plants found in the Niagara Region.

The Shaw costume and set designer says she has been fortunate — although almost all her theatre design work was put on hold, her partner is still working, "and Shaw was very helpful in how they honoured designer contracts for a cancelled season."

She has high praise for the Backstage Bazaar.

"As designers, the effects of this year will continue for quite a while. Many theatres, when they are able to restart, will have a number of productions already designed and some fully completed and sitting on stages around the country. They will not need designers for full contracts for a while."

This will affect staff behind the scenes as well, she says, "so

finding other creative outlets is so vital." The online platform provides a centralized place for work to be seen, but "it also has a maybe more important function. We are all linked to theatres across North America and are all linked to each other, in that we are all telling stories with our skills in those spaces."

Designer Sim Suzer worked with Bowden on *Holiday Inn* at the Shaw, and has now moved to her online business, the Hands of Sim, making custom pillows.

"I am very happy to be a part of the Backstage Bazaar website," says Suzer. "It's a great platform to have all of the theatre people together, and it's amazing how talented everyone is. In hard times like these, we have to stay together as a community and support each other. I think this website is a great example of that."

Krystal Kiran is a member of the Shaw acting ensemble, teaches yoga, and is a choreographer and a dancer. None of those things are happening now, so income from her store "has become a bigger piece of her puzzle," says Carmichael.

Kiran has lived in NOTL and India, and is now in B.C.

"The creation of Backstage Bazaar is, I believe, a brilliant idea," she says.

As a theatre artist, performer, and owner of the bohemian Indian clothing line, House of Kiran, she says, the online site "has created a platform and community for all who have been building our businesses in isolation this year. All of my products come from India, and are my own cross-cultural, East-West take on Indian fabrics and designs. They are sustainable fashion, ethically sourced, and the majority of my pieces are one-of-a-kind."

In her first season as an actor at the Shaw, she says, her collection of shawls was the second-top selling item at the Shaw Festival Gift Shop (after Stephen Fry's signed book). "I liked to call it the Shawl Festival."

"In a way," she adds, the pandemic has been "a blessing in disguise for my business because it has made my products available to more people, but I must say there is nothing like being with other humans."

Knowing that a community of other artisans and small business owners in the theatre world exists "is both a relief and inspiring," she says, "especially in these times when small businesses need more support than ever. It also makes me excited for the possibilities of us gathering in person, and maybe having a fair or festival when circumstances allow."

Kiran says she is very grateful to be part of this theatre community. "I can't wait to see what 2021 holds for us all. Thank you, Truly."

To check out the website and the artists' stores, visit <https://backstagebazaar.com>



Sim Suzer sells custom-designed pillows at Hands of Sim. (Photo supplied)



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Retired teachers set goal of hiking Bruce Trail

Penny Coles
The Local

When Denise Falk and Cathy Andres were working, they made a pledge to each other that when they retired, they would hike the Bruce Trail together.

They had both walked portions of the trail, and liked the idea of doing it from one end to the other, although not all at once.

The teacher-librarians met early in their careers when they taught at Colonel John Butler in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and remained friends as they moved around to other elementary schools, including Parliament Oak, St. Davids, Crossroads, and others around the region.

Now retired, they are fulfilling their goal to hike the trail end to end, all 900 km of it, from Queenston Heights to Tobermory.

They started in Queenston April 3, 2019, with no set plan or end date in mind, just a goal of walking weekly, when the weather is decent and it fits into their schedules.

There was an unplanned 10-month hiatus that began when they decided to take a break during last winter's harsh weather, says Falk, that ran into COVID-19, when the trail was closed.

They resumed when they could, and last week, after a 15-kilometre hike through a new snowfall that ended at Limehouse Conservation area, they had completed a total of 238 km.

They hope to have good days to hike through the winter, as long as the weather allows. Their concerns are the deep fissures sometimes beside the trail, and icy, slippery patches.



Denise Falk and Cathy Andres began their adventure in April, 2019, at Queenston Heights. They hope their story will draw attention to the importance of maintaining natural spaces such as the Bruce Trail. (Photos supplied)

"We sometimes have to do the 'old lady shuffle,' says Falk, and at 56, and Andres 58, falling could be dangerous, especially on a remote section of the trail, where cell phone service is unreliable.

They also stopped for a couple of months in the summer, when the ticks were bad. "One day on the way home we had ticks crawling all over us."

They plan their hikes in advance, looking at the best

days weather-wise, and also so they know where they will finish.

They've hiked through thunder and lightning, sleet and rain, and come out of the forest "soaking wet and covered in mud," says Falk, "although this has been a beautiful fall."

When they began their treks, they would take two cars, parking one at each end. Now, when the drives are about an hour and a half

to get to the portion they're hiking, that doesn't make sense, so they drive together, park, and then take an Uber back to their car when they're done.

"We have our masks and hand sanitizers," Falk says, and with the exception of one "crazy experience" with a driver who took them in the wrong direction, and wouldn't pull over or turn around when they asked him to, their system has

worked out well.

"We let our families know where we were, in case they were looking for bodies," jokes Falk, who thinks weak cell phone coverage was the problem, along with an inexperienced driver, who seemed to be afraid for some reason that he wouldn't get paid. "It was a very strange ride, very bizarre. The more we thought about it afterwards, the more disturbing it was. We

were very glad we had each other."

They typically walk about four hours, taking their time to take a lot of photos, she says.

"At the beginning, we walked like we were on a mission. But now we try to remember to stop and enjoy the view. There are beautiful views along the way."

They take backpacks,

Continued on page 15



It's difficult to see, but Cathy Andres has climbed deep into a crevice of the conservation area.

Canadian history books donated to community

Penny Coles
The Local

Al Huberts has had an extraordinarily varied and interesting career, really a series of careers, which continue through what might have been, for anybody else, a retirement move to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Fortunately for him, he seems passionate about all that he puts his hands to, whether his business selling upscale men's wear, then novelty ties with Disney characters that took off as workplace attire became more casual, to more recently, developing and selling products for Nature's Aid, which he owns with his daughter, and which brought him to Niagara-on-the-Lake, along with a good climate and great restaurants.

But he says he has always had "projects on the side. He also loves to write, and history is one of his passions. He gets deep into a conversation about a political piece he's writing about out-going U.S. President Donald Trump, whose supporters include members of evangelical Baptist churches, and their following of millions, for an

American newspaper.

But at the moment, he's got a side project, which involves donating history books to local schools, and charitable organizations. He has created History of Canada Part 1, covering the years from 30,000 BC to 1836 and History of Canada Part 2, from 1837 to the present, "so Canadians of all ages and backgrounds could learn about our country's unique and exciting history."

They were published in 2016, but he's getting ready for a new edition, and is distributing the boxes he has remaining. He's given them to all the local schools, and to Newark Neighbours for Christmas. Last week he had a drop-off at the community centre for the Town's toy drive, and Vineridge Academy, the international high school on Niagara Stone Road.

Huberts says he's loved history since he was a child.

His parents came to Canada from Holland in 1954, he says. "Every Saturday, my father would give us a history question, and we'd have to go to the library to look up the answer. Having us learn Canadian history was really

important to him."

The two books combined are about 400 pages, both filled with more than 600 illustrations, activities and games, some for youngsters, others for older kids, and particularly immigrants.

Huberts says the books, including the activities in them, are also really helpful for newcomers to Canada who want to learn history, and also useful for learning English.

The books also feature seven different games, each repeated six times, designed to reinforce the history reflected in the preceding pages, Huberts explains. "Some of the games are designed for children of all ages, while others are aimed at older children and adults."

Everything in the books has been thoroughly researched, including clothing, tools, flags, the ships — all the details are correct, says Huberts.

His research is so extensive he is offering information on at least one topic that is more accurate than what is in most history books, he discovered, after corroborating his research with other experts.

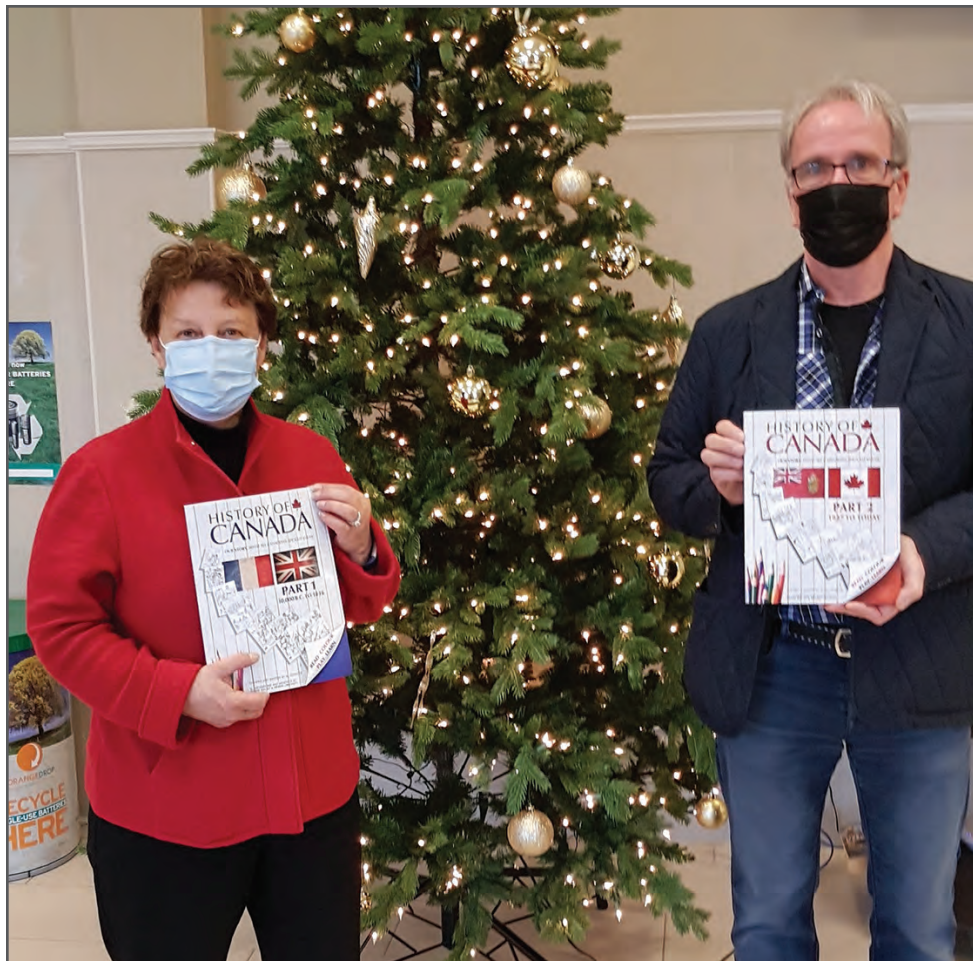
The books were a four-year project for him, he says, and are now sold in museums, including the NOTL Museum, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and the

National Museum in Ottawa, as well as historic sites, such as Fort George.

His next plan is to approach the federal department of immigration and

citizenship, hoping it will become a gift to new Canadians.

"I think this will really benefit them. It will benefit every Canadian."



Lord Mayor Betty Disero, grateful for the books donated to local schools and organizations, was at the community centre with Al Huberts, the creator of the books. (Penny Coles)

Friends find hike especially beneficial during pandemic

Continued from page 14

and will take breaks for a bite to eat — usually a sandwich, with some fruit and nuts. They also have some band-aids in their pack, but Falk adds they will start carrying matches, "to make a little fire if one of us gets hurt."

So far the worst that's happened was a twisted ankle for Andres. "We realize we're not 25 any more. We're really careful, but the trail can be rugged, rocky and sometimes pretty remote."

They have their cell phones, which work in most areas, but they've had a couple of occasions where cell coverage has been limited, says Falk. "We use Bruce Trail maps and guides, and we have all the trail apps. We use them to plan our hikes, and to make sure we're on the right trail."

"Sometimes we're not," says Andres. "We've made a few wrong turns."

Although the trail is generally well-marked, sometimes the signs are missing, but by and large, says Andres, the trails are "exceptionally well-maintained by volunteers. If there is a wind storm, by the next day, the trail has been cleared."

Falk says to her, the hikes have shown how important it is to have natural spaces close to urban areas, for all to enjoy. She's concerned

about recent proposals to change Ontario legislation that will undermine the protection of conservation areas. "This is such a beautiful thing we have here, that's been maintained and cared for all these years. I'd hate to lose it."

Andres points to the heritage that has been protected, such as the limestone kilns and ruins they came across on their hike last week, and worries about zoning changes that are impacting significant wetlands.

They both agree they are grateful for the private property owners who allow access to the trails that cross their property, and maintain them for public use.

"Often the trail will be marked as private property, and we're asked to stay on the trail. We send out a grateful thank you to the property owners for allowing us to be there," says Andres.

COVID restrictions have encouraged families and individuals to be active, and to get out and walk together, adds Falk, and point to how important it is to continue protecting natural areas such as the Bruce Trail.

For the two friends to be able to get out and walk has been "physically, mentally and spiritually energizing," says Falk. "Especially now, being out on the trail has been a lifesaver."

In addition to the exer-

cise they get, it gives them a chance to talk about "anything and everything. We have to watch our step, but we talk all the time. We joke that we haven't seen much wildlife lately. Animals can hear us coming."

As teacher-librarians, they both like to read, and talk about books, she says.

Andres also lists philosophy, policies and family as topics for discussing, along with the plants they see, sometimes stopping to use their phones to identify what they're looking at.

But they also take moments to be still, Falk says.

"It's important to listen to the sounds around us."

Their walks have become a "critical component" of staying healthy and positive during COVID, Andres agrees.

And for both, it's felt good to set a goal for themselves, and work toward achieving it.

Finishing is important, although how long it takes is not a concern, says Andres.

"We don't have a date in mind. We just want to finish, although by then we might need someone to push us across the finish in a wheelchair," she jokes.

"Hopefully it's while we can still walk," says Falk. "We know it will take a few years, with all the stuff that comes up in life. We're not going to rush it. It will take as long as it takes."



Denise Falk and Cathy Andres at the Limehouse Conservation Area during this year's first snowfall. (Photos submitted)



Last week, Denise Falk and Cathy Andres hiked through the Limehouse Conservation Area, where they came across limestone ruins.

Sounds of Hope commemorates 75th anniversary of end of Holocaust

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Bravo Niagara! Festival's *Sounds of Hope* series wraps up Sunday, Dec. 13 with the world premiere of the new composition, *Menorah* by renowned multi-JUNO Award-winning Canadian composer Christos Hatzis.

It's the third instalment in the latest addition to the Voices of Freedom Festival, part of a new initiative to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. This event follows a Nov. 24 discussion between Dr. Robert Krell and Howard Reich called *Holocaust Families: What We Learned from Eli Wiesel*, moderated by Liberation 75's Marilyn Sinclair, and the recent world premiere of Robi Botos: *The Romani Experience*, featuring the Hungarian-Canadian jazz pianist.

Menorah will be performed by Montreal-based violinist Marc Djokic, a young dynamic presence in the violin world, and Christina Petrowska Quilico, an internationally

renowned interpreter of contemporary music and recent appointee to the Order of Canada.

Hatzis informs The Local in an email that though he completed *Menorah* in December, 2019, his composition sheds light on current events. "In retrospect," says the University of Toronto professor, "my written reflections turned out to be serendipitously prophetic, with the subsequent advent of COVID-19 and the continuing rise of authoritarianism in our world. The assaults on democracy around the world, in combination with political intolerance and systemic racism, make the comparison with the ominous last days of the Weimar Republic and the rise of Nazism unavoidable."

The issue of human rights has been the focus of much of Hatzis' work in the past. Born in Greece, he immigrated to Canada in 1982, becoming a Canadian citizen three years later. His compositions are known to be challenging, both to the musicians who



Composer Christos Hatzis' *Menorah* premieres Sunday with Bravo Niagara's *Sounds of Hope*. (Bo Huang)

play them and to the listeners who hear them.

"In my mind there is nothing worse than musically discussing human

rights themes and allowing the listener to think of the music as entertainment, or to be disengaged from it," he says. "I want to intellectually and emotionally assault the listener; make them think, but more importantly, make them feel; be inside the story and feel it as their own empathy."

Menorah is a technically demanding composition for violin and piano, cast in two contrasting movements. Hatzis explains, "the first, Shabbat Blessing, (תבש תכר) slightly prefigures the Holocaust. Even though there is no strict narrative, I envisioned a Jewish family somewhere in Europe feeling the ominous rise of Nazism, but counting on the age-old tradition of the forefathers to protect them from the external danger; a combination of faith and rationalist denial."

In that movement Hatzis points to a "Jewish" melody on the violin that struggles to hold things together. Austrian-born Jewish composer Arnold Schoenberg is an inspiration for the four-note motif on violin that ends the passage. Fittingly to the Holocaust theme, Schoenberg himself was a target for the Nazi regime.

Kaddish Yatom (שִׁדְקֵי יוֹתִים), the second movement, also envisions a family gathering, this one in the Warsaw Ghetto. "Here, the bonds of tradition are increasingly broken and giving away to nihilistic despair," Hatzis

outlines. "The previous "Jewish" violin melody has now become a falling two-note gesture against dissonant eruptions on both instruments. There are dissociated memories of better times, but they are brief and crashed by the reality outside and the noise-like outbreaks in the piano and violin."

This movement actually quotes the overture from Richard Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*. The Bravo Niagara! composer-in-residence explains, "Wagner was an avowed anti-Semite, whose grandchildren and later descendants embraced Nazism, with one notable exception that I am aware of. Yet the music of this overture is about love and tragedy that stirs the deepest and noblest human emotions in the soul." It stands in stark contrast to the anti-hierarchical technique of Schoenberg from the first movement.

Hatzis encourages the listener to ponder deeply about this contrast. "If, when hearing this section, you are drawn in by the beauty of Wagner's music and feel alienated by the modernism of Schoenberg, think harder about who the perpetrator and the victim are in this unlikely musical conversation. Then think again about how systemic racism and antisemitism may reside within each one of us so deeply that sometimes it is impossible to deconstruct."

Djokic and Petrowska Quilico, having both

collaborated with Hatzis previously, are perfect musicians to take on this challenging work. Hatzis says Djokic possesses a deep knowledge of his music and the demands that it places on the performer. Petrowska Quilico, in turn, is a contemporary music virtuoso with great attention to detail and indomitable attitude toward the technical demands of contemporary music.

"Marc and Christina are fantastic human beings," he adds, "who will never rest until they have exhausted every ounce of energy to make the notes on paper come alive and engage the listener."

Many of Hatzis' previous works have been combined with visual media. For the online premiere of this commissioned composition, Djokic and Petrowska Quilico are accompanied by fitting visual imagery.

"The stunning photographs from the Last Folio collection by Yuri Dojc (taken by the Canadian photographer at a Jewish village in Slovakia where time seemed to have stood still since 1943) and the restless camera work of Adrian Thiessen and the Foreground Media team make the perfect complement for this music. I am grateful to all the colleagues who took part in this project and especially to Bravo Niagara!"

The world premiere of *Menorah* is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. Visit bravoniagara.org for more information.

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Time to think about welcome kits for farm workers

Jane Andres
Special to The Local

This year will always be remembered as a year of extraordinary challenges. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, it will also be remembered as a time when a caring community shone brightly.

The delivery of more than 560 welcome kits to farm workers was a success because of the growing support of the people of this town. It has been a joy to meet so many locals who provided welcome kits for the men and women who braved a pandemic to come here and work, helping our farmers to avert a financial disaster and loss of crops.

The idea of welcome kits started from a simple observation in 2008, when my friend Jodie Godwin and I travelled to Jamaica. It was my second trip, and Jodie's first. We stayed with farm workers and their families, travelling from Montego Bay to Kingston, visiting churches and schools along the way. Our memorable visits with their families led to a greater understanding of the many challenges farm workers face while here on the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.

Every year farm workers arrive after their flights at the Virgil arena, often late at night, after an exhausting day or more of travel. They have to wait until the following day to go to the bank, get groceries and finally start cooking their first meal by the afternoon.

When we realized how long friends on neighbouring farms had to wait to get a proper meal, we began to provide soup and sandwiches on their arrival to see them through the first night.

The idea of a simple

welcome kit containing essentials evolved, letting our Caribbean and Mexican neighbours know they are supported by a caring community.

The kits are easy and inexpensive to pack, as well as a fun and practical way for individuals, families, and community groups to express appreciation. A thank you note or child's drawing adds a personal touch that many bring home to share with their families. Some of the welcome posters made by children are still there to brighten their walls years later.

More than 500 bags have been distributed each year for the past three years as the men and women arrived. Over the last two years, we partnered with Father Antonio Illas, who organizes the Migrant Workers Outreach Project through the Anglican diocese. As a result, many more Spanish speaking workers have received support.

An abundance of welcome kits was filled by community members as Christmas projects at the end of 2019. It was the beginning of an exponential show of generosity. Financial donations from the Candlelight Stroll and Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake got the new year off to a great start.

More than 300 of the welcome kits were delivered before the news of an impending pandemic descended in mid-March. Thank goodness we had stockpiled toilet paper to include in the bags, as we would never have anticipated shortages for this crucial item.

When remaining deliveries resumed later in April, safety protocols were strictly maintained, with no-contact drop offs.



Socks for Change, a charitable organization from Niagara, provides heavy-duty, made-in-Canada work socks for \$2 a pair. Sam Baio, the organizer, also provides Niagara Workers Welcome with several hundred balaclavas, neck buffs and ear warmers at no charge, which are greatly appreciated by all of the men working in -10 degree temperatures. (Jane Andres)

Many of the workers arrived weeks late. The high stakes of leaving their families for eight months and putting their lives at risk were first and foremost on everyone's mind. The bright green bags welcoming them on their arrival provided much appreciated essentials, and the reassurance that they were not alone.

The welcome kits have proven to be a practical way to connect with migrant farm workers in our community, helping to create a sense of connection and belonging.

The events of this past year have demonstrated how vital these connections are.

Together we are a caring community.

A list of contents for kits can be found on the Niagara Workers

Welcome website.

Bags can be picked up at the NOTL Public Library, Sweets & Swirls Café and Applewood Hollow Bed and Breakfast.

Completed welcome kits can be dropped off at all three locations,

starting Jan. 18.

For those who would like to support this successful local endeavour, a donation of \$25 will provide the contents of a welcome kit for one farm worker.

Please visit our website

for updated information regarding collection times and drop-off locations.

For more information, email niagara_workerswelcome@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.workerswelcomeniagara.com.



Leticia Delgado, Laura Díaz and Veronica were the first recipients of welcome kits on Jan. 8, 2020. They also received some much-needed cookware, thanks to a quick response to their request from Julia Buxton-Cox and the Buy Nothing group on Facebook. (Jane Andres)

Greetings from our home to your home

Celebrate the holidays safely with local family and friends - send them your heartfelt greetings for the 2020 season in the NOTL Local.

Barbara wishes all her NOTL friends a safe and happy holiday season and looks forward to seeing them all in 2021.

3 col w x 30 lines h
(5" w x 2 1/8" h)
\$20

3 col w x 60 lines h
(5" w x 4 1/4" h)
\$40

Publication dates: choice of Dec 17, 24, 31
Deadline: Monday noon of each week

The Niagara-on-the-Lake
LOCAL
The trusted voice of our community.

E-mail your message and photo (optional) with your desired publication date to:
karen@notllocal.com
905.641.5335

Reach out safely to your community friends and family with our greeting special for residents

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF NIAGARA

Education Foundation of Niagara presents "Portabackyarda" to help support students in need. Purchase tickets for your chance to win one of two luxury Lowes Canada sheds. See the display at the Pen Centre until draw date of March 12, 2021. Purchase tickets online at portabackyarda.ca



FISH FRY
Thursday, December 10
4 - 6:30 p.m.
TAKEOUT ONLY | CASH ONLY
1 or 2 piece dinner
with fries and coleslaw
Drive-thru to order
**DON'T MISS THE LAST 2 FISH
FRYS OF 2020, DEC 10 & 17**

A heartfelt thank you to our
wonderful community for your support!
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 124 | 410 King St.,
905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

HISTORY IN THE VINEYARD

December 10 @ 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Niagara Historical Society by supporting the preservation of our community's history with a holiday fundraiser at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery (1366 York Rd., St. Davids) in support of two wonderful charities, The Friends of Fort George & The Niagara Historical Society. Dine-in or take-out and choose your courses made by three amazing Niagara-on-the-Lake chefs. Plus, enjoy a special presentation on Christmas Traditions. For details on options, choices and tickets, please visit: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/niagara-historical-society/events/history-in-the-vineyard/>

FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

#NiagaraPerforms

Friday, December 11 @ 8:30 p.m.
**Saturday, December 12 @ 4:00 p.m.,
7:00 p.m.**
Sunday, December 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
The Next Generation Leahy

www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca

RHYME TIME

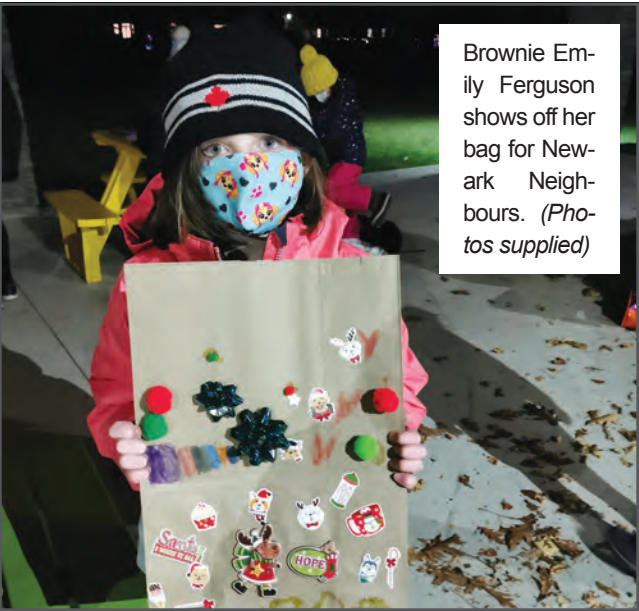
December 15 @ 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, coffee with the Lord Mayor is moving to a Facebook live format. Visit the Town of NOTL Facebook page and click the link at the scheduled time to participate.

**PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT
COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE**

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

Brownies happily help out Newark Neighbours at Christmas

Local Staff
Brownie guider Brenda Ferguson was pleased with her girls' Christmas spirit, as they took on a project to help others. The girls worked on decorating bags for Newark Neighbours, which were then filled up with donations to families at Christmas time. The girls usually meet outside, where it is safer during the pandemic, although a few of their meetings have been online, due to bad weather, says Ferguson. "We packed under the pavilion of the Virgil sports park in our hats, gloves, and snow suits to create these bags," she says. "The girls used old cards, stickers and their amazing imaginations to create beautiful bags for the families to enjoy." They also took up a collection of donations for Newark Neighbours. "With the 20 girls, we were able to donate five boxes of food and a bag of toys. We discussed the importance of giving back and how lucky we are to have the opportunity to help Newark Neighbours," she says. "These girls are vibrant and lovely and always happy and eager to help."



Brownie Emily Ferguson shows off her bag for Newark Neighbours. (Photos supplied)



Brownie Maeven Baskin has completed her gift bag, while other Brownies work in the cold and dark on picnic tables in the Virgil Sports Park.



Brownies Emilia Epp, Holly Neuhoof, Rachel Scott and Avery Warren are proud of their efforts to help others at Christmas.

Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie Special to The Local
The full week of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website <https://www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca>.
Monday, Dec. 14: Today is the day of the new Moon. Also, the day of the last solar eclipse for 2020. It happens at 11:16 a.m. but will be visible only in South America, as it happens when the Moon is at its lowest point in her orbit. Still, it is the start of a new month and an opportunity to refresh projects that may have not gone so well while Mars and Neptune were in Retrograde motion. Perseverance matters now, more than ever. Today is the birthday of two of the most famous astrologers and astronomers in history. Nostradamus was born Dec. 14, 1503. And Tycho Brahe was born in what was then Denmark, now Sweden, in 1546. Brahe discovered the formula for calculating the elliptical orbit of Mars, a feat that had eluded scientists for thousands of years.
Tuesday, Dec. 15: Venus winds up her long stay in Scorpio today by moving into Sagittarius just before noon. It's a shift from sexy to smart. (Hey, smart can be sexy too). It's a good day to build more security. *Gone with the Wind* premiered on Dec. 15, 1939. Starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable, it won the Oscar for Best Picture in 1940.

LOCAL WORSHIP



Sunday, December 13th
10 a.m. Worship Gathering
Speaker: Matthew Unruh
Message: Joy (Third Advent)
Pre-registration is required to attend in-person worship
Please be advised that with the current state of COVID-19, your safety is of utmost importance to us. We will now be live streaming our service at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.
www.ccchurch.ca

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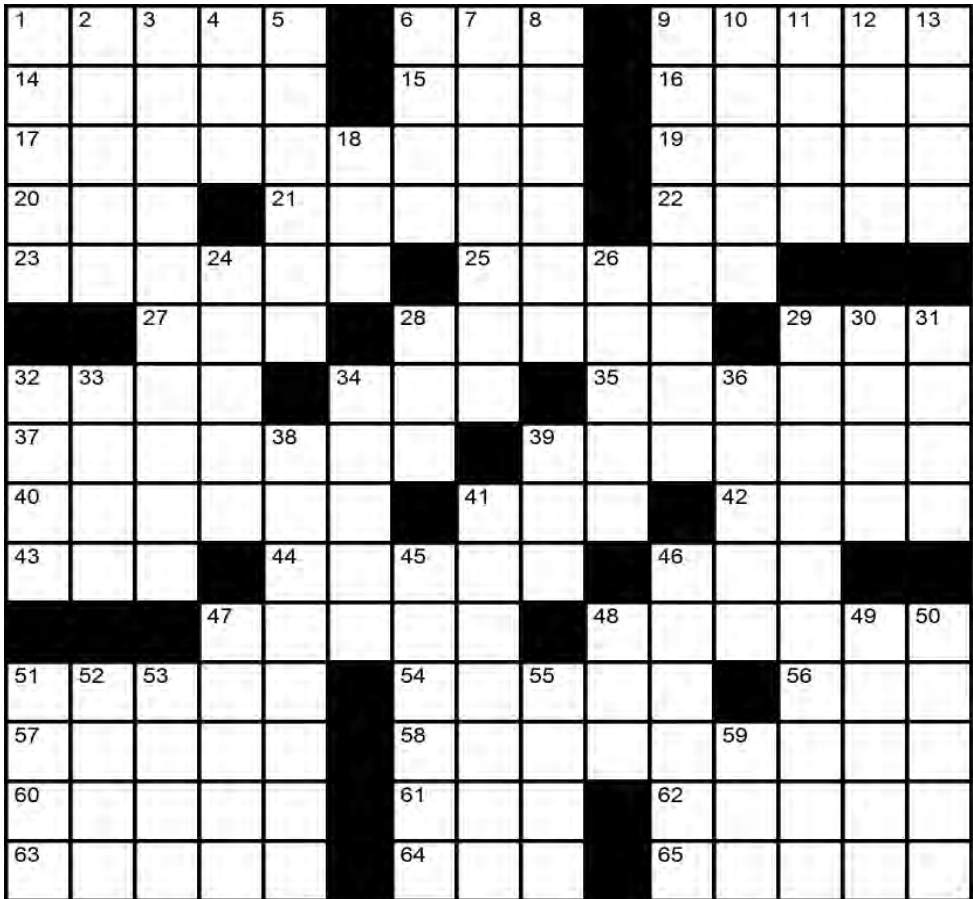
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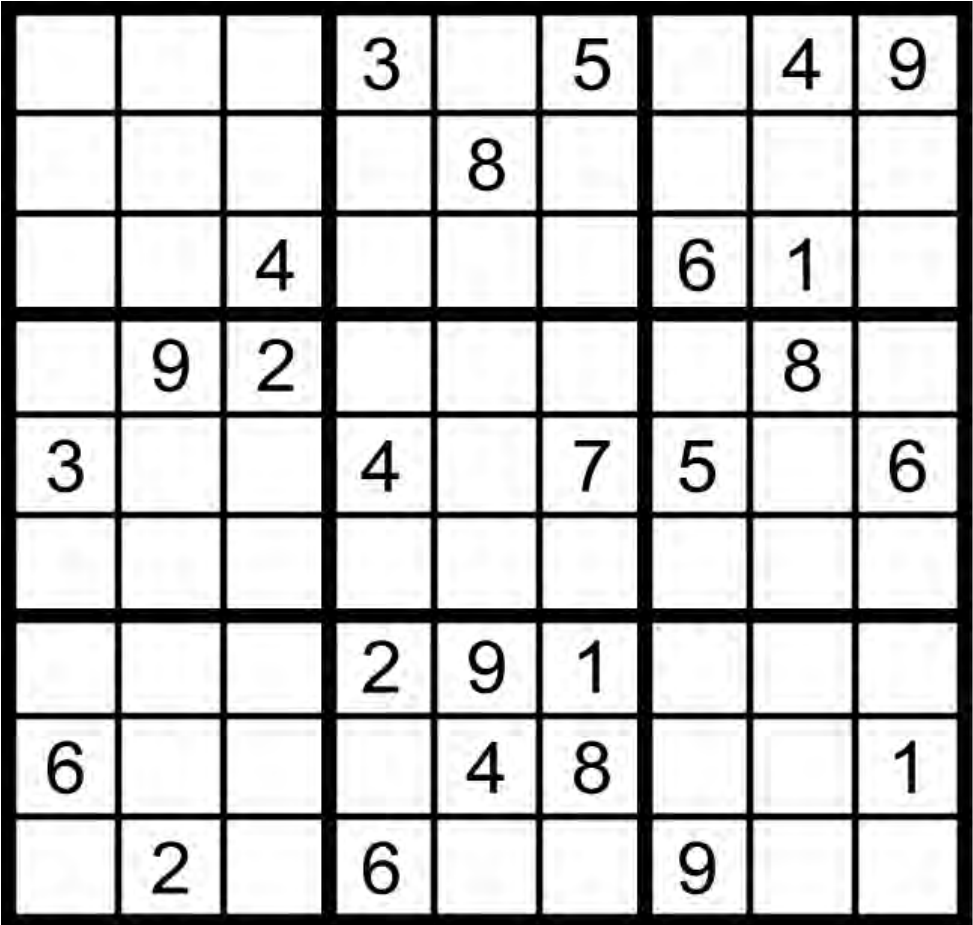
Across:

- 1 Distant
- 6 Apex
- 9 Jobs
- 14 "ER" actress --- Tierney
- 15 "--- Believer", Monkees hit
- 16 Start playing!
- 17 Tap
- 19 "Fear of Flying" author --- Jong
- 20 Snow runner
- 21 Less common
- 22 Buoyant
- 23 Old-fashioned cab
- 25 Lightweight tropical hats
- 27 Elite group
- 28 Gene Pitney was only 24hrs from here
- 29 Downloadable program
- 32 Small lake
- 34 Natter
- 35 Tenor --- Bocelli
- 37 Sidestepped
- 39 Splendors
- 40 Demeanor
- 41 Total
- 42 Capital of Norway
- 43 Source of formic acid
- 44 Jambalaya ingredient
- 46 Little one
- 47 "Band of Gold" singer

Down:

- 1 Pennsylvania Mennonites
- 2 Sri ---, formerly Ceylon
- 3 Ahead of the field
- 4 Mineral source
- 5 Litter of pigs
- 6 Bracket
- 7 Stimulus
- 8 Security detachment
- 9 Anna Paquin won an Oscar for this film, aged 11
- 10 Spanish winds
- 11 The pen
- 12 Recoil
- 13 Remain

- 18 Rotating engine part
- 24 Welcome
- 26 Old Testament song
- 28 Sliver
- 29 Nobleman
- 30 Rind
- 31 --- doble (dance)
- 32 One of the Three Bears
- 33 "--- Almighty", in which Morgan Freeman played God
- 34 Nixon's successor, informally
- 36 Drivel
- 38 At peace
- 39 Rev up
- 41 --- Todd, barber
- 45 Chest pain
- 46 Am disposed
- 47 Serenity
- 48 Pro
- 49 Gun handle nick
- 50 Notices
- 51 Get outta here!
- 52 "--- want is a room somewhere..." ("My Fair Lady")
- 53 Bridal wear
- 55 Start of a Hamlet soliloquy
- 59 Geological time composed of periods



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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.



STRONGER
Together

BUT 6 FEET APART!

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from December 3, 2020

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 Aloor, 6 Tip, 9 Tasks, 14 Maura, 15 I'm a, 16 Hit it, 17 Intercept, 19 Erica, 20 Ski, 21 Rare, 22 Parry, 23 Hanson, 25 Tops, 27 Few, 28 Tulsa, 29 App, 32 Mere, 34 Gas, 35 Andrea, 37 Avoided, 39 Glories, 40 Manner, 41 Sum, 42 Oslo, 43 Ant, 44 Prawn, 46 Tot, 47 Payne, 48 Felons, 51 Saver, 54 Get on, 56 Cop, 57 Cleat, 58 In order to, 60 Alice, 61 Neb, 62 Tract, 63 Tilled, 64 Aye, 65 Oaths.

Down: 1 Amish, 2 Lanka, 3 Out in front, 4 Ore, 5 Farrow, 6 Tier, 7 Impetus, 8 Patrol, 9 The piano, 10 Aires, 11 Stil, 12 Kick, 13 Stay, 18 Cam, 24 See in, 26 Psalm, 28 Tad, 29 Aristocrat, 30 Peel, 31 Paso, 32 Mama, 33 Evan, 34 Gerry, 36 Droll, 38 Departed, 39 Gun, 41 Sweeney, 45 Angina, 46 Tend to, 47 Peace, 48 For, 49 Notch, 50 Spots, 51 Scat, 52 All I, 53 Veil, 55 To be, 59 Era.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

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