There are 11 ordinance stones in the Old Town that are 200 years old, and they deserve to be celebrated and protected, council heard Monday.

Ted Rumble, a member of the Niagara Historical Society, was at council Monday to ask the Town to document, repair and protect the stones, which were placed as property markers around four military reserves, as ordered by John Graves Simcoe in 1796.

Rumble first discovered one of the stones on the corner of Prideaux and Simcoe Streets, and his curiosity about its history and his ensuing research led to the discovery that there were originally 36 such stones. He has only been able to find 11 remaining.

They are solid limestone, engraved and numbered, and shown on a map of 1853, he told councillors, in areas that include the former Mississauga Reserve, now the NOTL Golf course; the Garrison Reserve, which includes Fort George and the Commons, and four other lots that include Simcoe Park.

The best preserved stone, he said, is at the corner of Simcoe and Queen Street, by the Charles Inn. The BO engraved on each stone stands for the Board of Ordinance, founded in the 1600s, Rumble explained, and the arrow on them is a symbol called a board arrow, used to designate the property of the British government. There is another beside the bench at the entrance to Simcoe Park, which has sunk into the ground, as have some of the others, he said — a stone by Queen's Royal Park has sunk so low it could disappear within a couple of years.

The marker at the corner of Johnson and Nassau Streets has been damaged by construction equipment, he said, showing councillors a stone with a large chunk chipped out of it. "It's 200 years old," he emphasized.

Rumble asked the Town to enlist its heritage and operations departments to recognize the historic significance of the stones, and celebrate them, "as a direct link between us and the very founding of our town." He hopes to see them documented, repaired where they are damaged, repositioned to their original height "so they can be properly appreciated," and protected by barriers erected around them.

Two are on Parks Canada property, he said, suggesting they would need to work together, along with the Friends of Fort George, and the Niagara Historical Society.

‘Tis the season for Candlelight Stroll

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

“This is the season and YOU are the reason why we gather to celebrate the bounty of this year in our community,” said Town Crier Tom Pekar, as he welcomed the hundreds of people who gathered at the Court House, wrapped in scarves, topped with hats and holding candles to this year’s Candlelight Stroll.

“By the powers invested in me, I declare the opening of the 2019 Candlelight stroll. Huzzah! Huzzah! HUZZAH!”

Pekar introduced Paul MacIntyre, the chair of the board of directors for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce.

MacIntyre thanked the crowd for participating in the 30th anniversary of the stroll, and visitors for attending, but had a special message for locals.

“To the residents of Niagara-on-the-Lake, thank you for supporting this special evening. It is events such as tonight that remind us how fortunate we are to live in such a generous and warm community. Attendance records continue to be broken every year and I can’t imagine a place on earth at this moment where the human spirit is stronger. My heart is full, being up here,” he said, addressing the crowd from the small balcony over the Court House steps.

Thirty years ago, the Candlelight Stroll was started by local residents Arthur Nieudorp and his wife Irene. Nieudorp developed the idea in 1988 during the lead-up to the Calgary Winter Olympics. He watched the Olympic torch relay as it travelled across the country.
Chamber defines dual roles for councillors

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce now promotes local businesses, but is unusual in that it has a separate entity, Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, set up as a subsidiary of the chamber to manage tourism.

But that might not always be the case, chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue told council Monday.

Lafforgue was at a council workshop to talk about the role and the structure of the two distinct services, which are run by one board of directors and funded by one budget, but have recently been separated, at least symbolically, by the creation of two logos.

Board chair Paul MacIntyre, of Vintage Hotels, explained the structure of the chamber and its staff, with many of the board members attending the workshop. He also commended the “massive volunteer support we get on so many levels, that truly makes this town tick.”

MacIntyre spoke of the importance of the brand of NOTL created by Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, “one of the most successful brands in Canada,” but warned, “it could go sideways very quickly, especially if it’s not managed correctly.”

Lafforgue explained the five primary functions of the chamber: to act as a spokesperson of the business community; to offer specific products and services that benefit members; to support an environment in which businesses can flourish; to work for business development; and to provide educational opportunities and assist businesses with the latest marketing techniques.

Understanding the role of Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake is extremely important, he said. He explained its purpose as a destination management organization with a goal of formulating sustainable strategies for marketing NOTL, and enhancing NOTL tourism economic impact and its contribution to the community.

Board vice-chair Andrew Niven spoke of the services and events provided by the chamber, including its new website, launched last month; the tourism office on Queen Street open seven days a week; the Fort George bus parking lot with its visitor information centre; and hosting national and international delegations.

He also listed the many events produced by the chamber for visitors and locals, including the Royal Winter Fair, new this year, which reached out to 18,000 visitors.

Lafforgue spoke of the weekly newsletter issued by the chamber, and a new, monthly business report to foster and facilitate networking between businesses, and other initiatives to promote the town.

He briefly touched on the budget of the chamber, which will ask for $118,000 from the Town for 2020, the same as 2019, although the budget has not yet been finalized, he said.

The chamber has served its business members for the last 40 years — it didn’t pop up from nowhere, he said — but is unusual in that it has a distinct purpose for tourism, saying that would be the case, chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue told council Monday.

He too talked about the change in roles and the merits of the two entities sharing the same legal structure, he said. Having the two entities sharing the same ideals has saved a lot of money and allowed a lot to be accomplished, he added.

But they are “getting to next steps. We need to grow.”

The pressure, he said, is not only from visitors but from residents as well.

The chamber needs to continue to promote local businesses, and Tourism NOTL has to move beyond that, in its role of promoting NOTL as a destination for tourists, he said.

In response to a question about the increase in the bus parking fees, Lafforgue said the complaints have been numerous, and some of them loud and “harsh.” The number of buses coming to town has increased, but the number of people on the buses is down.

MacIntyre jumped in to talk about tourism as a whole, and said while it’s down by about six per cent on Queen Street, it’s difficult to say what is occurring across the town — different hotels are having different experiences.

Coun. Clare Cameron asked Lafforgue, “what can you offer residents who complain about the impact of tourism, and how some of their concerns could be alleviated.

He can offer increased communication, he said, to know what they are saying, but knowing, “we can’t satisfy everybody.”

He also addressed her question about whether the Town might one day take over the job of managing tourism, saying that would be up to the chamber board.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero suggested she would be more comfortable if the chamber and tourism management were two separate entities.

“I’m glad many members of the board are here today!” Lafforgue said.

“We are now one. As long as the board doesn’t vote differently, today we are one.”

Vet celebrates Virgil opening

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Dr. Ron Mergi, surrounded by staff, friends and family, cut the ribbon for the recent opening of the Virgil Animal Hospital on Niagara Stone Road, offering family-oriented pet care in a family-oriented community. (Photo supplied)
Stones should be celebrated

Continued from page 1

Several councillors indicated support for Rumble’s requests, but offered differing alternatives on how to deal with them. One option was to hand over the matter to a committee that was charged with looking into the preservation of Butler’s Burial Ground, also on Parks Canada property. Others suggested the Municipal Heritage Committee and town staff should be involved.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she would discuss with staff how best to handle the request for protection of the ordinance stones, and assured Rumble it would be moving forward.

Ted Rumble discovered this ordinance stone across from his home, and then went on a hunt for information about its history. This one is cracked from being hit by a sidewalk snow plow, he says. (Penny Coles)

Spirit of Christmas lights up Virgil Town Hall

An enthusiastic crowd celebrated the holiday season in Virgil last Thursday, with the lighting of the large pine tree beside the Town Hall. The tree-lighting began as a Virgil Business Association event last year, and has been taken over as a new, annual tradition by the Town. The Ukesters were on hand to entertain, and promised to return next year. Cookies and hot apple cider were provided courtesy of Dan Williams. Coun. Erwin Wiens led the event (below). Lord Mayor Betty Disero was unable to attend, due to the Regional council meeting with an important vote scheduled. Klara Wiens Knelson, Erwin’s mother, was there with family, including her great-granddaughter, Sophie Wiens (centre). Once the tree was lit, kids enjoyed a visit with Santa (right). Nikki Mc Knight was there with four-legged family members, Riesling, Riley and Bailey, Bex Mc Knight, and Wayne Mc Knight with Bailey. Coun. Clare Cameron (below, left) attended with Adelaide, Harold, her husband Mackenzie and their new au pair from Germany, Sarah Doerner. Photos by Penny Coles

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RZO Taste Our Passion
Snow falls on record crowd for 30th annual stroll

Continued from page 1

and was inspired to create a community event that would reflect the spirit of giving and the beauty of a NOTL Christmas.

The funds raised from the sale of the candles that first year were donated directly to families and children in need or donated to specific causes. About 10 years ago, proceeds began to be donated to specific causes. About 10 years ago, proceeds began to be donated to specific causes. About 10 years ago, proceeds began to be donated to specific causes. About 10 years ago, proceeds began to be donated to specific causes.

The annual Candlelight Stroll continues to be a beloved community event that draws people from all over the Niagara region. Brown said that she and her husband, Richard, first attended the Candlelight Stroll about six years ago. Each year, more people come to join in the fun. This year, 36,000 people came to join the stroll and dance in the street.

“Sitting in the middle of the street, under the lights, the houses, the lights, the houses, the lights, the houses, the lights,” she says. “After shuffling past the flash mob, many strollers wandered in and out of some of the open stores. Many more talked back to their cars to return home after a pleasant evening.”

To finish off this report, we’d like to thank everyone who participated in the different events throughout the year, particularly the volunteers who made it all possible. We’d also like to thank the local businesses and organizations who provided support and encouragement throughout the year.

Brown thanks all those who have contributed to the success of the Candlelight Stroll and looks forward to seeing everyone back next year. She says, “It’s so beautiful, the people, the lights, the houses.”

Izabelle, Erica, and Norah DeGracey enjoy the stroll with their wagon and lights. (Photos by Fred Mercier)
Get out your markers, crayons, coloured pencils and enjoy!

Drop off your entry to Maple Leaf Fudge at 114 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake or to The NOTL Local (Mondays and Tuesdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to be eligible to win one of two beautiful gift baskets courtesy of Maple Leaf Fudge.

Age categories are, 5 & under and 6-10 years old. Contest closes Thursday, December 19th at 5 p.m.

NAME: __________________________

AGE: __________________________

ADDRESS: __________________________

PHONE: __________________________

EMAIL: __________________________
Think grace at Christmas,
even when on social media

There was a time in its early days when Facebook and other social media were all about connecting with friends and family. We would share fun photographs, comment on triumphs, and shower with love and support those who appeared to be reaching out for help during periods of despair. It made us feel as if people who were either far away geographically, or maybe physically closer to us, but on the periphery of our busy lives, were in our lives. We were grateful that it widened our circle of friends, perhaps broadened our perspectives, and for the most part, created a positive, happy connectivity.

Social media has become more often than not a source of distress and crisis. People whose jobs depend on their loyal readership, some seem to be created to do just the opposite, to continue to further divide a town that has its struggles. Some are copycats of the great sites with different names, although some too similar; different people behind them, different viewpoints. Some are intended to be helpful and positive, others seem to be created to do just the opposite, to continue to further divide a town that has its struggles. Some are copies of the great sites with their loyal readership, some hide the identity of cowardly administrators, some seem to take pleasure in trying to damage legitimate pages.

Why? For whose benefit? This is a beautiful community with so many good people finding ways to do good, to give back, to be charitable, to make a great community even better. People whose message is about grace, gratitude, caring, respect and support for each other. We may not be able to turn back the clock on social media, but we can pledge to eliminate the negative from our lives. We don’t need it. It does no good. And we spend far too much time stressing about it when we can be focusing on things that are so much more relevant.

Holidays can be a challenge for some people, for so many reasons. Social media, which doesn’t take a break, and cyberpace bullies can add to the sadness some experience at this time of year. However, this holiday, we would love to see a shift online toward the grace and charity with which this town is so blessed.

We wish you all the best for the holiday season, thank all of you who do positive work for this community, and to all, we wish peace on earth and good will toward men. Especially in our little corner of this world, broadened by the power of social media — we wish for peace and good will there too.

Penny Coles
The Local

All decked out for the holiday

This fenced enclosure, property of Toronto’s Royal Canadian Yacht Club, is the burial site for seven of their young yachtmen who intended to party at the Queen’s Royal Hotel on Niagara-on-the-Lake, however, their vessel, Foam, grounded near the entrance of the Niagara River, and all were lost. This sad event has been described as one of the greatest tragedies which has ever befallen the sport of yachting on Lake Ontario.
Love of outdoors leads to job teaching students

As a new employee at the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), I find my ‘offic- es’ at Woodend Conservation Area and Short Hills Prov- inci- al Park, guiding students of all ages across Niagara out into our precious and exciting for- ests. During a taste of the job a year ago, I saw that the school board was emphasizing a more loosely-structured style of learning outdoors. It was less about an exact schedule, assignments, and curriculum. The emph- asis is now about the bigger picture: nature appreciation, teamwork, and outdoor skills learned with peers. Thrilled to see experiential learning within the school board, I was equally thrilled to be hired last week as a full-time employee.

This type of learning counts for the youth. It’s amaz- ing to see students from the city who have never touched a muddy log. Next thing you know, they are picking up a couple of logs at a time and carving them up against their heels. Carrying the wood one to their friends where they are constructing a storm shelter from their fetal debris. I am excited not only about the style of learning, but also the big picture in terms of the education system. I have to give a big thumbs up to the school board, for providing youth across Niagara with oppor- tunities to visit these properties. These open-ended ex- periences in the forest, where the chemistry of the environ- ment, the students, and the programs collide, is invaluable when paired with the rigors of regular school work, and life in general.

They teach students the values of teamwork, patience, and cooperation. They may also ignite an un- known fire within, perhaps for exploring outdoors with friends, or searching for ani- mals. Older students get more inquisitive with the experi- ence. Within the first week, a few students blurted out the question “is this your job? Can anyone work here?”

The flashes are vivid. The long yellow bus chugs along that long and infamous route, each window reflecting a kid’s face and a tax- que. That was me, over the course of my elementary school days.

I remember the sense of won- der beginning to stir in the bus - the hit of the gravel and bounces its way through a forest. Little did I know, those “scary teenag- ers” would be me one day, and I would have my first co-op shift in a high school there. I was pumped.

Once a week, from Sir Winston Churchill Second- ary School, a taxi would sweep me up and take me along that same never-ending road for my afternoon shift at Woo- dend. It’d lead hills and build storm shelters for plenty of curious eyes.

Funnier part is that I was barely older than some of the visiting students at the time. My dad would then con- ventionally get off work, and I would always exactly repeat my day to him.

I got hooked on the prop- erty once I got to know it. The

Auchterlonie on Astrology

This week, I’ll look at the Full Moon in the sign of Gemini on Thursday, Dec. 12, as well as the third quarter Moon in Virgo on Wednes- day, Dec. 18. Ambiguity and checks, and in particular, the Full Moon on Thursday, Dec. 12: It’s the Friday, Dec. 13: not a scary day. It’s a sexy day. Mars in sexy Scorpio makes a pow- erful connection with Neptune in his home sign of Pisces, adding imagination and magic to all physical efforts. And Venus in the Constella- tion Capricorn connects pre- cisely with Pluto at the same place in the sky, giving all cre- ative and loving efforts a deep and powerful motivation and willpower.

City view had turned into a job as an outdoor guide. In disbelief, I recall the very first week on the job, sitting in the small (and sometimes smelly) ghost of myself marching through those woods in 2014. You can imagine my sur- prise when a week ago, I found myself working as a new employee for the DSBN. A phone call had turned into an interview, and an interv- iew had turned into a job as an outdoor guide. In disbelief, and very grateful, I soaked up my first week on the job, si- lently saying thank you to the forest and my previous men- tors.

I continue to recycle myself through the forest, the same way it does in its own elements.

Woodend Conservation Area is an amazing “outdoor classroom” location for the school board and the public alike. Last week, the students were welcomed by a view of the ancient cliffs being covered in fresh snow. (Owen Bjorgan)
A Christmas reading for council, delivered with affection

"This Christmas reading was written with good intentions, genuine affection and festive wishes to everyone who makes Niagara-on-the-Lake such a fantastic place to live. All the best for a very merry holiday season!"  
Clare Cameron, Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor

Niagara Regional council held a special meeting last Thursday to discuss what the next steps are going to be in response to the Ombudsman Report that investigated the hiring process of Carmen D’Angelo as regional CAO.

The Ombudsman said it was an inside job, and because of possible future litigation, council went in camera to discuss the report.

An hour and a half later, they came back to the public meeting with three motions to be voted on and debated. They were, one, to turn the report over to the NRs to investigate if there was any criminal action, two, to investigate if there is a case for civil action, and three, to adopt all of the Ombudsman’s recommendations.

Of course, many of the attendance expected a polarized, robust discussion and debate on the pros and cons of these motions, but to everyone’s surprise, this new council seemed to be on the same page. There was no grandstanding, no name-calling and no division.

Coun. Gary Zalepa was the first to speak to the first motion to send the report to the police. "I ran for the Region to bring honesty, integrity and good behaviour to local government, and restore people’s faith in their government," he said.

And that is exactly what happened. All three motions passed unanimously, with not one councillor speaking against them.

After years of questionable behaviour from certain parts of the previous council, it was refreshing to see what good, ethical and responsible government looked like. There is an old saying: we get the government we deserve. First we elect them, and then we allow them to stay. The results of the last municipal election proved that people were watching, and they voiced their disapproval of the last regional council by voting the disruptive elements out. Don’t get me wrong, it is permissible to have heated debates on policy, but it is never permissible to personally attack a person’s character in order to make your point. That seemed to be much of what was happening with the previous council.

He visceral divisiveness was something that has never been seen in Niagara, and many didn’t know how to handle it.

I don’t want to go into how many backroom deals were done, and how many laws may have been broken, but what I will say, is that it is really refreshing to see a regional council that has integrity, transparency and honesty.

There is an old Armenian saying, “The fish rots from the head.” If you look at the difference between how former chair Alan Caslin ran the meetings and how Chair Bradford runs the meetings, you will see calmness and mutual respect resonating around the table.

It goes without saying that we in Niagara must thank Ed Smith, from For a Better Niagara, along with reporter Grant LaFlèche and the St. Catharines Standard, for their dogged pursuit of the truth. All elected members in the Niagara Region should take notice that when pushed far enough, the people will stand up and speak, and they will speak loudly with conviction.

Will this council make some mistakes? Probably, but it looks like everyone is there for the right reasons. Therefore, even if they stray off the path from time to time, with transparency, honesty and mutual respect, they should be able to return to the right path, that will serve the citizens of Niagara for the better.

The agenda was prepared by the Clerk with great care, in hopes that the Ombudsman would not be there.

The papers insisted, “Journalism isn’t dead!” While visions of Grant LaFlèche danced in their heads. And some people in PJs, and some in their toques, had just settled on a name for their new Facebook group.

When out on Stone Road there arose such a clatter, I ran out to Silks for a cabbage roll platter. Then away to the Avondale I flew like a flash, tore open some corn chips and got out some cash. The moon on the breast of new traffic light. Made Virgil look urban in the middle of the night. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a white BMW with a hatch in the rear! With a little lady driver, with freshly done hair, I knew in a moment it must be the Lord Mayor.

More rapid than mice and sports fans to come we flew, Under bright orange light we bent, with a nod to the feisty er, with a nod to the feisty ero saw this year’s legal bill, ered an odour indelible, was growing all night.

As neighbours experienced an odour indefinable, Snoop Dogg toured the site with a bowlful of edibles.

Now dash away Costco and suburban sprawl! As people that disappear in Pernar’s for hours Fall under a spell from that store’s superpower So up to the Region like councillors they flew.

With a sleigh full of Official Plan Amendments, and Gary Zalepa too.

And then in the clinking of empty wine glasses Came a fresh crop of people from sommelier classes.

As they drew out a cork-screw and asked for more wines.

Down to the cellar Donald Ziraldo came with a bound.

He was dressed to the nines in a powder blue suit, and his clothes were all tarnished with grape skins and seeds.

And…that other WIENS! WIENS!

He carried a magnific in each of his arms, And on land use he said, “we need acreage for farms!” Meanwhile in St. Davids under bright orange light A new crop of something was growing all night.

As neighbours experienced an odour indefinable, Snoop Dogg toured the site with a bowlful of edibles.

Now, BURROUGHS! Now BURROUGHS! He wasn’t chubby or plump, and at risk of being bored.

So go visit tips from Eduardo LaFlèche.

With a promise to keep overtourism at bay, And a stack of brochures in a shiny red sleigh, I spoke not a word, but went straight to my work, And read a few hundred emails, it’s a political perk.

And as Lord Mayor Disero saw this year’s legal bill, And giving a nod, said it is the peoples will, She sprang to her Beam. with a nod to the feisty

And away they all flew like the seeds of phragmites. But I heard her exclam, and it was no mistake.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, IN NIGA-RA-ON-THE-LAKE!

Ted Mouradian
Special to The Local

This St. Davids Veterinary Clinic held a day with Santa Saturday, with Santa posed for photos with pets. In this photo, he’s giving some love to Maggie Mae. (Fred Mercnik)

Santa loves pets too

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Social media maven heading in a new direction

Penny Coles
The Local

Disheartened by recent events on Facebook, Julia Buxton Cox, creator of NOTL Today, has found another direction for her time and talents.

The Facebook page for which she is so well-known and respected was intended, “as a forum for residents of NOTL to come together to promote events, share photos, look for recommendations and discuss issues facing our town.” And as a very involved and meticulous administrator, she has been careful to ensure posts are respectful.

But over the past weekend, the name of one of her sister pages, NOTL Bulletin Board, administered by her friend Gail Kendall, turned up on another page. It’s not the first time she’s seen that happen — she pointed out about 10 pages that were copycats of others, demonstrating, “mean, playground antics.”

By Wednesday, the creator of the copycat page had changed the name of it, but the reaction on Facebook continued, and to Buxton Cox, the damage had been done.

She decided it was time to rise above that, to do something positive for the community and she discovered an alternative that has her really excited — a Facebook page called Buy Nothing Groups.

It represents all she believes in, she says, and every- thing she stands for. It’s not a business, it’s not about trade, barter or swapping. It’s about random acts of kindness, people helping each other, giving and receiving, posting if they have something they don’t need and want to give away or asking for items they might need, with no money changing hands.

“It’s about me making a pot of spaghetti, and having so much I can share. It’s people giving of their time and talents, as well as people asking for things. If I find I need a cup of sugar, I can post, have you got a cup of sugar, and someone will offer me a cup of sugar.”

While she may have a talent for making great spaghetti, she’s not so good at gardening, she says. “This summer, I may decide I need help in the garden, and I may ask for it. It’s a gift of self, a gift of time.”

There are 3,000 groups world-wide, she says, with people giving freely to help others.

There are some rules to qualify to host such a page. Buxton Cox will begin a seven-day training program Sunday that will allow her to start a Niagara-on-the-Lake chapter.

“It’s where I’ve landed and what I want to do for the community. I have the time, and I want to volunteer. I’m in this for the long term.”

The concept embraces all she holds dear — it’s green, it recycles, it’s about getting to know your neighbours, it’s about helping others.

“What I love best about this group is the gratitude, and kindness it displays. I feel this town is ready for it. There are so many people with pure, good hearts,” says Buxton Cox.

“Gratitude is such a big piece of my life. I’m so bless- ed with all the people I’ve met in town, and all they give of their time and talents.”

She says she has been asking herself, as an engaged member of the community, how she could use her time, talent and skills for the better- ment of the community.

“If we all ask ourselves that question, we’re going in the right direction.”

She says she’s considering shutting down her NOTL Today page, because of what has happened with the proliferation of what she considers “fake pages.”

“It’s not what NOTL To- day or Facebook is all about,” she says.

“I think it’s time to shift the focus away from the neg- ative of Facebook, and let gratitude and kindness rise to the top. I’m ready to embrace caring.”

Julia Buxton Cox will be launching another Facebook page shortly. This one is about giving and receiving, sharing with neighbours in kindness and caring. (Photo supplied)
Celebrating the season in NOTL

Jane Calver shows off a Christmas planter for sale at the Queenston annual Bake and Decor Sale, held at the Queenston library.

Judy Imley, Lisa Erikson, and Linda Erikson check out the Christmas displays for gifts for their families at the Queenston community sale. (Photos by Fred Mercnik)

At the St. Davids Firefighters Association Turkey Roll, Glenn Steep from St. Davids won on the first draw.

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Marco Dacunha, Eric Peters, and Wayne Renault share a laugh at Fort George last weekend. This weekend, Dec. 14 and 15, experience Christmas traditions from the early 19th century, including crafts, activities and games for the whole family. Fort George will be decorated in traditional holiday greenery, hot beverages and historic treats will be served.

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If you've been to Silver-smith Brewing Company for a reading of The Mistletoe Bride, you know it's become a holiday tradition in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

If you haven't, you don't want to miss this year — but call early for reservations.

There are just two performances this year, and with only 50 seats in the brewery, they go quickly, with many returning year after year.

The theatrical reading is more of a one-woman performance, from an adaptation of the British folk tale written by Jeanette Winterson, adapted by director and writer Peter Hinton.

Several years ago, Rosling explains, and Hinton wanted a project they could work on together, and Mistletoe Bride came about from that desire. “We never expected it to take off the way it did.”

This will be the sixth year of the performance, with Hinton busy doing other shows, but Rosling says she has staged it with him often beforehand to ensure it is still committed to memory.

When she and Hinton initially approached co-owner Chris Pontien about staging the reading in the beer hall, which they felt offered the perfect ambiance for the dramatic reading, he was “immediately Rosling says.

Much to their surprise, they had to turn people away, and decided on the spot to do a second reading that night, she recalls.

It grew to two readings on each of two nights the second year, she says, to three readings over three evenings, says Rosling. She has also performed it at other venues, but discovered nowhere is as well suited for the tale she tells as the warm, cozy pub on a cold winter’s night.

And with a busy schedule, two performances will be perfect, she says.

Most come to enjoy a meal a part before the show, and then, once a final round of drinks is served before the reading, the room becomes still and perfectly quiet. All electricity is turned off so not even the hum of fans or refrigerators spoil the mood. “All the elements are perfectly suited to this tiny-Slash-Church,” she says.

“It’s incredible what Silver-smith does to create the right ambiance. There are no distractions, the audience is quiet. It’s perfect.”

Kate Brzozowski, vice-president and director of operations at Silversmith, couldn’t agree more.

“This building just perfects the whole experience. It really has become a tradition for us.”

She has been at the pub for several of the readings, and wouldn’t miss it. Staff ask to be scheduled for work that night so they can also be there to hear it.

In fact, Silver-smith is so delighted to host the event, the brewery has a new, limited release this year, called Mistletoe Bride, from which the Mistletoe Bride tale derives, says Brzozowski.

“The mistletoe on the label was drawn by Brzozowski, and on the back of the label is a teaser, and a bit of a warning: enjoy a game of hide-and-seek with her husband on their wedding night.”

It’s so rife, so prevalent, “she says. Without going into detail that would give it away, she mentions the Jian Ghomeshi trial of about five years ago, and the conversation has continued since.

But despite the under-lyng darkness and mystery of the mistletoe tale, “it’s a beautiful, poetic story,” she says. It’s also a fundraiser for Gillian’s Place, “another beautiful story of women finding their safe place, she says.

There is no admission, but a box will be passed for donations to aid women and children who have escaped from abusive relationships.

Be prepared for goose bumps, and being transported back in time, with this dark, eerie Christmas story told by Rosling at Silver-smith Dec. 16 and 17 — 6 p.m. for a bite to eat, with the reading starting at 7 p.m. Call 905-468-8447 for reservations.
December Membership Specials

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS
are now available!
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$39.95 per year plus HST

1. Buy online at notllocal.com/membership
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   Visit or call our office. We’re located at
   1596 Four Mile Creek Rd., Virgil
   Payment may be made by cash, cheque or credit card. You may also call us at 905-641-5335 to pay by credit card.
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   Send a cheque for $39.95 + HST (= $45.14) made payable to
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   NOTL LOCAL
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ANGEL INN
Get $5 off a premium bottle of wine, with the purchase of two dinner entrees

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Swag manicure and pedicure for $85

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15% off Antrim, Stanton, Rosecore and Hibernia factory-finished area rugs.

Buy one, get one free. Tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

OLV
For OLiV Tasting Room & Restaurant, and OLiV Artisan Kitchen & Bar St. Paul Street in St. Catharines. Purchase $100 gift certificates and receive a FREE $25 gift card. OLiV Tasting Room 122 Queen St. and Outlet Mall receive 10% off gift card purchases.

Buy one, get one free. Tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

RAVINE VINEYARD
10% off all in-store wine purchases, 20% off in-store non-wine purchases, online access to wine club member exclusive wines, free wine-of-the-month tasting when dining in the Ravine Restaurant, free tasting flight for up to six people in the Ravine Boutique Winery

Simpson’s
Complimentary Lakelfront Series tasting ($20 value)

Greaves
10% off on all regularly-priced items

Spend $50 before tax on regular-priced merchandise, receive 10% off purchase. Mori card holders receive an additional 10% off (does not stack with other local discounts)

Creek Road Paints
Buy one gallon of Benjamin Moore interior paint, get second gallon 50% off

Complete auto detailing $99 (reg. $199)

Silversmith Brewing Company
50% off a bottle of wine for each Local card, valid Sunday to Thursday

Backhouse Catering & Bistro
Present your card for $5 pints 3 to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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Move360 group classes 25% off memberships (Membership options – Reg. price $98/month, unlimited monthly classes, or 10-class pass $150 plus tax)

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Buy one, get one free, tours and seminars. Valid for up to 4 guests.

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2020 SEASON - April 2 to December 23 - Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON - Tim Carroll, Artistic Director - Tim Jennings, Executive Director
Farland House last week—of people who visited Mc-
egin their decorating design 
of the McFarland House,
ning under the hot 
with the community, but 
bers are busy year-
mission in 1959.
nation that can be used in the 
projects — three students re-
day and Thanksgiving, club 
such as Christmas, 
room tour menu. 
the Niagara Health system. 
ning to take home with them, after an enjoy-
ble and meaningful after-
about the garden club groups, friends and 
Christmas, some members 
for the three days 
Tory tearoom menu. 
quests and describe the 
married men's garden of the Victori-
other members of the public will 
urses to plant and maintain 
ners to plant and maintain 
aming an opportunity to decorate a 
terrupted, Pascoe says, but more 
the friendships that have 
just been forged over the 
the heritage garden, and 
the heritage garden, 
port of McFarland House, 
was assigned a Christmas card, 
and the group of volunteers 
area were given the task of 
by garden club members. The silver candle holders are family heirlooms.

You will see no plastic, 
Kathy Humphries and Gail 
Santsche, that's what 
it's all about. And it shows 
bolazing the Twelve Days 
of Christmas. Turning a 
quilt into 12 squares, they 
represented each of the 12 
days of the song with dec-
ations, meeting over the 
last six weeks to make their 
creations at home, so they'd 
be ready for the three days 
they have to decorate the 
McFarland House.

To be prepared for 
Christmas, some members 
plan their home gardens to 
ensure they will have mate-
tial that can be used in the 
decorations for McFarland 
House. 
A lot of us have garages 
overflowing with materi-
ters were given time to go 
the house to deter-
mine what they'd need, and 
also a chance to speak to the 
homeowners to ensure 
they were inside about the 
look of the home.

Because of the natu-
ral decorations, a heritage 
home lends itself to the 
style of decorating, and it's 
what they prefer, says Be-
dell, although they have 
decorated modern homes 
that looked amazing. "It's 
not over-the-top decorat-
ing. This is very different," 
she says.

Bedell says she joined 
the garden club because of 
a photo she had seen of a 
home decorated for the Ro-
tary tour, and wanted to be 
a part of it.

Again, as with McFar-
land House, some members 
plant, grow and dry plant-
ings so they will be ready 
with decorating materials.

She enjoys the educa-
tional aspect of the club 
with members always 
teaching and learning from 
each other.

And she enjoys the op-
portunity to decorate a 
house for the holidays. "We'll be doing another 
one next year," she says.

And it won't be long be-
fore members are meeting 
to discuss the plantings for 
the heritage garden, and 
creating a roster of volun-
ters to plant and maintain 
it.

With both seasonal com-
mitments, the garden club 
building a long-standing 
partnership with the Niag-
ara Parks Commission that 
has worked well for more 
than 25 years.

And, just as decorating 
for Christmas relies on ma-
terial available in the 1800s, 
the club looks for herbs and 
vegetables that would have 
been found in a typical En-
glish garden of the Victori-
an era, which can be used in 
the kitchen for items that 
are found on the Conserva-
tory tea room menu.

Rebecca Pascoe, cura-
tor of McFarland House, 
says the partnership with 
the volunteers goes back as 
far as the garden club itself, 
which was established in 
1995.

A formalized memoran-
dum of understanding was 
forged between the two in 
1998, which allows the club 
to use the School of Horti-
culture for its monthly 
meetings, in return for the 
work done by the volunteers 
for McFarland House.

"The garden club plays 
an important role with its 
activities not just at McFar-
land House, but with Niaga-
ra Parks as a larger organiza-
tion," says Pascoe.

The garden club also 
funds scholarships each 
year for Niagara Parks' 
School of Horticulture stu-
dents — three students re-
bursed in November.

Members are generous 
with their time, and their 
work is very much appreci-
ated, Pascoe says, but more 
than that, she is grateful for 
the friendships that have 
also been forged over the 
years.

In addition to the part-
nership with Niagara Parks, 
garden club members give 
back to the communities in 
other ways. One such proj-
ect is working with cancer 
patients and their families 
at the St. Catharines site of 
the Niagara Health system.

Typically marking hol-
days such as Christmas, 
Valentine's Day, Mother's 
Day and Thanksgiving, club 
volunteers design a project, 
provide the materials and 
hold a workshop for cancer 
patients, most of them in 
treatment as out-patients.

They can bring a friend or 
family member, and the 
outing gives them a positive 
and enjoyable reason to vis-
it the hospital and socialize 
with others who are going 
through a similar experi-
ence.

Again, they used natural 
materials to make beauti-
ful arrangements those 
attendance can take home 
with them, after an enjoy-
able and meaningful after-
noon out.

The garden club is 
ready planning events for its 
25th anniversary in 2023. It 
meets the fourth Monday 
of the afternoon, although 
most of them in 
attendance can take home 
with them, after an enjoy-
able and meaningful after-
noon out.

For information email ni-
agara@gardenclubsontario.
c.ca, or call president Danie 
Turner at 289-362-1827.
Chill...

Sympli

Frankie Sez
79 Queen Street NOTL 905.468.1012

Valle Verde
55 Queen Street NOTL 905.468.3698
Another fabulous Christmas season is upon us! We celebrate this time of year and we gather together, some of us with family, some with familiar strangers because of past hurts we have caused one another, and some as new additions to our families in the form of marriages and newborns. Then there are those who have passed on from this existence and we smile as we set a place for them at the dinner table of life. Christmas is a time to reset, respect and receive the love you deserve because you are human.

It’s a time of new beginnings and clear visions for the coming New Year. Christmas is a healing time and I ask you to let the healing begin in your own life first, then let that healing energy carry on to the rest of humanity, your community and your family. As I stand on the sidewalk each season greeting you as you walk the town’s commercial district, I see the sparkle, and in some cases the tears, in your eyes as you remember Christmas traditions from a past time perhaps when love was greater and wounds weren’t present. Or maybe they were. In any case, this year I want you to clear the canvas of life and focus on one thing… being a better lover of this life and the world around you, and that includes everyone in your circle, both near and far. Let this year be truly different. Love always, Santa
Dreaming of a Wine Christmas
Submitted by Konzelmann Estate Winery

It’s that time of year, when we deck the halls and make merry. The days are filled with festive gatherings and holiday shopping – and we hope a big glass of delicious wine. Time spent with friends and family is at the top of the list for seasonal plans, but finding the perfect gifts is probably a close second.

Whether you are looking to gift your clients, show your employees they are valued, or share and create memories with your loved ones, our wide range of gifting solutions has got you covered. When it comes to gift giving its all about individual character, so we curate each offering to fit your unique style and budget. From baskets for the foodie, entertainer or sweet tooth in your life to custom labels featuring your company’s logo or a family photo, the possibilities are endless.

If you are looking for the perfect way to spend time with your friends or family, we also offer memorable experiences at the winery. From cheese and reserve wines in our estate cellar, to learning how to pair your favourite junk food with wine, we have experiences suited to everyone on your list.

Visit us at 1096 Lakeshore Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake for a wonderful selection of gift ideas.
Along with Red’s best friend, es, hoping they will come true. They write their wishes on pieces of cloth “wish tree,” where people write their stories. He is the neighborhood’s favorite author for these young learners.

At the beginning of the year, the class began reading a book called When the Wind Blows. Katherine Applegate has been in the Grade 4/5 class, and he discovered that this book was a favorite of the students. They began seeking more books by Applegate too. As soon as the teacher offered a book, Crenshaw, the students were hooked and couldn’t put it down. Other students wanted to know what the deal was, and asked if they could borrow it. It became a huge hit. Crenshaw is about a boy named Jackson who is about 10 years old. He has five people in his family—his mom, dad, his little sister Robin, and their dog, Areta. His family is very poor and may have to live in their minivan. Again.

Along comes Crenshaw, a large, outspoken, imaginary cat. Jackson first “met” him in Grade 2. Crenshaw returns to help Jackson through these hard times. He is a funny and sometimes silly imaginary friend who makes the reader laugh. While he might be enthralling, we wonder if he is enough to help Jackson out.

The whole school would recommend this book to anyone from Grades 4 and up. Now get reading!

Ruby Elltoft, Grade 5 and Olivia Santelli, Grade 6

Royal Oak School is a book-loving community, and recently in the Grade 4/5 class, Katherine Applegate was a favorite author for these young learners.

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Leila Ridesic, Grade 5 and Diego Rey, Grade 5

Royal Oak School has recently been granted the once-in-a-lifetime experience of seeing children, just like themselves, showcasing their pieces of singing and choreography.

Music Niagara graciously donated tickets to any of the ROCS staff and students and their families who wanted to see their show at St. Mark’s Church.

Saxon Reese, Grade 4 & Iliaas Orlisacos, Grade 4

At Royal Oak School, we have lots of different clubs based on student interests. Students can suggest clubs to teachers, and if we have enough interest, we have a club.

So far this year, we have had a Soccer Club, Knitting Club, Running Club, an Eco Club, and our Newspaper Club. In Knitting Club, we have learned how to knit with our fingers. With our fingers, we have learned how to make a snake. Students could be seen trying to knit a scarf and a blanket. They loved it and were excited for January when we will start it again.

In Soccer Club, we learned how to do certain drills like dribbling, which has helped us when playing in a game.

In Newspaper Club, we have been brainstorming, writing, and editing articles about our school to put them in this newspaper. It helps us all become better writers.

We now have two new clubs this month, based on student interest. One of the new clubs is Meditation Club. In this club we do yoga and meditate to learn to slow our breathing and our bodies. We have also done some outdoor meditation and it was beautiful. Then there is Snack Club where we have been learning to make snacks that we can make on our own at home, like fruit kabobs with marshmallows, and yogurt dip to dip the kabobs in. They were delicious.

Overall, the students are excited for the clubs this year. We enjoyed our fall and winter term clubs, and look forward to our January clubs too.

Students enjoyed their Music Niagara concert at St. Mark’s. Students Olivia Santelli, Grade 6, and Ruby Elltoft, Grade 5 interview their teacher, Madame Salem (centre). (Photos supplied)

Crenshaw Hits the Shelves

Clubs at Royal Oak

Royal Oak attends a Performance by the Hamilton Children’s Choir

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Students enjoyed their Music Niagara concert at St. Mark’s.
Crossroads students choose kindness

For the past two years, the students and staff of Crossroads Public School have looked for ways to make kindness a daily habit.

This month, for example, we’ve begun a series of posters that encourages us all to be considerate toward one another.

In support of this emphasis, the Me To We Club is helping our students to raise funds for two ongoing projects. We are continu-
ing to support a school in Karubabi, Burundi, with this year’s goal to build a basketball court.

Closer to home, we are supporting Kidsport Niagara, a non-profit organiza-
tion that helps disadvan-
taged children to meet the cost of playing organized sports.

To raise money for these two projects in the week before Christmas, Me To We will encourage students to dress according to daily themes and will make avail-
able a variety of treats.

As well, Crossroads is encouraging donations to its two fundraising projects through Cash Online or do-
nations at our Holiday Con-
cert on Dec. 17. Meanwhile, Kindergarten students are making cards and baking cookies to deliver to seniors in our community. Junior students are preparing to make a vis-
it to Pleasant Manor to sing for the residents. And each morning in December, the Grade 4 students have been creating a Kindness Count-
down, choosing a specific act of kindness that they would like to practice on the following day.

So far, they have chosen things like holding a door for someone, helping pri-
mary students to read their favourite book, starting a positive conversation, bak-
ing cookies for a neighbour, and donating to a food bank.

This Christmas, Cross-
roads Public School wishes its staff, students, parents and neighbours joy in giv-
ning and receiving the great gift of kindness.

Matthew Kroeker, Christian Dodd, Ryker Nikkel, Leo Smith, Evan Baxter, William Penny, Rian Sils, and Brody Short are Crossroads Grade 1 Kindness Kids. (Photos supplied)

Elinor Rifkin and Alexandra Lily are busy making cards for community members.

Gabriella Froese, Ty Sherlock, Jackson Dodridge, Lily Kanters, and Naomi Coles are excit-
ed about the Grade 4 Kindness Advent Calendar.

A Kindergarten class gets ready for their visit to Pleasant Manor.

Students are getting ready for Twas the Week Before Christmas fundraiser. Me To We members are Mir-
am Andres, Jorga Lepp, Olivia Breakspear, Char-
lotte Bowslaugh, and Ellery Sawatzky.

Luci Beccario, Grayson Tataryn, Keira Dexter, and Holden Powell are busy adding to Cross-
roads’ Kindness Chain.

The Music of a Charlie Brown Christmas

A Jazz Club Cabaret with the Peter Shea Trio ft. Terry Clarke

SAT 21 DEC 2PM + 8PM

John McDermmott

“It’s not really Christmas until McDermmott sings.”

THE TORONTO STAR

SUN 22 DEC 2:30PM
Plein air artists are showing their work at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library through the month of December, with a reception Saturday.

Plein air painting, simply put, is painting outdoors. Artists gain inspiration from nature, through experiencing different landscapes and changing light. Some well-known plein air painters are French Impressionists Claude Monet and Pierre-Auguste Renoir, as well as Canadian artist Tom Thompson and the Group of Seven.

Sandy St. Laurent, one of the group's members, felt the reception was successful, with a good crowd. It was her first showing of her work and she was thrilled to have sold one of her own paintings out of three paintings sold that afternoon. St. Laurent has been painting for about three years, since her retirement but joined the group two summers ago. She met the group's founder, Cindy Sheridan, through art courses she was taking at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. She describes the group as being encouraging and supportive toward each other, and welcoming to artists at all levels.

She enjoys painting outside, she said, with sunshine and nature, and is anxiously waiting for summer to arrive. "Once you are bitten by the plein air bug, that's it." Sheridan has been painting the landscapes of Maui since November. After taking some fine art courses at Brock University and participating in workshops at the Pumphouse Arts Centre, she was introduced to plein air painting and enjoyed it so much that she started looking around the region to find other artists with a similar interest. She decided to start her own group, and began to recruit members.

She has found a nice community of people to share her passion with, she says. She sends out a weekly newsletter to about 60 people, with eight to 10 artists coming out regularly each week. Sheridan explains she finds plein air painting both challenging and enjoyable. "It's difficult and intricate, as far as learning the technical abilities to paint well."

She also enjoys the social aspect of it. "It is nice to be with a group of artists, to learn from each other and bounce ideas off each other." She says painting a beautiful lake or spending time in a forest offers a more enriching experience than spending that time alone in a dark studio. "It is a meditative thing to do, very peaceful, very tranquil."

Janice Opie met Sheridan at a Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre workshop, and joined with her to start the Niagara Plein Air Artists. After painting with the group for two years, Opie decided, "an art show would be fun and enriching for our growing relationship with each other" so she arranged the art show and reception at the library.

A self-taught artist, Opie has taken workshops with local artists as well as explored many different disciplines, such as crafting chain maille jewellery, painting silk and casting cement waterfalls.

Having explored other media, she contends her first love is fine art, especially watercolours. The "weekly Friday plein air sessions are now a part of my life style," she says, and she has developed a special relationship with the other members to the point that she sees them more than her other friends and family.

The attraction for Opie is threefold. She likes to be in nature, with other people and doing what she loves, painting. There is a strong connection to the Niagara Region in all of the group's paintings, she says.

"Even if it's a flower, it is still from the Niagara Region." The group paints in places such as Charles Daley Park and Dufferin Islands, so the scenes are recognizable and familiar to the observer. While most of the paintings on display at the library were painted in the summer, the group still gets together during the winter months.

"The Niagara Plein Air Artists' reception on Saturday afternoon was "very successful in terms of inviting and sharing our art with the public, selling our art and most importantly, an experience that the participating artists shared with each other," Opie says. She has formed a "unique relationship [with the group] and the show has taken it to a whole new level."

The Niagara Plein Air Artists' show is on display in the Rotary Room at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library until Dec. 31.
St. Saviour’s, St. Mark’s churches feature Newark Singers concert

The Newark Singers will be featured at two Christmas music concerts, conducted by Michael Tansley, former music director of St. Mark’s Church. (Photo supplied)

Penny Coles
The Local

Michael Tansley returns to St. Mark’s Church Saturday, to conduct the Newark Singers in a holiday concert. When he retired as the music director at St. Mark’s two years ago, his farewell performance was just before Christmas. Although he was ready for retirement, he knew it wouldn’t be his last performance at the church — music will always be a huge part of his life, and St. Mark’s is one of his favourite places to make music.

He said at the time he would give the new organist space, that he didn’t want to get underfoot, and he has kept that promise.

He has returned as organizer to cover holidays in the summer, as he has for several Niagara churches, and last year he conducted the Christmas Eve carol

"I’m available as a fill-in organist and pianist," he says, "If I’m around, I can help."

This holiday season, he says, "I find I have more time to keep "healthy and happy;" swimming three times a week, making sure he remains active in body and mind, and working with the Newark Singers is a big part of that for Tansley. "I’ve developed a routine — I find that important, and state of mind is critical, I believe." Being back at St. Mark’s, he says, will feel like being at home. "It’s still my church home, and I love being there. I love the space. To make music at St. Mark’s will always be a pleasure."

The Newark Singers will be featured in a holiday concert, “The Music of a Charlie Brown Christmas,” which will become part of their repertoire for next season. "I find I have more time now to do things for me, which includes music. Musicians never really retire," he says, "and this is my way of giving back." At 76, he’s doing his best to keep "healthy and happy;" swimming three times a week, making sure he remains active in body and mind, and working with the Newark Singers is a big part of that for Tansley. "I’ve developed a routine — I find that important, and state of mind is critical, I believe.”

FORT GEORGE GARRISON CHRISTMAS

December 14 @ 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Join Parks Canada & the Friends of Fort George for the annual Fort George Garrison Christmas event on Saturday, December 14, 2019 from noon – 4:00 pm! Come and experience Christmas traditions from the early 19th century! The buildings inside Fort George will be decorated in traditional holiday greenery with crafts, activities and games for the whole family! Hot beverages and historic treats will be available in the Officers’ kitchen, and there will be musket demonstrations throughout the afternoon! Call/Parks Canada at 905-468-6814 for more information.

UGLY SWEATER HOLIDAY FOOD TOUR

December 14 @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Don your best ugly holiday sweater and join us on a special walking tour for a little foodie fun! This 2.5 hour tour differs from our usual Niagara-on-the-Lake culinary tour. It will include a mix of food tastings at culinary partners and a chance to pick up a last minute gift for that hard-to-buy-for person on your list. We promise a tasty bit of fun and frivolity and a takeaway gift. So grab a friend and dig out that ugly sweater and get in the holiday spirit! A prize will be awarded to the foodie with the ugliest sweater. It’s a great way to spend the afternoon with friends or a nice alternative to the holiday office party. Private booking dates are available. $60 per person. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Irish Harp, 245 King St., NOTL. For more info, contact: support@nflx.com or call 1 (289) 766-8717.

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December 14 Chorus Niagara presents Welcome Christmas!
December 19 Maceo Parker
December 21 The Music of a Charlie Brown Christmas
December 22 John McDermott
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The novice Wolves of the NOTL Minor Hockey League played the Fort Erie Meteors Saturday afternoon at the Centennial Arena. No scores are kept in the novice division. (Photos by Fred Mercnik)

NOTL skaters compete in Keswick

At the Keswick Invitational Skate Competition, Jeong Lee was first in STAR 5 (O13) Women and 12th in STAR 7 Women; Kyna Marotta was first in Gold Women; Melena Orsini was third in STAR 5 (O13) Women. (Photos supplied)

Ashleen Hale preparing for provincials

Ashleen Hale of the NOTL Skating Club, with her coach Judi Boyle-Krzeczko at the 2020 Skate Ontario Sectional Championships held recently in Flamborough, came 41st overall. Hale is vying to qualify for the Skate Ontario Provincial Championships to be held in March.

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