



Tractor Parade tripled in size

pages 17, 18 & 19

notllocal.com DECEMBER 20, 2023 Volume 5 • Issue 51



Sea of red at Simcoe Park

The Santa Run drew 400 runners and raised \$5,260 for the NOTL Youth Collective Sunday. For more photos and story please see page 23. (Mike Balsom)

Trisha Romance Star of Wonder in Simcoe Park

Penny Coles The Local

Those who have visited Simcoe Park recently will have seen a reproduction of Star of Wonder, one of Trisha Romance's famous Christmas paintings, at its angle it was on by the golf

She was delighted to see it there, she says, but also surprised — she wasn't sure how it got there.

For several years it was the centrepiece of the Christmas scene at the end of Mississagua Street by the golf course, but with the construction of the new gateway feature, town staff and the Chamber of Commerce and Communities in Bloom committee members decided the for our readers on page 7. best spot for the painting was at the entrance to Simcoe Park. Staff installed

the support structure and lights on Thursday, Dec. 7, for the holiday season, where it will remain until the end of January, says town spokesperson Marah Minor.

Because of the severe course, Romance recalls, "it was often covered by snow, like a blanket. Imagine my unbelievable delight to see it in Simcoe Park, in a place of honour as we continue to celebrate our 40th anniversary as a gallery in NOTL."

Every painting has a story, she adds, "and Star of Wonder is no exception."

She shared that story with The Local, and her words are reprinted in full

Romance says seeing

Continued on page 2

Pleasant Manor residents delighted by Tractor Parade

Penny Coles The Local

For the third year in a row, Tim Siemens witnessed first-hand the delight of seniors who were the streets all around it." able to watch Thursday's tractor parade, brought idents were bundled up tors, and some of their a difference in the lives arms around the people ask for anything more? right to their doors by Er- and portered outside, he pickups were filled with of others, and from the who live in town." Soo-Wiens, and members watch from their windows. Siemens says. of the local farming community.

"Four-storey

packed," says the CEO of lightful all around." Radiant Care, which in-"I've never seen as much to ensure the new gravel activity outside the home, with cars and people lining just that morning on the

"We had hot chocolate,

Cotton Construction surface that had been laid

portable propane heaters for dinner at Bricks & Bar- the route." apart- so people could enjoy the ley before the parade start-

was the tractor parade, throughout COVID, he to make it an annual people asking each other says, and Radiant Care's team-building event, he cludes Pleasant Manor. trucks and staff were there if they had a spot on the strategic plan is now to says, turning it into a pot-

watched the parade, he restore a sense of commuconstruction site stood up says, "was a local group of nity that was lost. It feels pact on the way of life in Long-term care res- to the weight of the trac- people wanting to make like it's wrapping its loving win Wiens and Dorothy says, and others could their wives and children, Pleasant Manor perspective, we're just tickled pink see," he adds, "our board, Soo-Wiens have done in He and his wife went that we're a prime part of our residents, our tenants, bringing another event to

It's been a difficult be included." ment balconies were just warmth — it was just de- ed, "and the conversation few years for residents

"recover, restore and re-What he saw when he build. This event helps the parade.

our staff, are all ecstatic to the residents of Pleasant

Some staff intend

luck dinner leading up to

"It's had such an imthis community. Can you It's absolutely amazing "It's just a delight to what Erwin and Dorothy

Continued on page 17



December 20, 2023 THE NOTL Your _____ notllocal.com

Artist dreams of more paintings in Simcoe Park



Memorable New Year's Dining

Whether you want to wrap up the year or ring in the new one, Vintage Hotels' restaurants will help you celebrate in style.



New Year's Eve DINNER | 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

TIARA AT QUEEN'S LANDING

New Year's Eve
DINNER | Seatings start at
5:00 PM & 8:00 PM

New Year's Day BRUNCH | 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Cannery

New Year's Eve
DINNER | Seatings start at
5:00 PM & 8:00 PM
New Year's Day

BRUNCH | 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY

Menus available online. Dining options and times vary by property. Reservations required.

vintage-hotels.com | 1.888.669.5566 | Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON



A self-portrait of Trisha Romance as she works outside in her garden on a beautiful fall day, something she loves to do, and is one of many creative outlets for the re-

nouned artist.

Continued from page 1

her painting in Simcoe Park made her dream about a possibility for the future, an inspiration that came to her, and that she has already passed on to town staff.

She has eight Christmas paintings, "eight very distinct pieces," and her vision is to see all of them mounted in a manner similar to *Star of Wonder*, although it is two pieces of wood with a seam down the middle — technology today could do a better job, she says. She pictures them placed at intervals along the pathway through Simcoe Park during the winter months.

"I always felt the park was under-used," she says, "and to me it still is. I can remember when we first moved here, living across the street at the gallery, we were able to skate in the park — that's going back 40 years. What a great thing it would be to see those pieces along the path in this town that is so magical at Christmas."

Romance, now 72, says she struggles with her health, but quickly adds, "I'm the type of person who rises above challenges, in every way."

Her father, she says, would tell her in stressful times that "you're in God's hands. You have nothing to worry about." And that was so comforting to me, that he lifted me up that

way. I can still hear him say that. I don't worry about the past, and I don't think about tomorrow. I live in the present, like my grandchildren do. They are a true blessing to me."

They are also an incentive to stay positive, she says. "I have five wonderful grandchildren. They don't come to visit that often, but when they do, they love NOTL."

"And my friends continue to sustain me," she adds, "my collectors, and the many people who wish me well. I'm very grateful for them."

She's not actively painting the way she was, "not as quickly or as abundantly," but has a studio almost completed. "It's coming along, slowly but surely. What the next steps are for us, I don't know."

Although her daughter Tanya Peterson has taken over the day-to-day running of the gallery in Virgil, she is still a regular there, and very active, going in to signs cards and prints, and chat with people. "But I'm very fortunate to know my work is in good hands. Tanya knows the stories behind the paintings as well as I do. She is the right person to tell them — she lived through them."

Romance still lives in town, loves work in her garden, and has a greenhouse where she can take her plants inside to look after over the winter.

"Once an artist, always an artist," she says, and that is in everything she does, whether it's gardening in the summer or decorating for Christmas at this time of year.

"All those things I do fill me with hope, with faith and continued energy. That's what keeps me going."



Don't let the year end without taking care of your vision! Book your eye exam today to ensure you start the new year with clear and healthy eyes. Your vision matters, and we're here to help you see your best in 2024.



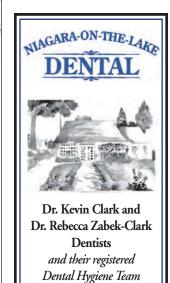
DR HOPKINS & ASSOCIATES
OPTOMETRY

— Sight for Life —

Care for all ages, infants to adults

358 Mary St., Unit 7, NOTL | 905.468.8002 8 Secord Dr., St. Catharines | 905.682.9119

www.theeyedoc.ca



369 MARY STREET IAGARA-ON-THE-LAKI

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE 905-468-3009

Fort Mississauga shoreline restoration underway

Mike Balsom The Local

from Rankin Construction were on site on Parks Canada property Friday to begin work on the final phase of construction to protect Fort Mississauga National Historic Site.

The walking trail near the fort was being tempo-

rarily reinforced and widto the eastern side to beof non-native trees and most part it will be open. shrubs. The work is being

ened and removable fenc- relations and communicaing was being installed tions officer Julia Grcevic Crews and machinery last week to facilitate the said there will be some pemovement of vehicles, riodic closures of the trail materials and supplies to the public for safety reasons while the \$6 million gin the building of a new project is underway this breakwall and removal winter and next, but for the

> The new 500-metre done to protect the cultur- section of breakwall startal heritage of the property. ing behind Fort Missis-

Parks Canada public sauga is necessary to com- Golf Club. bat shoreline erosion near high water levels, possithe current breakwall protection near the fort farther east toward the Parks Canada property leased by of breakwall was installed the Niagara-on-the-Lake on the western shoreline

Renovations and resthe mouth of the Niagara toration to the Fort Mis-River. Frequent and more sissauga structure itself severe storm events and was previously completed and unveiled to the pubbly due to climate change, lic in June 2023. All of the have wreaked havoc on work is facilitated through federal government infrastructure funding.

Prior to that, a stretch

of the site. That walkway has been open to the public, and once the additional 500 metres of breakwall on the eastern shoreline is completed, walkers will be able to stroll all the way along the shore to just before the patio at the Niagaraon-the-Lake Golf Club.

The work is expected to be completed by spring 2025.



by the fort. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



The work will take place this winter and next, with an expected completion date of spring



The Highest Total Volume of Local Sales for the Past Decade

Highest volume in Niagara-on-the-Lake from 01/01/2011 to 09/21/2021. Source MLS.



85 KILAKDU STREET LUT \$598,000

MLS 40514733 - Thomas Elltoft and Viviane Elltoft



IDII ULU LAKESHURE RUAU \$998,000

MLS 40489887 - Thomas Elltoft and Jane Elltoft



\$835,000

MLS 40511745 - Thomas Elltoft and Jane Elltoft



4つひ JUMMOUM るINEEI \$2,775,000

MLS 40517172 – Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



507 MISSISSAUGA STREET \$2,179,000

MLS 40469293 – Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



22 WEATHERSTONE COURT \$1,200,000

MLS 40503026 - Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia



36 THE PROMENADE \$2,150,000

MLS 40491396 - Patricia Atherton and Caroline Polgrabia



45 STONERDIGE CRESCENT \$1,685,000

MLS 4048088 - Randall Armstrong

Christopher Bowron***	905-327-6704
Kim Elltoft**	905-380-8011
Randall Armstrong**	905-651-2977
Victoria Bolduc*	905-941-3726
Nicole Vanderperk*	905-941-4585
10 : En. 64	005 000 7404

Thomas Elltoft*	905-380-8012
Jane Elltoft**	905-988-8776
Cheryl Carmichael*	905-941-0276
Linda Williams*	905-401-4240
Caroline Polgrabia*	289-257-6063
Detricie Atherteux	005 000 4000

Ricky Watson* 905-246-3387

***Broker of Record ** Broker *Sales Representative

109 Queen Street 905-468-3205 • St. Davids Office 905-262-6996

Region provides update on Upper Canada Lodge

Kris Dube The Local **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

Niagara Region staff have confirmed with The Local that Upper Canada

Lodge site in Fort Erie is standards. slated to open.

was once said to be closing that the current Gilmore

Lodge in Niagara-on-the- in 2022 after it was deter- Lodge on Gilmore Road term care hub in Fort Erie transition to an alternate Lake will close June 19, mined it was not feasible in Fort Erie would be re- is one of two redevelop- home." 2024, which is the same to redevelop the property built on Garrison Road ments of Niagara Region date the new Gilmore to align it with provincial due to the original site be-facilities in progress, along Manor only has long-term

Upper Canada Lodge more than six years ago

It was also announced to 2024 provincial stan-

The \$85 million long- take in 256 residents.

ing out-of-date according with a new \$105 million care spaces for 41 resiproject at Linhaven in St. Catharines, which will

> In a statement provided to The Local, Henri Koning, the region's director of seniors services, Manor was once thought said the redevelopment to be an option when project in Fort Erie is UCL was slated to close, it "progressing well."

of Linhaven will be announced when the project is closer to completion,

been working closely with residents and families at Upper Canada Lodge since April to help find appropriate homes.

"Some residents are choosing to move to Gilmore Lodge, some have selected alternate homes in Niagara-on-the-Lake and some have selected other locations across Niagara," said Koning.

"Upper Canada Lodge to support the move and time, she said.

Radiant Care Pleasant dents, until the expansion now underway, which will accommodate 160 residents, is completed. That is expected to be late 2025. Although Pleasant soon became evident that A date for the opening several delays in funding and licensing to get to the building stage meant the timing wouldn't work out.

A number of spe-Now it's up to families cific questions, such as to decide where residents whether families of Upof UCL will call home per Canada Lodge residents are responsible for Koning said Home co-ordinating relocation and Community Care has on move-in day, and what residents are to do if they don't have family and friends to help, were not addressed in Koning's statement.

> As for the existing Upper Canada Lodge site, the region is in the midst of a formal process to determine who will take it over when the home is no longer in operation, said Koning.

This process is ongois working with residents ing, and there is no inforon a case-by-case basis mation to report at this





Joan King's stocking project delivery was moved ahead a little for Upper Canada Lodge, where 80 stockings were dropped off for residents Monday. It was a bittersweet occasion, all recognizing it as the last Christmas there for the lodge, staff and residents. The other long-term care homes in NOTL receive their stockings on Wednesday. Once again people have been incredibly generous, with stockings bulging with gifts, and program manager Kristin Mechelse was very appreciative of King and NOTL residents who helped with the project. "It makes Christmas a little brighter for residents to know people are thinking of them, and to be able to receive something Christmas morning is lovely," she said. Posing with the stockings are Bryan Neumann, Joan King, Kristin Mechelse and Jesse Pruniak, all wearing masks because there was an outbreak of COVID in one section of the home. (Penny Coles)





Family member receives news from **Upper Canada Lodge**

Penny Coles The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake families with loved ones living at Upper Canada Lodge were told Friday the closure date for the June 19.

On Tuesday, Andrew Henwood, whose wife Gayle is a resident of the lodge, told The Local he had been told mid-February, but that staff had said that could change, as it has before.

The longer Gayle can stay there, the better, and he was happy to hear the targeted closure has been delayed.

The email he received was from Upper Canada

keep them up to date on thanks them for their patience, says Henwood.

Just days before that region for any news about the closure of the lodge, but was told there were no updates.

wood says the date has changed because the com-Gilmore Lodge, a regional long-term care home in Fort Erie, is delayed that news has been ex- email from UCL, Henpected for some time - wood wrote a letter to and is now planned to be The Local explaining his finished by that date.

Accordingly, the li-Lodge management and cences for the 80 beds in letters page.

was directed to families Upper Canada Lodge will with relatives who will be be transferred to Gilmore moved to other homes, to Lodge, the email explains.

"That June date is the what is happening. It also latest Gayle will be moved, the way I see it — unless it changes again," he says.

And the longer she long-term care home: this email, The Local asked the stays at UCL, he says, the better he believes it will be

> He reiterates his choice would be a bed for her Friday's email to Hen- down Wellington Street at Niagara Long Term Care, but he has to wait unpletion of the expansion of til a bed is offered to her, and will accept it when it comes.

> > After receiving the feelings, which has been published on this week's



Andrew Henwood has received an official date of closure for Upper Canada Lodge, although the date has changed several times. (Arun Kapur)



EDITORIAL All the best from all of us at The Local to all of you

baby Jesus, the son of God, was families. born.

For some people, Christ- about tradition, what we have need help to get through the reach out with assistance to viduals, organizations and healthy and happy holiday, and

It's also a time we enlarge For many others it is more that circle to include those who

mas is a religious holiday, based brought with us from our past, holidays, with a good meal, others — we see it all around businesses, who reach out to we look forward to continuon the story of how and when and how we celebrate with our gifts for their little ones, or ofa time of friendship.

ten just an opportunity to share about those who respond to whatever need they see in the We thank all those who community, the many indi- readers and our advertisers a

us, in the great stories we share others with love, kindness and ing to do what we love for this generosity.

We at The Local wish our

community through 2024.

Penny Coles The Local

Healthcare, affordability top 2024 agenda



Wayne Gates, MPP **Niagara Falls Riding**

As we approach the end of 2023 and head into the new year, I wanted to take some accomplished for Niagara-onthe-Lake, and the challenges we continue to work together to address as we enter 2024.

By working together with all levels of government, Niagara Health, local stakeholders and residents, we finally broke ground on the new South Niagara Hospital — a new 1.3-million-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, with 469 beds and centres of excellence for complex care, wellness in aging and stroke. This is a project we have fought for and championed since I was first elected in 2014.

Just earlier this month, we scored a major victory for the wine industry here in Niagara-on-the-Lake on the elimination of the basic 6.1 per cent tax on Ontario wines have to learn on an empty vices to town. in winery retail stores. I have stomach. been proud to introduce a bill to eliminate this unfair tax standing up to protect our three times since 2018 — and Greenbelt from unneces-I was joined in September of this year by Bill Redelmeier of Southbrook Vineyards and Jakub Lipinski of Big Head Wines to table the bill once es heard, we ensured that we

We can't overstate how time to reflect on what we have important a win this is for our community and local economy. Eliminating this tax is a common-sense measure that will help to grow our industry — already the largest wine-producing region in the country, which healthcare and affordabilicontributes over \$1 billion to Canada's GDP — and support industries and community good-paying local jobs right heritage, are my top priorities here in town.

> We also secured regionwide funding for Niagara Nutrition Partners, to make sure the-Lake and across the no child in our community is going to school on an empty stomach. While we have a lot care services in their comof work to do on eliminating munity when they need it. food insecurity, this is a major This is why I have been proud step forward that will allow to work together with Lord Niagara Nutrition Partners to Mayor Gary Zalepa and town continue the great work they council to advocate for a rehave done. No child should turn of nurse practitioner ser-

sary development, we came together to tell the Premier that this was the wrong move — and by making our voicprotected our Greenbelt, air and water quality, and local farmland for another generation. We can build the 1.5 million homes our province needs, without touching an inch of our Greenbelt lands.

But much work needs to be done, and addressing ty, while defending our local heading into 2024.

We need to make sure that everyone in Niagara-onprovince has access to highquality, efficient public health-

This was a promise made Canada from prostate cancer And when it came to by Health Minister Sylvia this year. That's 13 men a day. Jones to the people of NOTL With this simple reform, a lot in 2022, and I firmly believe of those lives can be saved by that the provincial government should fulfill their promise and fix the gap in healthcare services for residents in NOTL.

We know that more than a third of the town's population is 65 years of age or older, and that seniors present with more complex healthcare needs. We also know the town has struggled with access to frontline healthcare services in recent years, and that almost 8,000 residents are not registered with the Niagara North Family Health Team.

Getting a nurse practitioner will be a top priority for my office in 2024. Expanding access to our public healthcare and defending the system from further unnecessary privatization is also crucially important.

We have worked with the Canadian Cancer Society to table legislation earlier this year to expand coverage under OHIP for PSA screening lives and money.

Over 4,900 men will die in early detection.

Instead of doing the right thing, the provincial govern-

Continued on page 7



simple reform that would save card this year with the picture on the front drawn by his grandson, Tanner Bidal. (Supplied)

NEED HELP? MAKE THE CALL

DISTRESS CENTRE KIDS HELP PHONE

For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACCESS (Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205

GAMBLER'S ANONYMOUS

905-351-1616

Service for youth 416-586-5437 1-800-668-6868

(Crisis Line) kidshelpphone.ca

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meetings every Wednesday evening 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark's Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting

905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN'S HELPLINE Mobile calls to: **#SAFE (#7233)** 1-866-863-0511

CRIME STOPPERS 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)

(Toll Free)

niagaratips.com Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: Niagara, then your tip

View from the couch

Donald Combe Special to The Local

to Lourdes. They were dis-film.

appointed, as the miracles

Donald Combe is a rethey sought didn't happen; tired English teacher who however, an abundance of loves to go to movies. Until In life we seek drama, miracles did happen. The he resumes going to theas did these characters in characters were able to for- atres, he has graciously The Miracle Club (Netflix give one another and began agreed to share his opin-2023) from a small Irish to move on, by accepting ions, through "short and village, long for miracles as love in all its strange forms. sweet" exclusives, of Netthey made their pilgrimage Everyone needs to see this flix series and movies for The Local.



P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, LOS 1TO

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

Publisher: The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Village Media Regional Publisher (online sales) John Hammill

John@villagemedia.ca 905-988-5599 ext 1157 Advertising Sales: Joy Sanguedolce - NOTL joy@notllocal.com 416-817-0920

Julia Coles - outside NOTL julia@notllocal.com 905-934-1040

Graphic Designer: Rosie Gowsell composing@notllocal.com News Tips: news@notllocal.com

notllocal.com () facebook.com/notllocal () instagram.com/thenotllocal () @thenotllocal



Where's Ben?

Eden student Ben Foster continues to discover new locations in NOTL, wondering how familiar others may be with them. If you know where this photo was taken, email penny@notllocal.com.

Last week, Doug Hernder was the first to tell us Ben was at the Virgil Post Office.

The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor,

COMMENT -

LETTERS Artist Trisha Romance shares story of Star of Wonder

goes out to all at the Chamber of Commerce and the Town of NOTL staff who were instrumental in the recent installation of my Star of Wonder painting at the entrance of Simcoe Park. It brought tears to my eyes and joy to my soul! How providential that it should find this place of honour as we continue to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our gallery here in Niagaraon-the-Lake!

Star of Wonder will always hold a special place in my heart. It was a magical moment with my daughter Whitney while Christmas shopping in Old Town.

She was just a wee little thing who loved taking her time to observe the details of life around her. The snow was falling in giant flakes and darkness had already set in when I told her we must get home to get dinner ready for guests who were coming. It was only then that I realized that she wasn't by my side! She had stopped to look at the bril-

filled her face with light. This was more than an inspiration. This moment was a gift from God. It had to be painted!

followed it went from sketches to the final finished painting. I counted every minute I spent with it as a blessing.

it in my studio, but eventually the time came for it to go to the printing press and then to galleries across the country and beyond.

The reaction from my collectors was extraordinary. Star of Wonder had spoken to them just as it had spoken to me. As I went on tour with it I would tell people about Niagaraon-the-Lake and the magic they would discover there. But truly, Star Of Wonder became the little ambassador of the town.

popular painting ever to installation. "It even has leave my studio. Our Gallery lights," I exclaimed when Guest Book was filled with first seeing it.

My heartfelt gratitude liant Nativity Star in the Just inscriptions from people far Christmas Store window. I and wide. Many wanted to stood motionless as the star know where this painting came from . . . where was the exact spot in our town.

> And so, to see Star of Wonder still greeting visitors to the town, 31 years In the days and weeks that later, now in Simcoe Park, brings me immeasurable joy. I am truly humbled!

> Every painting has a story. And now my daughter I hated to say goodbye to Tanya who is the owner/curator of our Niagara Image Gallery continues to share those stories.

As many of you know, my three children and treasured home on John Street have been the focus of my life's work. They were a constant source of inspiration to me. But raising a family in beautiful Niagaraon-the-Lake with its magical and historical surroundings certainly had a lot to do with those endless inspirations.

Thank you again to all Soon it became the most who were involved in the



Star of Wonder, the painting by Trisha Romance now in Simcoe Park. (David Gilchrist)

I know that such things do not happen easily, so my gratitude is never far from Simcoe Park will be filled realizing that.

pass *Star* at the entrance of hope and joy for 2024. with the spirit of Christmas

My wish is that all who and a light-filled sense of

Trisha Romance NOTL

ETTERS News from Upper Canada Lodge has huge impact

Upper Canada Lodge is to close on June 19. Why is that? Because their licence is being transferred to Gilmore Lodge at Fort Erie, where they are building an extension which will house 80 more patients.

Given the overwhelming need for more long-term care, we don't understand why licences are rare and new licences not possible. On the day that the Gilmore extension opens, Upper Canada Lodge must close.

What is this madness? Google tells me that Gilmore

Today we learned that a minimum of 40 minutes on-the-Lake residents. The the cost! This I calculate at around \$500 per week in gas we afford that? And at 84, for how long can I expect my driver's licence to be extended? What has Gilmore at Fort Erie got to do with Niagaraon-the-Lake? Nothing, except that our treasured licences must be transferred to them, and on the day their extension opens, we must close.

The median age of resi-Lodge is 54 kilometres from dents of Fort Erie is four years disabused of that notion. my home and it would take younger than that of Niagara-

to drive there. It is unfair to percentage of NOTL residents expect family members to over the age of 65 is twice that drive so far. And think of of the provincial average. In a province that must soon come to grips with how to meet the and car expenses! How can needs of an aging population, our town will be a testbed for how to manage the future. Solutions should be found within the local area. The problem should not be exported. If the provincial government thinks that Niagaraon-the-Lake and Fort Erie are more or less all one and can be bundled together, then they are wrong, and must be

I am told that the average

ageofresidentshereinNiagara- ed her room with treasured on-the-Lake is 65 years. Understandable, because this wonderful spot, the pretty town and neighbourhood with the mildest climate in will be an indefinite wait for the province, this has been a private room. This will be a and will remain a retirement clear deterioration in quality destination for many people. My wife fell in love with the town way back in 1950, when she first visited here at the age of 10. They used to swim off rather than in the common what was then a sandy beach at the end of King Street. That's why we came here when my working life ended.

And it isn't just the climate or the scenery. We modation. I don't know how quickly discovered that the she will react to the change. I people here made the kindest can only wait and see. and most helpful neighbours in many different places. This town needs not just the existing beds for the elderly, it already needs more beds, not fewer. Surely you cannot insist that most people will have to leave town when they reach the age at which they where would they go?

I should say at this point that we are hoping Gayle will not have to go to Fort Erie. We have asked for her to be moved to the Wellington Long Term Care home, which, like UCL, is only four blocks from our own house. But with that request some disappointments loom. Gayle has had a private room for the past four years. We have personalized this room with things brought from home. We have decorat-

paintings. I am told that most of the accommodation at Wellington is shared, up to three people in a room and there of life. Now we visit every day, and can enhance these private visits with quiet music. Gayle prefers time in her own room room with more people. We are told that UCL is no longer up to the standard required, yet it appears that my wife will be moved to inferior accom-

For those unfamiliar and friends that we have ever with Upper Canada Lodge, encountered, and I say that let me tell you that this is a the Greenbelt and the Niaga- merly both Gayle and I lived are spacious, sunny, nicely furnished and decorated. My wife's room overlooks a beautiful courtyard garden, full of colourful flowers in the summertime. My wife was wellknown as an avid gardener. I myself have brought new plants and helped to keep need some assistance? And the garden weeded, whilst Gavle sat in the gazebo and watched. There are raised beds where residents are helped to grow vegetables. In the centre of the garden area is a gazebo which is popular with the residents, who may sit in the shade and enjoy the flowers. This is enjoyed by staff members as well when tirees on the waiting list, how they take their break.

> There is nothing wrong with the buildings at Upper Canada Lodge; they have been meticulously main-

tained. There is nothing deficient in the services provided. The staff are without exception kind and loving, not only to their patients, but also out of concern for the families.

Finally, what does the future hold for the Wellington LTC itself? I search the internet for information and can find no clear answers. Two years ago there was talk about expansion there, but I can't find anything about that recently. Conversely, there have been rumours of closure within a few years.

Conflicting information and opinion on all these matters is rife.

I hear there is talk going around as to how the buildings at UCL might be repurposed. Good idea. I have a with real knowledge, as for- very fine facility. The rooms suggestion. Why don't we turn this place into a retirement residence, for elderly people who may need some assistance? What? It is already a retirement home? Oh . . . am I missing the point somewhere here? We are told that UCL 'no longer meets the code.' We have not been told why. We have been told it is not 'feasible' to upgrade the facility. Of course it is not 'feasible'. The word 'feasible' means 'easy' or 'convenient.' However you attack it, no change such as that which faces us today will ever be easy or convenient.

> With hundreds of local reis it possible that we could for a moment consider closing Upper Canada Lodge?

Andrew Henwood NOTL

More healthcare staff critical

Continued from page 6

ment, under Premier Doug Ford, voted this solution down, but I will continue to work with the Canadian Cancer Society to ensure everyone has access to this test.

We need reform on healthcare, and that includes repealing the wage-suppression law Bill 124, getting PSWs and frontline staff, full-time staff with a living wage, and ensuring our public system is fully funded.

We do not need to go further down the path of a two-tier healthcare system, which will mean longer wait times, more closures, less access for smaller communities and hidden out-of-pocket fees for basic services. This is wrong, and it can be prevented by fully investing in our

Addressing the affordability crisis also remains a top priority. Too many families are struggling with the cost of living. Seniors can't afford to put food on the table or pay their rent. Young people cannot achieve the dream of owning their first home.

To end this crisis, we must ensure we invest in creating good-paying, full-time jobs in every community of the province, and that we defend important local industries and employers who already provide good jobs for residents.

We must meet the goal of building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years, by using local workers, trades, engineers and businesses to get the job done. We can do this, while also respecting

existing healthcare infrastruc- the environment, protecting ra Escarpment, and working in proper consultation with municipal governments and residents.

> I am going to continue to be an advocate for workers, families, public healthcare and our environment in

On behalf of my family, my staff and myself, I want to wish everyone in Niagaraon-the-Lake a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. I hope the holiday season is a time of joy and relaxation for all community members.

And I want to thank our first responders and frontline staff who will be working over the holidays to keep us safe from the bottom of my heart, thank you for what you do.

Here's to 2024!

December 20, 2023 THE NOTL Goeal notllocal.com

Penguin Dip tradition continues on Boxing Day

Sharon Burns The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake's winter traditions are strong; the Candlelight Stroll, the Santa Claus Parade and now we can add into the mix Virgil's Tractor Parade.

But before the year ends, there is one more tradition to honour: The Penguin Dip.

Dec. 26, Boxing Day, will

Beach Drive in the Old Town.

"This started with a group gan of St. Davids. "It actually started on Easter Sunday. We on their dock." were out playing football in the park and we decided to go started passing the hat," said for a swim because it was so Bjorgan, who said it's obvious

swim started out of the Ball family home right beside Balls of guys that I grew up with in Beach," Bjorgan explained. "As Old Town," said original Pen- it got more and more popular, guin Dip member Chris Bjor- it just moved next door because we couldn't fit everyone

"Many years ago we just why they picked Red Roof Re-They had so much fun treat as the charity to receive be the 48th annual Penguin they decided to do it again the funds. Bjorgan's nephew,

and 23 years ago, his parents, ing tradition like the NOTL Steffanie and Moe, started Red Roof Retreat, a respite for families with youth and adults Roof." with special needs.

because it's a good charity."

around to help drum up funds Lindqvist and Bernier have to support RRR. Martin Lindqvist, director of hospitality at Chateau Des Charmes, and his wife, Krystle Bernier, participated in the dip last year.

"It popped onto the radar last year. We had some friends that were coming to visit, and my wife and I put it out there and asked, 'is this something that would be of interest," said Lindqvist. "We enjoy doing healthy things and have done some sort of cold treatments, so this was right up our alley."

Lindqvist said that he was surprised at how challenging the dip was "because it was a very, very cold day last year."

"To be an official Penguin," explained Bjorgan, "you have to plunge for three years, three times each year." For the first dip, participants walk into the water where Lake Ontario meets the Niagara River. The second plunge requires one to fully immerse themselves, and the third, said Bjorgan, is the hardest because they have to stand in the lake for a group photo.

"The last one we call slow and painful."

That's an experience Thanna Kurooparan is going to try for the first time.

Kurooparan, friends with Lindqvist, was at the event last year. "I was just taking pictures and videos of them doing it because I'm not the biggest fan of cold water," he said. Born in Sri Lanka, Kurooparan moved to Canada in 2004. Last year, "I just needed every single layer possible to keep myself warm."

general manager of the Cactus shore for the 2022 dip. Club Cafes out of Toronto, has been preparing by plunging in ice baths at Othership Spa in downtown Toronto. "I was able to get my body prepared for it because I'm from a very hot country and my body is not designed for cold water," laughed Kurooparan.

Lindqvist has created a fundraising website to challenge other members in the community, including Kurooparan. "We were sort of joking, and saying 'how much would I have to pay you to do it," he said, referring to Kurooparan. "At the end of the day, I'll pay him 100 bucks to do so, but that money will go to charity."

Coun. Tim Balasiuk, who joked that you couldn't keep him out of the river if you tried, has also accepted Lindqvist's challenge. "First time and stoked to join the tradition," he said. "I am really hap-

Dip from Balls Beach on River on Boxing Day. "The original Garrett, has cerebral palsy py to see such a long-stand- fit into the trailer. great NOTL initiative like Red

> No stranger to fund-"Other years we've gotten raising, Lindqvist, his fampledges, but mostly we've just ily and friends, including passed the hat for Red Roof Kurooparan, ran a lemonade stand and donated \$5,000 This year, a new face is to Pathstone Mental Health. four boys under the age of 12 who will be cheering from the sidelines, as 16 is the required age to attempt the Penguin Dip.

The idea of creating a just before Christmas time Penguin Dip challenge started when Lindqvist met Ward Simpson, a member of Red Roof's board of directors, when he was picking up wine donated for a Red Roof event. the board, I just knew that he was picking up wine. I pitched the idea to him, and Ward put me in touch with Steffanie," said Lindqvist.

> Bjorgan said his brother Lorne Bjorgan, also a founding Penguin, provides a trailer for dippers to change and warm up in between plunges. In 2022 they had to split the dippers into two groups because there were too many to

During COVID, "some Penguin Dip be tied to such a of us went in just to keep the streak going," said Bjorgan. "Last year was the first time that it was official again, and I think we had 30 people out, and we've had as many as 60."

> Bjorgan is a lifetime member, an honorific bestowed after one has completed three plunges for three years in a row. He said few of the original group are actually swimming anymore, but that he is ready to make the plunge again.

> "What else are you going to do on the day after Christmas? Come out after over-eating and over-drinking, and there's nothing to make you feel better in a hurry than a jump in cold water," said Bjorgan.

The dip begins officially at "I didn't know that he was on 1 p.m., but swimmers should be there half an hour early. Bjorgan's advice is to "just show up and don't wear too many pieces of clothing because it's not fun when all that clothing is wet and you have to wear it." Appropriate footwear is a must.

> Visit Lindqvist's website at pledge.to/penguin-dip-tosupport-red-roof-retreat, or bring cash or cheque to donate on Dec 26.



This year Kurooparan, Martin Lindqvist, Krystle Bernier and Andrej Holly head to the



Chris Bjorgan, one of the originals, with Rick Mills



Thanna Kurooparan, Martin Lindqvist, Krystle Bernier and Andrej Holly (clockwise from front right). Lindqvist, Bernier and Holly participated in the dip last year, and Kurooparan is preparing to try it himself this year. (Photos supplied)

Local HOME of the WEEK 36 CENTRE STREET | \$1,399,000



An appealing and picturesque ravine property location right in Niagara-on-the-Lake wine country. This bunglow family home offers a relaxed and comfortable layout, featuring spacious principal rooms with an abundance of natural light on a 70 x 212 lot. The main level consists of an open living room and dining area with adjacent kitchen and family room, perfect for hosting gatherings. Includes 2 bedrooms, 4-piece bathroom, bright primary suite with its own 4-piece ensuite and access to back deck/patio. The partly finished lower level offers great space for a recreation room, den, storage and laundry. The appeal continues outside to the fully fenced private backyard featuring multiple seating areas, interlock patio, landscaped perennial gardens, attached storage garage, beautiful sloping grade backyard with deck space, a pool to enjoy and tranquil lawn space leading to one mile creek, all surrounded by mature lush trees. You can appreciate and admire the peaceful lifestyle of charming Niagara-on-the-Lake and its vibrant community. Located only steps away from Veterans Memorial Park, The Commons, shops, restaurants and theaters. All the finest that the olde town has to offer.

Christopher Bowron Broker of Record 905-327-6704



Nicole Vanderperk Sales Representative 905-941-4585

December 20, 2023

New Year's Levee returns after three-year absence

Kris Dube The Local **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

The Niagara-on-the-Lake community will ring in the New Year with a tradition that hasn't taken place since the first day of 2020.

Put on hold by the than 100 people. COVID-19 pandemic in 2021, New Year's Day Levee, hosted by Friends of Fort George Canada, will take place Jan. 1 at Navy Hall at 3 p.m.

The event is open to the public, with free admission.

"We're proud to be able to put this on as a charity organization, giving back to ic Site.

the community," Friends of Fort George president Tony speeches from local politi-Chisholm told The Local.

Friends of Fort George was founded 35 years ago, States. and the levee has been on the calendar for more than 25 years, Chisholm estimated.

In pre-pandemic years,

"It's hard to say what 2022, and 2023, the annual it's going to be now," said Canada will be the master of Chisholm.

The Friends are "very and in partnership with Parks proud" to be the lead on the always adds a lot to the event. annual New Year tradition, also noting "the ability to use such a beautiful building for the event," referring to the Ricardo Street building that is a Fort George National Histor-

The program includes cians, as well as toasts to King Charles III and the United

There will also be a cannon firing to close out the function.

"That's going to be a big the event would draw more part of the festivities," said Chisholm.

> Scott Finlay from Parks ceremonies, dressed in period costume, said Chisholm, and

> The Friends of Fort George board unanimously voted to revive the levee after a three-year hiatus, he added. "This time, we think it's finally to a point where we can pull



The firing of the cannon from Navy Hall is always a highlight of the New Year's tradition. (File photo)

Hiring of interim CAO gives town six months

Kris Dube The Local **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

Niagara-on-the-Lake council has approved a temporary solution to an upcoming vacancy of the top staff position at town hall.

On Friday, a special council meeting was held to take a vote on filling the municipality's chief administrative officer role — resulting in the local government naming Bruce Zvaniga interim CAO.

This comes after the Dec. 4 announcement that the current CAO, Marnie Cluckie, is leaving to pursue an employment opportunity elsewhere. She will become city manager with the City of Hamilton on Jan. 14.

Zvaniga, a Niagara-onthe-Lake resident, will take over the interim position on Jan. 1.

Coun. Gary Burroughs NOTL did not. doesn't agree with the process followed to appoint an interim CAO, he said in open session

on Friday, adding his displeasure is "not about the individto believe Zvaniga is not qualtown hall.

comments, telling The Local he's been involved in five CAO searches during his 25year political career, which spans time as lord mayor, a regional councillor and regional chair, as well as a Niagaraon-the-Lake councillor.

Three out of those five hirprocess set out for searches was not followed, he said. He notes the problems that followed the hiring of Carmen D'Angelo as regional CAO, and the detailed ombudsman report that took two years to complete, with 16 recommendations to avoid it happening again — recommenda-

It's his opinion that Zvanmultiple individuals for coun- meeting.

cillors to consider.

"I thought there would be three choices to council. ual," and that he has no reason a few suggestions brought to council and discussed," said ified to take the lead role at Burroughs, adding he needed to keep his comments limit-In an interview Saturday, ed and could not talk about Burroughs elaborated on his matters brought up in closed

> In a news release from the town, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa said he is "optimistic about the recruitment process" for CAO and finding a suitable candidate to serve the com-

Zvaniga will not be applyings, issues arose because the ing for the permanent position, said Zalepa.

"Until this candidate is hired, Bruce's significant abilities and experience make him more than well-equipped to handle the responsibilities of the interim CAO," said the lord mayor.

Talking with The Local Sunday, Zalepa said "the protions the region adopted, but cess we followed is very common," and that he consulted with members of council iga should have been one of about options before Friday's He was aiming to bring

"I managed to bring two who I thought were strong candidates," said Zalepa.

"At the end of the day, council ultimately makes the decision," he added, noting it's important to have the continuity that will be provided by Zvaniga starting Jan. 1.

The town news release says Zvaniga has 40 years of experience leading municipal government services and critical infrastructure projects for various municipalities.

His executive leadership "spans multiple municipalities," where he has overseen transformative projects such as the consolidated Niagara Transit Commission, South Niagara Falls Wastewater Systems, Hurontario Light Rail Transit, Burlington's Prosperity Corridor, and Toronto's Waterfront said the news release.

Zvaniga is a licensed professional engineer and has held significant roles in the role," said the town news Denise Horne left her positransportation organizations, release.

Interim CAO Bruce Zvaniga

including serving as the vicechair of Intelligent Transportation Systems Canada.

The process for the re-Revitalization, cruitment of a permanent CAO is beginning shortly, and council is "committed to finding the best candidate for

Cluckie is not the only staffer to depart from the town recently.

Rome D'Angelo, director of operations has resigned and recruitment efforts will begin in the New Year, said Zalepa.

Senior heritage planner

Parking to increase 25 cents an hour in Old Town

The Local **Local Journalism Initiative Reporter**

The Town of Niagaraon-the-Lake has taken steps recently to address concerns related to parking meters in the Old Town — mostly to do with problems experienced by users navigating around an app and machines not accepting credit cards.

But a discussion in a special meeting Friday resulted in two additional decisions related to parking, one being the hourly rate of \$4.75/hr increasing to an even \$5 in

The other recommendation is that a comprehensive review of parking be undertaken once the town compay in town — a result of complications attached to the current system.

Both ideas were brought forward by Coun. Sandra O'Connor when council discussed a report on user fees that provide revenue for the town - several of them increasing in the new year after staff took an "individualized approach" in determining which ones should go up.

The rate changes "are intended to recover costs where applicable or increase revenues to keep pace with increasing costs and meeting budget targets," reads the staff report.

One of the increases include hunting licenses going

ing machines where people residents, reflecting closer to the nearest \$5 mark, staff said.

Resident parking passes will go up eight dollars to \$30/ year in 2024, which was previously approved by council.

O'Connor said an additional 25 cents for hourly parking is something that should be investigated.

Her idea was supported by a majority of council — but not without some opposition.

Issues that have been parked in the town's spot on this subject are that machines don't accept credit cards, only coins and payment through use of the Honk Mobile App.

It's been argued that U.S. visitors who don't have data on their smartphones this side of the border experience up 11 per cent for residents complications when trying

"We're upping parking rates on a system that currently doesn't work," said Coun. Tim Balasiuk, also calling the current setup "inadequate."

Metered parking brings in more than \$2 million annually for the town.

In June, council voted in favour of replacing 30 of 57 parking meters through a phased-in approach taking place over two years — with an estimated cost of \$375,000 paid for through parking revenues.

Last January, most machines in the area stopped accepting credit cards and are now operating on coins or the Honk Mobile app, which users can download and then pay with their cred-

ing, Coun. Gary Burroughs asked for an update on replacing the meters, to which treasurer Kyle Freeborn said a request for proposal is "in the process of being finalized" and will likely go out to bidders in early 2024.

Coun. Wendy Cheropita agreed that the town's parking system is flawed — but wasn't opposed to the rate increase.

"Psychologically, doesn't make any difference," she said, referring to it costing just cents per hour more to park in town.

O'Connor asked staff to comment on whether it is their opinion that the town doesn't have a "workable system."

Fire chief Jay Plato said he would "not exactly use those rent machines may not be "as user-friendly as they could be.

O'Connor also asked that a comprehensive review of parking take place after the installation of new machines, examining parking rates and the expansion of parking zones, a request also supported by council.

Burroughs was the only one to oppose this recommendation, saying he likes the idea of a review — but not with it being initiated after the installation of new machines and "having to wait so long" for it to take place.

The town's operating budget has yet to be rubberstamped and is sitting at a potential 9.4-per-cent increase for Niagara-on-the-Lake ratepayers.

THE NOTL Spocal _ December 20, 2023 notllocal.com

Hong Kong trial of Jimmy Lai called 'a sham'

Penny Coles The Local

Niagara-on-the-The Lake family of Jimmy Lai will be closely following the trial of the pro-democracy activist in Hong Kong, along with the rest of the world.

But as many international leaders have been reported as saying, and Lai's niece in town Erica Lepp says her family agrees, there is little expectation it will result in anything but conviction.

"It's a crazy trial, not a real trial the way we expect in Canada. It's not a fair trial like we would expect. We don't feel it will have a positive outcome."

Lai's son Sebastien has been "going around the world, advocating for my uncle," and keeping the family up to date, she says.

He has been seen on international news broadcasts saying the trial has a predetermined outcome, and calling it "a sham."

Although the family is relieved the trial has started, it is expected to continue for months, until next fall, "and it will be a long few months," Lepp says.

At least, as the New York Times and other news sources are saying, "the eyes of the world are watching."

Hong Kong used to be an amazing place, Lepp says, in prison if Lai is convicted. "but this trial represents what Hong Kong has become."

Lai, who turned 76 in prison last month, was arrested in 2020 on national security charges under legislation that was initiated in

When Jimmy Lai was asked in 2020 about his twin sister, Si Wai, worrying about him, he became emotional. International journalists seeing him arrive at a Hong Kong court for his trial Monday reported him looking thin and frail. (Screenshot from CBC interview)

curity, as reported by international news sources, and is considered a landmark case — one that could lead to life no jury.

However, news sources reported Tuesday that the trial was adjourned to allow judges to consider Lai's defence argument that it took too long to charge him with sedition — he was initially 2020. His trial began Mon- jailed on other charges. The

day, under heavy police se- trial is expected to begin and worked with him in has been disappointed that again next week. His case is being heard before three national security judges, with

> Lai, the founder of Apple Daily, a Hong Kong media outlet openly critical of the Chinese Communist Party, has in the past taken to the streets in protest. He has been charged with conspiring to collude with foreign forces to endanger national

The media tycoon is also the owner of Vintage Hotels. He took over the Pillar and Post in 1974, and then the Prince of Wales Hotel, which was sold to Lai by the Wiens family. Later came the Queen's Landing Inn, and then the Oban Inn, which is still run by his twin sister Si Wai Lai, Erica Lepp's

Those who have met him

town have always had very the U.K. didn't do more earpositive comments about lier to gain the release of her him, although Lai has not uncle, a British citizen, they been involved in the day-today running of the hotels.

"Everyone who has ever met my uncle says he is an amazing, kind man, and they feel honoured to have met him," Lepp says.

see the recent announcements by Canada's House of Commons, the U.K.'s Britsays. Although the family the quiet."

are grateful to have Cameron publicly now on his side.

"All of those things happened in the last week, and it was great news."

Personally, she says, she was buoyed by a letter she The family is happy to received from her uncle about a month and a half ago. "He sent some advice," along the lines of what he ish Foreign Secretary David has advised from the time Cameron and the U.S. State she was a child, "and he sent Department all calling for his love. He said he's doing the release of Lai. "It makes a as well as he can be doing, great statement. We're all re- and he finds the interesting ally encouraged by this," she thing about being in jail is

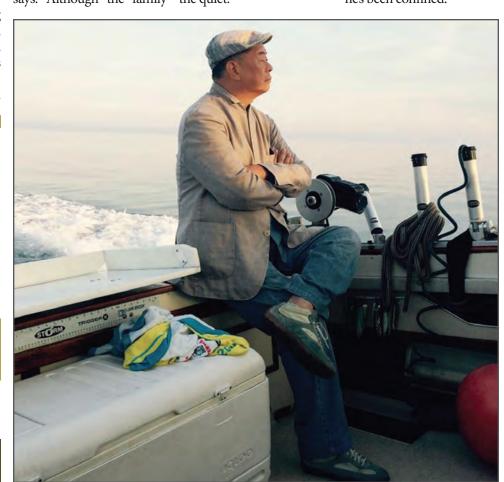
A devout Catholic, Lai said the quiet "makes him feel closer to God," reports Lepp. Ten Catholic Cardinals from around the world have also called for his release, she adds.

As for his letter, "he always gives me really good advice, sometimes about business, but also to think with my heart. He's such a kind, loving man. My heart goes out to my cousins, his children."

Despite everything he has been through, "the words I received from him were so loving and so positive. That was really amazing to me, considering how long he's been confined."







Jimmy Lai while visiting his NOTL family in 2018. (Supplied)



Spocal Spove

Loyalty Discounts for the Locals we Love





Sunday, December 24 CLOSED Monday, December 25 CLOSED Tuesday, December 26..... CLOSED Wednesday, December 27 -Saturday, December 30 Regular Hours Monday, January 1, 2024 CLOSED

Tuesday, January 2 onward . . Regular Hours Simpson's Pharmacy | 905.468.2121 1882 Niagara Stone Rd, Virgil

Sunday, December 24 11 am - 3 pm Monday, December 25 CLOSED Tuesday, December 26..... CLOSED Wednesday, December 27 -Saturday, December 30th ... Regular Hours Sunday, December 31..... 11 am - 3 pm Monday, January 1, 2024 CLOSED Tuesday, January 2 onward . . Regular Hours

> Simpson's Apothecary | 905.468.8400 233 King St, Niagara-on-the-Lake

www.simpsonspharmacy.ca | FREE DELIVERY From Both Locations



SPIRIT IN NIAGARA SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS

FABULOUS FOOD AWARD WINNING **FARM TO GLASS**

SPIRITS & COCKTAILS

TAPAS TUESDAYS ALL OF OUR BEST (INCLUDING LOBSTER RAVIOLI) FROM OUR AMAZING MENU

3 FOR \$39 5 FOR \$59



OPEN 11AM - 8PM DAILY SPIRITINNIAGARA.COM | 905 934 1300 458 LAKESHORE ROAD, NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

~ FEATURING LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEK! **NO COVER CHARGE ~**

MONDAY:

WILBER JAMES BLUES BAND OR ON THE MARK JAZZ TRIO

> THURSDAY: **EDDIE PIZZO** ON THE BABY GRAND

> > FRIDAY:

DRAGAN ON THE SAXES



HAPPY HOUR EVERY FRIDAY! COCKTAILS 4-6 PM

Presented by:



New Product Feature

2022 Astra Riesling **Sparkling Brut White Wine**

The stars have aligned for our first Sparkling white wine in a bottle. Flavours of lemon citrus, crisp apple, and refreshing bubbles. Get your oysters shucked for this holiday ready wine.

\$24.95 each







Love Where You Live: SUPPORT &

THE NOTL Goeal -12 December 20, 2023 notllocal.com

Church offering help with food, emergency bills



Rebecca Golding, Matthew Mattingly and Irene Murray with her dog Dee Dee, at the St. Vincent de Paul parish hall on Davy Street, are part of a group offering to help those in need in NOTL. (Photos by Penny Coles)

MERRY TONY BALDINELLI MP **NIAGARA FALLS** NIAGARA FALLS/NOTL OFFICE: 905-353-9590 **FORT ERIE OFFICE:** 905-871-9991 TONY.BALDINELLI@PARL.GC.CA TONYBALDINELLIMP.CA

Penny Coles The Local

Since last spring, a cent de Paul Church has been quietly working on a in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

while a food bank during winter months is part of much more they are offering.

Matthew Matting-Vincent de Paul (by cointheir church).

founded in Paris in 1833, community trying and is "committed to serving the needs of the poor of poverty in our society."

held a dinner at the Davy Street Hall for migrant farmworkers.

quests for help with emer- alized."

gency needs, "such as rent, bills."

"We're ready to do newly-formed group of that," he adds. "We have Mondays from 2 to 4 p.m. parishioners from St. Vin- the funds. We have very generous parishioners."

"We were trying to find way to help those in need out how to reach people in need," Mattingly contin-They are calling it the ues. "We've put posters up Community Pantry, and in town and we're doing what we can to make people aware there is another their plans, there is so resource out there if they are in need. We don't often think of poverty being a part of beautiful NOTL, ly, one of the organizers, but there are many more explains the group has people than we imagine and they're struggling." established a Niagara- struggling to get by. Othon-the-Lake conference er organizations such as of the Society of Saint Newark Neighbours are doing wonderful work, cidence also the name of and our society is not meant to replace them The society, he ex- but to complement them plains, is a worldwide by providing one more Catholic lay organization resource for those in our make ends meet."

He says the local conand marginalized while ference wants to be sure addressing the root causes they are making personal contacts with those in The local group of pa-need, and will make home rishioners started meeting visits if required to deterlast April, says Mattingly, mine what the situation and as a start, last summer is and be able to respond quickly.

build personal relations The food bank, which with people living on the will open in January, is margins in our area, and "less formal" than what to get our parish more enis now available — there gaged in aiding those livis no need to register or ing in poverty. We want to meet low income levels to reach another segment of qualify. In addition, the people who need help group will respond to re- the poor and the margin-

The food bank offiutilities, or other pressing cially opens Monday, Jan. 8 at the Davy Street parish hall, and will be open during the winter months, he says. It will be on a drop-in basis and open to anyone.

It's important to the conference that their church plays a role in helping those who need it, Mattingly says. "They may not know who that is. We see it at church among the elderly on fixed incomes that are not keeping up. They have a lot of pride,

The St. Vincent de Paul Society isn't new to Niagara Region, and although the conference is new to NOTL it has already been receiving requests and helping NOTL residents through a hotline for the society in Niagara Falls.

"We are now officially a part of the hotline," says Mattingly, "so anyone who calls 905-374-7070 will be referred to our NOTL conference. Our conference is part of the Niagara Falls Particular Council, which handles the calls to that number."

The NOTL conference "Our goal is to really is already helping a refugee family from Afghanistan, he says. "They were one of the first to call the hotline."

> They didn't arrive in Canada with refugee status, and have applied for it, but that takes time, Mattingly explains. "They are a good family. They had good jobs, and paid to come to Canada. Now they have to pay off that debt. The father has been working, and we've been helping them with rent."

They arrived last winter and had been staying in a Niagara Falls hotel, as part of a refugee program arranged through the government, but the hotels wanted their rooms back for the tourism season, and this family ended up in NOTL, "I think because of his job," says Mattingly, "but it's tough living in NOTL."

They had to leave their homeland to survive the father's life had been threatened — and they want to contribute now they have found a safe place to settle. "They want to work and do their part. It's impossible not to want to help them."

"We all work together to help those in need," he adds. But at this point in the early days of the conference, "we have no idea of what those needs are going to be."

They ask anyone in need of emergency help in Niagara-on-the-Lake to please call 905-374-7070.



Posters around town are explaining what the St. Vincent de Paul Society conference can offer.



THE NOTL Pocal December 20, 2023 13 notllocal.com

Event brings Jewish community together at Chanukah

Penny Coles The Local

When Virgil resident Alana Hurov watched the news last October of the atrocities Hamas terrorists was quickly followed by hateful anti-Semitic responses that came on the invited the public. heels of the attacks.

they have grown stronger. And as she said she would do then, her way of handling those emotions is by bringing the local Jewish community together.

ligious — her husband is ly about creating a strong speak."

not Jewish, and they don't community for my daughthis year she decided to gion." celebrate Chanukah surwanted to join her.

committed against Israel, and a varied background growth of the local Jewish she was horrified, but that that includes event pro- community, much of it as ducer and co-ordinator, a result of his parents' efshock and fear from the she rented out Navy Hall forts to create a communiand through social media ty, to a crowd of about 100

Her feelings haven't prominent Toronto law- of Navy Hall. changed — if anything yer Brian Greenspan to support, she says.

Although she's not re- and mother, I feel strong- fascinating to hear him

rounded by others who and raised in Niagara Falls, and spoke mostly With a job in marketing about his family, and the people gathered in the in-She also arranged for timate, welcoming setting

"It was a magical evespeak at the event, which ning. He spoke for 45 was organized to support minutes, and it was very the Jewish community at a impactful," says Hurov. time when it really needs "Having him be a part of the evening was such "As a Jewish woman a blessing. It was really

celebrate the holidays — ter in this beautiful re- universities, particularly in the U.S., that have respect for him." Greenspan was born spoken out against Israel, Semitism.

"He told us it's im- that way," says Hurov. portant to stay strong and united, to support each resentatives from three to bring us together. And other, and to love being synagogues, MPP Wayne Jewish," says Hurov.

at Navy Hall was the an- MP Tony Baldinelli. niversary of his brothwell-known Toronto law- of speakers for the Jewyer, and the two of them ish community, "to bring in Niagara and speaking past several months, since ally proud to be a part of

He mentioned some and their family history to do something. I can't "was a perfect way to show stand on the sidelines,"

and he also singled out the the synagogues came to-University of Ottawa for gether, the first time the then, putting fear into the standing up against anti- Jewish community in Niagara came together in

Gates attended, as did Rob The day of the event Nicholson, on behalf of

Based on the success er's death, he said. Eddie of the event, Hurov plans Greenspan was also a to develop it into a series worked together. Brian more people of that stattold the crowd that being ure to Niagara. Over the feel supported, and I'm reof his brother, their work Oct. 7, I have felt I had it."

she says, referencing anti-"It was the first time Semitic words and actions that have escalated since lives of Jewish people everywhere.

"I feel like it's my duty In addition to rep- to do something positive, for all walks of life, not just the Jewish community. I want for us all to stand together. That is my small attempt at making this world a better place. And the response I've received has been overwhelmingly positive. This is a time when it is so important to



Submit a photo of your Holiday Door for a chance to win over \$500 worth of prizes from local businesses.



CRAIG'S cookies





HONEY FIELDS

Thanks to the generosity of Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty who will be matching the prize on the Lake value with a \$500 donation to **Newark Neighbors!!!**

Niagara Realty

Submit your photos to joy@notllocal.com **Entries & the winner will be published December 27**



A good crowd was drawn to Navy Hall to enjoy a sense of community, Kosher doughnuts, latkes and wine, and to hear prominent Toronto lawyer Brian Greenspan speak. (Photos supplied)



Brian Greenspan speaks at Navy Hall.

THE NOTL **Pocal**

Feast of Friends to support mental health initiative

David Watt's recipe book intended for home-cooking

Sharon Burns The Local

The cover photograph of Feast of Friends shows David Watt standing outside of his restaurant next to a tower of very wellthumbed and annotated cookbooks; slips of paper protrude at every angle, dust covers curl at the edges and covers are soiled from what one can only imagine are succulent and friends to help." savoury ingredients.

the trade for Watt, chef and owner, with partner Leigh Atherton, of The Garrison House, and author and compiler of over 30 recipes from 30 local chefs to create the visually stunning cookbook, subtitled *Tastes and tales from* the kitchens of Niagaraon-the-Lake.

started two and a half would have turned me out years ago, during lockdown when restaurants enough money for my

could only offer curbside pick-ups.

"A lot of my friends in the restaurant industry were in the same boat," said Watt. "So me and my friend and photographer Mike McColl said we'll try and turn a negative into a positive, and see if we raise some awareness and hopefully some money for mental health and addiction, and ask all our

Watt, who has a pro-These are the tools of digious career outside of Niagara-on-the-Lake, read during the pandemic "about chefs committing suicide, and young guys getting turfed out of their apartments in London, and sleeping in the park because it was a complete shutdown."

> "I'm sure if I was a young cook in London because I wouldn't have rent," said Watt.



This labour of love during COVID, they David Watt with a copy of his book, outside The Garrison House. (Photo by Sharon Burns)

Burnt Chef Project, an Watt referenced The organization whose aim recipes from chefs "like is to make the hospitality herding cats," noting that profession healthier and chefs do not like the onermore sustainable by focusing on people's well-being. One purpose of Feast of kitchen. Friends, said Watt, is to make people aware of the ed coming in, he had mental health struggles them tested by a goursuffered by those working met food club called Les in kitchens. He plans to Marmitons, a gentleman's donate proceeds toward a cooking club focused on mental health initiative.

> ticed at the Ritz Hotel in graph the plates. London. A private chef to ship, and opened restauchef-based TV show.

He has made Niagara his home for 21 years.

a chef. Usually it's for life," he said.

Watt likened collecting ous task of creating on pa-

Once the recipes startfine cuisine and friend-Watt's career started ship. Watt cooked the 45 years ago in the "dish recipes both at home on pit" in a pub in Markham. his electric stove, and He attended Catering in the kitchen at The and Culinary College Garrison House. There, in England and appren- McColl would photo-

When selecting recipes the late King Hussein of for this book, Watt stated Jordan, Watt was also the that the criteria "was esexecutive chef on a cruise sentially that it was not to be a chef's cookbook, but rants for other people. one mainly for the home, He had his own catering with a simple list of ingre-

For this book, Watt ecdotes about his parreached out to chef ents and grandparents, dark saviour of an English belong in the kitchen."

classic dish served with a piece of really old cheddar and a cup of tea."

Each chef is introduced by Watt with affection per what they create in the and reverence, humour and storytelling. A colour photograph of each dish accompanies its recipe.

> "I'm very proud of my friend Mike and all these beautiful photographs that he's taken," said Watt. "Not just of the food and the chefs, but also of the surrounding area. Anybody who lives in the region, if you look at some of the shots, you know the blossoms or the vines or things of that nature, and you'll go, 'Ohh I know where that is!""

Feast of Friends can be purchased for \$45 plus tax at The Garrison House, Oast House, The Pie Plate, Barbea, Jackson Triggs, company and a Cogeco dients. Nothing so out- Tide and Vine, Megalorageous that you have to maniac Wines, Ravine, scour the universe to find." Cheese Secrets, Bella Ter-Watt has included an- ra and the Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

"I hope people look at friends, both local and as well as some of their the pretty pictures and get afar. "It's a very tight knit recipes, including one for it nice and stained," said family when you befriend his mother's Christmas Watt. "Cookbooks don't cake recipe, "a heavenly belong in the library, they





THE NOTL **Pocal** December 20, 2023 15 notllocal.com

Volunteers preparing food boxes for delivery

Sharon Burns The Local

Bags of carrots, onions and potatoes, fresh baked pies and all of the contents of everything one needs for Farms.

a holiday dinner has been

carefully packed into boxes about 40 families registered and Barbies. for 113 families registered at who have children under the Newark Neighbours. Each age of 17. Last week, board family can choose between a chair Cindy Grant invited turkey and a ham from Kent parents to choose gifts from several bookshelves filled

tions we were able to give front door and the back door tion. It reopens Jan. 2. each family five or six toys," said Grant.

ery day," said Grant. "Yester- closes Wednesday, Dec. 20 "We had so many dona- day they were coming in the after the hamper distribusimultaneously."

"Money and food and putting together hampers for 23 and also reopens Jan. 2.

Newark Neighbours has with stuffed animals, toys toys continue to come in ev-delivery, and the food bank

The thrift store closes at A team of volunteers is the end of day Saturday, Dec.

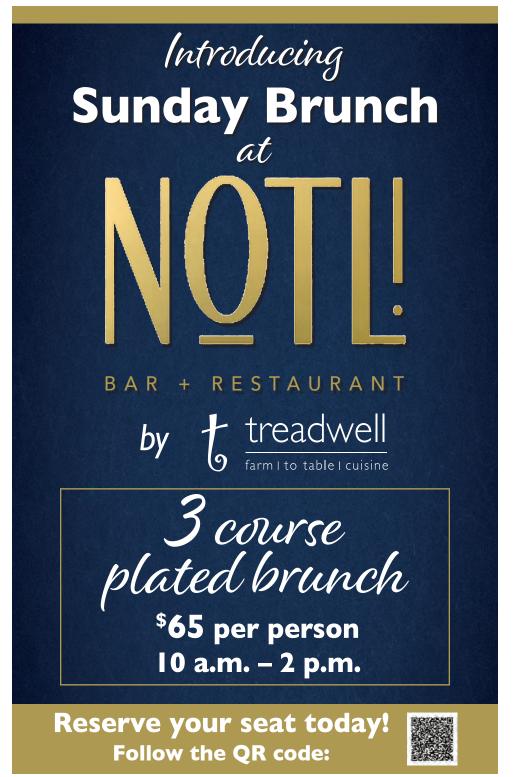


Francyne Chenier, Angelika Gibney, Angela Lindfield, Mandy Shanks, Pauline Meyler, Barbara Webber, Cindy Grant, Katherine Babela and Joy Leonard take a break from packing food boxes to pose for a photo. (Sharon Burns)



To book your tickets, follow the QR code:





Shop your Christmas List Locally



Red Roof Retreat's 13th Annual



Our goal of \$60,000 will allow us to provide another year of respite and recreational programs for children and young adults with special needs!

To Donate Visit:

redroofretreat.com/giftsfromtheheart

Charitable Registration #887592285RR0001

APRIL 6 – DECEMBER 22

2024 TICKETS ON SALE NOW. BOOK TODAY!

THE MOST BELOVED MUSICAL OF ALL TIME



Production Sponsors



Mary E. Hill

Official Hotel Partner



OUR 2024 SEASON ALSO FEATURES:

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS · SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN HEART · AGATHA CHRISTIE'S WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION · THE SECRET GARDEN THE ORPHAN OF CHAO · CANDIDA · THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND · SNOW IN MIDSUMMER · A CHRISTMAS CAROL · PLUS THE RETURN OF OUR FABULOUS SPIEGELTENT!

SHAWFEST.COM 1-800-511-SHAW SHAW

isti Frank and Tom Roone

December 20, 2023 17 notllocal.com

Smiles on residents' faces were priceless

Continued from page 1

Manor, an activity for people who would otherwise miss out."

Under its plan to recover, restore and rebuild, the Pleasant Manor calendar is jam-packed with activities, with the Radiant Care Foundation sponsoring many events at Pleasant Manor, rising to the challenge of giving residents what they want — music, dinner out, among other activities, he says.

"And for people to bring an event to others who are not able to participate because of frailty, wow! We are so thankful for a community that remembers its seniors, its builders, and can serve them in such a practical and meaningful way."

He mentions "the smile on Mrs. Klassen's face, the smile on Billy Dick's face they're just two representatives of a good group of being blessed and honpeople watching from in-



— it was priceless. And Some Pleasant Manor residents gathered inside to watch the parade, while others lined the route outdoors. (Supplied)

"Everyone is saying the moved slowly through the 18-wheeler "that lit up oured by a group of people same thing — it's amaz- the grounds of Pleasant like the North Pole. I said side and outside, people who remember them, and ing to see. The tractors Manor, at a perfect pace to Dorothy, 60 registered ly, he added, "was a vibrant who have chosen to live in are impacting their lives are tangibles," Siemens for the seniors, who had a tractors this year — is it our home, and now we're through an event like this." says, as each one of them great view — especially of going to go to 120 next?"

But what people also saw, even more importantcommunity looking after





THE NOTL Spocal _ December 20, 2023 notllocal.com

Third annual Tractor Parade triples in size

Penny Coles The Local

The day after Erwin Wiens and his wife Dorothy I went a little crazy marshal-Soo-Wiens put the third annual, and increasingly successful, tractor parade behind them, they were already looking at how to improve the event, which is growing in sures." popularity with the farming community who participate, of rolling closures as the paand with the spectators who rade moves through the vilcome out to watch it.

In the days and even hours leading up to last Thursday's parade, Dorothy says their list of tractor entries was growparade three years ago.

"It was so great. Erwin and ling them," she says. "We're realizing we're quickly outgrowing where we're setting up. And next year we're going to have to go with road clo-

Town staff do a great job lage, but with the number of lining the roads, that doesn't seem to be enough. "People

streets."

But that's for next year. Dorothy becomes emotional when she talks of the residents of Pleasant Manor in Virgil, which offers a range of housing options for seniors, from apartments and townhouses to long-term care, who can watch the parade from their windows, balconies, porches and patios as it travels by them — that is her greatest vehicles parked, and people joy, and reason enough to organize the Christmas event.

With the Pleasant Manwant to get into their cars and or expansion underway, she us to be able to do this, and

ing, and ended up being more to drive away as soon as it's says, Cotton Construction for the residents to see it," she I want to see the people and needed.

Staff of Pleasant Manor do sure residents can watch the residents, she says, "and she parade, as do family members who join them. "Even longterm care residents can see it Christmas is all about." from their windows," she says.

Manor resident and can see it had a little thank-you getfrom his window on the first together, and the camaradefloor, she adds.

"It's very meaningful for that means a lot."

than 60, tripling from the first gone by, and they're blocking laid some gravel to create explains, knowing so many of hear them, but we can hear a road for the parade that them were members of the kids squealing. I would love to would avoid it, and even had farming community — this is trucks of gravel on hand if a way for that community to people looking out their wingive back.

> Friday morning she ran everything they can to make into the sister of one of the one calls Obama was on one gave me a huge hug and said thank you. To me, that's what ly more people out than last

And the couple has fun Erwin's father is a Pleasant doing it. "Afterwards we rie, the laughter, the stories, she says. "And I can't help but

Every year, she adds, "I say

go to Pleasant Manor and see dows and on their balconies."

The farmworker everyof the decorated tractors, and he says there were definiteyear. Dorothy has heard there were spectators from across the region, including Fort Erie and Grimsby.

"That is crazy beautiful," smile when I think of the people of Pleasant Manor."





(Dave Gilchrist)









(Dave Gilchrist)





(Penny Coles)

(Penny Coles)

Christmas tractors plough through town



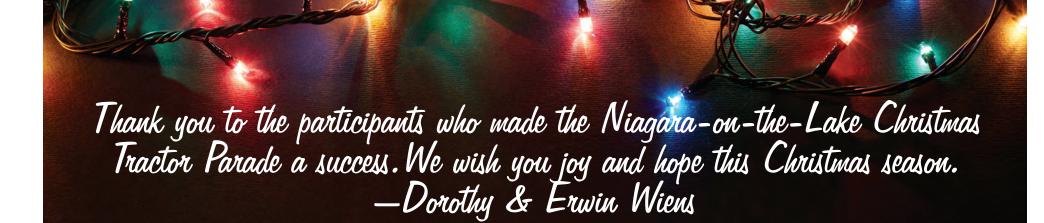


(Photos by Penny Coles)

(David Gilchrist)







Sponsors:

 Niagara Lions Club Vineyards Ltd.

Donors:

- Brunch Beverage (Michelle & Kim) • Cohort • Oast Brewery • Pillitteri Estates Winery • Cathy Wickabrod • Susan Muste
- Premier Equipment
 Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
 - Virgil Business Association Dave Mines

Luanne & Larry Kulchar

Volunteers:

- Karen Ra Luanne & Larry Kulchar
- Eleanor Dick Pat Household
- Dave Froese
 Ross Robinson

A special thank you to all who donated to the Terry Fox Foundation including the following with their significant donations:

Total donations \$50,445 which is matched by an anonymous donor:

• Lise Andreana & Gerry Kowalchuk • Bonita Cawker & Peter Warrack • Kathe & Kurt Wiens • Melissa Marotta & Guisippe Paolicelli • Hermann Gau • Ian Pauls (Castle Dracula) • Ingo & Lisa Wiens • VanderHoeven Greenhouses • MacSween Farms Ltd

- Skubel Family Farms
 Kings Hockey Club
 Two Sisters
- Winery Hummel Properties Grape Growers of Ontario
- Palatine Winery Seaway Farms Malivoire Winery John Deere Retirees • Vineland Growers Cooperative • Rob Neufeld
- Jim Diodatti Every generous soul who donated as a spectator

20 December 20, 2023 THE NOTL Yord ______ notllocal.com

season's greetings

Sotheby's Canada

Wishing you peace, love, and joy this Holiday Season! Merry Christmas — Joyeux Noël Cheers to another year!



CAROL PERRIN 905.988.3492 cperrin@sothebysrealty.ca

Sotheby's International Realty Canada, Brokerage. Independently Owned and Operated. Not intended to solicit properties already under contract.







UPPER CANADA ANIMAL HOSPITAL



To introduce myself, I am Dr Jim Turpel, the founder, owner, and one of the four full-time veterinarians at Upper Canada Animal Hospital. I would like to start by thanking all of the families who have entrusted us with the care of their cherished pets over the last twenty seven years. It continues to be a pleasure and an honour to serve my community in this way.

My personal journey in veterinary medicine has covered some thirty five years, and naturally, many of my friends (and colleagues) ask when I will be winding down. My answer is always the same, "when you love what you do, why would you stop". I am blessed in that veterinary medicine continues to provide me with great joy and purpose. To that end, my plan is to continue to work as long as I'm able to provide the exceptional level of care to which I hold myself accountable.

As a veterinarian I see the best of humanity on a daily basis as people act self-lessly to help their pets. I'm also privileged to bear witness to the unconditional love and joy that these relationships bring. This is the fuel that sustains my love for the profession and my optimistic outlook on life.

The recent years have been a trying time for everyone. The pandemic placed a massive strain on our society to a point which had not been seen for generations. The veterinary profession was hit especially hard as there was a remarkable surge in new pets, and with more time spent at home, clients became more attuned to the subtle signs of their ailing pets. These changes resulted in an increased demand for appointments while the mandated COVID restrictions meant each appointment took far longer to perform. As months turned to years, burnout ensued, resulting in an exodus of professionals from veterinary medicine. These were incredibly stressful and challenging times.

Despite the difficulties we faced, I am proud to say we continued, without interruption to provide care for those in need. This even extended to ailing pets that could not be seen by their regular veterinary clinics, and patients of the Niagara Veterinary Emergency Clinic that struggled due to a serious lack of veterinary staff. I would like to thank my staff for the unwavering dedication that was exemplified to all of the families that depended on us during those uncertain times.

I have raised my children to understand that while it is easy to be gracious, supportive, and empathetic when times are easy, it truly shows one's character by how one acts in times of great difficulty and adversity. I am eternally grateful to my entire staff who stepped up to the plate and recognized that we must always support our community no matter how difficult the times may be.

While COVID has become a part of our new "normal", I am happy to say that we are back at full staff and are more resilient and committed than ever to provide the excellent care our patients deserve.

Through my years of veterinary service I've accumulated a substantial amount of knowledge and experience. With this in mind, I take great pride in being able to mentor the veterinarians that will be around for decades to come. I continue to be impressed by Drs. Harkness', Rossi's, Golding's and Gokhale's empathy, integrity, and knowledge. They inspire me to continue on the path to

be the best veterinarian I can be.

As a veterinary hospital in the picturesque small town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, I believe many of our clients may be unaware of the degree to which we are respected in the veterinary community. We have developed a glowing reputation throughout Ontario and New York State, with over 120 animal hospitals entrusting us with the care of their patients through referrals. The excellent service that we provide to our referral clients is just a natural extension of the care we have provided to our local community for the last twenty seven years.

We have always organized our hospital such that we are able to see all sick and/ or painful pets in a timely manner (frequently within minutes to hours), and routine examinations are typically available the same or following days. While an ear infection, sore leg, and itchy skin may not be life threatening conditions they are frequently very painful and in our minds warrant immediate care.

As a four-veterinarian hospital, with a combined experience of over fifty years, we are able to collaborate on difficult cases to ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients and clients. Included in this communal experience we are privileged to have younger veterinarians who provide a different perspective, and help ensure we are always up to date with new developments in veterinary medicine.

As a hospital we are accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association, a benchmark in top quality care of which only 10% of Canadian veterinary hospitals are distinguished. Every staff member is also Fear Free Certified, ensuring that we place a strong emphasis on preventing and treating fear and anxiety in our patients. When posed with difficult situations it is ingrained in all of our staff to ask a simple question, "how would I want this case handled if this was my own pet".

I am tremendously grateful for the support that Niagara has given us over the last twenty seven years and look forward to the many years ahead. I am appreciative for my family, my staff, friends, for all of the people who make the world a better place through their acts of love, empathy, and kindness, and also for the opportunities I have been gifted through living in Canada.

Kindest Regards, Dr. Jim Turpel























Jeason's greetings







5233 STANLEY AVE., UNIT 5, NIAGARA FALLS mail@scottconstruction.ca | www.scottconstruction.ca





22 December 20, 2023 THE NOTL Yord ______ notllocal.com

season's greetings



TASTING

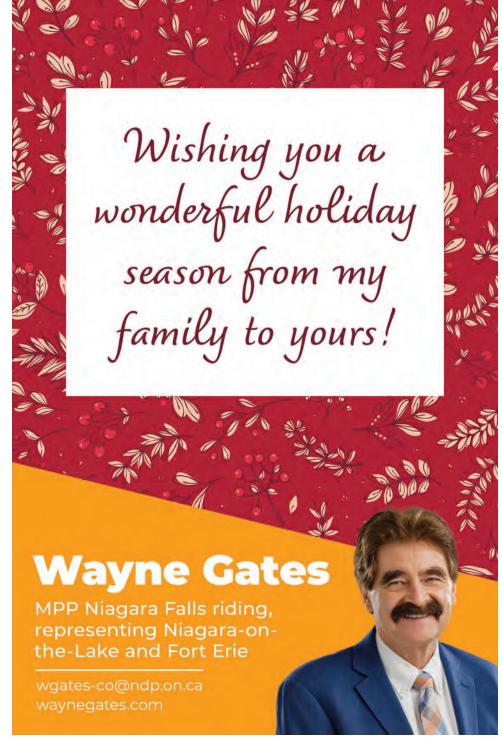
Open Mon - Thurs 10-5 Fri - Sun 10-6 Closed Dec 25th

olivniagara.com

118 Queen St., NOTL | 2

ROOM

289.868.8898





_____ THE NOTL **Freal** December 20, 2023 23 notllocal.com

Santa Run raises more than \$5,000 for youth collective

Mike Balsom The Local

At the end of his fivekilometre run Sunday, Jayden Polgrabia peeled off his Santa jacket and dropped to the Simcoe Park grass to catch his breath.

The 13-year-old Niagaraon-the-Lake boy was the 63rd runner to cross the finish line, completing the run in an impressive 25:39, not far behind his friends Henry (25th; 21:42) and Malcolm Buffington (30th; 22:42), and Holden Powell (33rd; 23:12).

But more importantly for Jayden, he topped the field in fundraising, smashing his personal goal of \$250 for a total of \$818.15 to go toward the NOTL Youth Collective.

His efforts were part of the \$5,260-plus raised by almost 400 runners to help fund certification training that is offered to NOTL youth.

It's the second year the Santa Run has raised funds for the Youth Collective, which is run out of the Cornerstone Community Church campus in Virgil. A similar amount from last year's event was responsible for making some important programs like Smart Serve and WHMIS, available to local kids in 2023.

"Last year we funded (St. John Ambulance) babysitting and first aid programs," Jayden's mother Caroline, a volunteer with the Youth Collective, says. "This year we're going to add the Bronze Cross Lifesaving course so we can certify kids to work at our local pools in the summertime."

connect NOTL kids with job opportunities in their own



The 5K Santa Run started as planned at exactly 10 a.m. in Simcoe Park Sunday, with Fenway Breckels at the front of the pack, and also the first to cross the finish line. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

community.

"We've talked about things things they can put on their resumes," says Caroline, who has participated in the run all three years — it was the second run for Jayden. "We are listening to kids to find out what they want, and we are looking to partner with appropriate community access to this stuff."

It's an attempt, she says, to cent of the funds raised stay in and the Frigid 10K and Frosty the local community.

"It's an important event for Santa 5K in Burlington earlier

us," she adds. "We're fundraising all the time to build our program. We want to work more closely with the town in 2024, look at what the other community groups are doing, and look at ways to fill the gaps where they need to be filled."

It was the third year for the Santa 5K and 1K Elf Run in NOTL. The event is organized organizations to give our kids each year by VR Pro, who also operate the Chilly Half Mara-She stresses that 100 per thon (March 3 in Burlington) 5K (March 17 in Hamilton). A

600 runners.

each year, almost doubling from the 209 participants registered in 2021 to the large through town last weekend, all of whom seemed relieved stopped in time for the run.

Crossing the finish line first in the 5K was 17-year-old Governor Simcoe Secondary School student Fenway Breckels, who has led the field all three years. Breckels beat Gra-

by 17 seconds with his official The NOTL race has grown time of 16:08, which was 35 seconds faster than his performance in 2022.

"I felt like I had a lot more field of red velvet seen running left for the last 2K than I usually do," said Breckels, who competes for his school's track team that the early morning drizzle and hopes to earn an athletic tribute to the NOTL Youth scholarship to Canisius University in Buffalo, New York next year. "So I started picking it up a bit. This might be one of my best races of the season so far. My training for my school races really paid off in this."

With a time of 20:11, 19-year-old Fonthill resident Mia Nanini was the 13th across the line and the first female to finish the race.

"I saw at the turnaround that there were no females ahead of me," said Nanini. "I'm pretty happy I'm the first. I've been the first woman to finish at a number of events. I'm still training, though, because I really want to beat 20 minutes for a 5K."

An avid runner, Nanini ran her first full marathon, Hamilton's Road to Hope, two months ago. Her time there qualified her for the Chicago Marathon, scheduled for Oct. 13, 2024, and was just a minute short of qualifying her for the Boston Marathon next year.

In ninth place at 18:54, 17-year-old Mario Galbraith was the top NOTL runner in the 5K.

For the most part, though, the participants, like 12-year-old Wyatt Jackson of St. Catharines, were there to challenge themselves, have a bit of fun, contribute to a community cause and to be part of a great new Christmas tradition in NOTL.

"My mom told me about this month attracted more than ham Tomori of St. Catharines it and I got really excited," said the Dalewood Public School student who eschewed the official VR Pro Santa suit in favour of his own onesie. "I started training for it in September, running on a treadmill. I was so ready to run."

> There is still time to con-Collective through the race's fundraising portal. Visit raceroster.com/events/2023/ 71914/notl-santa-and-elf-run for the link.

To view more photos of the Santa Run visit notllocal.com.



Jayden Polgrabia and Henry Buffington were near the front of the line at the start of the 5K run. A happy Mia Nanini was the first female to finish the 5K run.





First-time runner Wyatt Jackson and his mother Rebecca with Niagara Falls mayor Jim Diodati in the background.



An exhausted Jayden Polgrabia gives a thumbs up after finishing the race — he was the top fundraiser this year.

THE NOTL Gocal December 20, 2023

Jazz pianist to present Christmas concert from NOTL studio

Mike Balsom The Local

Since he and his wife Nancy Houle moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake about two years ago, jazz pianist Paul Tobey has been busy converting a room in their Old Town home into a music studio

With that work now completed, Tobey is ready to perform live from the studio via YouTube this Wednesday, Dec. 20 for his fifth annual solo piano Christmas concert.

The Christmas concert actually started via Zoom in 2019 as a way to gather friends and family from near and far to celebrate the season.

"It was the year before COVID," says Houle, "and we were having a hard time getting the family together. So Paul invited people to Zoom. Everybody that was on was chatting away. When Paul was finished playing, we left the Zoom on and everybody was still chatting an hour later."

The next year was the pandemic, when Zoom became the way that people across the world began to connect while in isolation. Family members enjoyed the 2019 concert so much that they urged Tobey and Houle to do it again. So it made sense that it would return as a way to once again celebrate the season together with music.

They got the word out via email, and the link to the Zoom session began to be shared outside their immediate circle.

'We found out after year two that the link had been sent out to a couple of seniors' homes," says Tobey. "They would set up a television in a common room and get together to watch it."

Last year was the couple's first Christmas living in NOTL, and the first Zoom Christmas concert from their home here. The



Paul Tobey's home studio is finished and ready for a recording of Christmas music to be viewed on YouTube. (Mike Balsom)

demand for the show con- some of the requests to her tinued to snowball and even though the new studio last December's session with Tobey playing his beautiful German-made Ibach grand

Now the studio is completed, they both felt the time was right to make the move to expand the reach Tube live broadcast.

"It allows for better sound, too," Tobey says. "There will be no lag, no latency that you get with Zoom. The only drawback is that others won't get to chat live, they won't be able to see each other either."

They will be able, howsend requests via the text chat. Houle will be monitoring the chat and feeding

husband.

The garrulous, charmwasn't ready yet. They held ing and witty Tobey loves to take requests and interact with his audience. Anyone who saw him last year perpiano set up in their living forming for the TD Niagara Jazz Festival at The Hare Wine Company or at Spirit in Niagara Distillers will know that.

Those shows were the of the concert using a You- beginning of Tobey's return to performing after having spent 20 years off the circuit due to a chronic injury to his arms. The 2001 Juno-nominated pianist is feeling stronger now, and ready to release two new albums on vinyl in 2024; one a collection of solo piano renditions of standards ever, to ask questions and and ballads and the other, fittingly, a Christmas collec-

"We're just trying to line

up a producer," Tobey tells The Local. "Someone who master the tracks. I've recorded everything right here (in his home studio)."

own YouTube channel called Jazzmentl, offering instruction in jazz piano via musicians.

Through this medium sonal touch. he has connected with jazz musicians and fans from across the world, and is conin the U.S. and Europe.

As for his upcoming Christmas show, his repertoire includes the likes music within the music," he of Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and Skating from A Charlie Brown Christmas.

But make no mistake, this will not be your run-ofcan professionally mix and the-mill mall music Christmas concert.

Tobey looks for interesting chord progressions in He has also begun his the holiday standards, using them as jumping-off points into unique, creative new melodies. In the jazz world online videos and sharing it's called reharmonization, technique with other jazz a way to make the song more jazzy, giving it a per-

He plays his version of Santa Claus is Coming to Town. As recognizable as sidering taking some offers the number is, Tobey takes in the new year to perform it into different, interesting directions, while still maintaining its spirit.

fingers move swiftly and exuses that song's well-known after Wednesday.

melody to segue into short snippets of other Christmas tunes, seamlessly coming back to the original song in between.

You'll hear Tobey's original takes on those songs and more at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Toby invites you to pour some hot chocolate, a cup of tea, a glass of Cabernet, or a tasty Scotch and join him as he jazzes up your favourite Christmas tunes and reminisces about favourite Christmas memories, movies, music and good times.

To ring in the season with the jazz musician, visit jazzmentl.com/christ-"It's about finding the mas-at-the-piano-concert-2023/.

The Paul Tobey Christ-On Carol of the Bells his mas concert will be recorded and posted to his pertly across the ivories. He Jazzmentl YouTube channel

HOLIDAY EARLY DEADLINES

DECEMBER 27TH ISSUE

Classified, display advertising and editorial deadline: Thursday, December 21st @ noon

The printed edition of The NOTL Local for the week of Christmas will be delivered Thursday, Dec. 28 to accommodate the holiday schedule of the press.

JANUARY 3RD ISSUE

Classified, display advertising and editorial deadline: Friday, December 29th @ noon



Advertising (businesses within NOTL) joy@notllocal.com 416-817-0920

Advertising (businesses outside NOTL) julia@notllocal.com 905-934-1040

Editorial penny@notllocal.com 905-246-5878



Zalepa to ref at James Berg hockey tournament

Mike Balsom The Local

Organizers of the second annual James Berg Memorial Hockey Tournament, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 23 at the arenas in Virgil, wanted to do something to make this year's event even more special.

So Matt Friesen suggested to his cousins Mackenzie, Madison and Mitchell Berg, the children of the late James Berg for whom the tournament is named, that it would be great to have Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa dust off his old referee jersey to officiate a game or two.

"We were reaching out to refs," an ebullient Madison says, "and apparently he remembered seeing the Lord Mayor reffing once in his past life. So he shot an email out to him and he responded. We wanted him to ref the final but he has a Christmas gathering later that day, so he agreed to do the two semi-final games."

Zalepa says he hardly hesitated to accept the invitation.

"I let them know it's been quite some time since I've been on the ice that way," laughs Zalepa. "I think the last time was in 2012. They needed to know what they were getting into. That didn't seem to scare them forward to it."

The fact that it is a community event, a gathering of mostly locals who played and coached in the Niagaraon-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Association, sealed the deal for the lord mayor. And he also remembers James Berg,

the former president of the Wolves organization who died suddenly in December 2021 at 53 years old, as a big booster to the community.

"It's a great community event, first of all," Zalepa says, "and it recognizes someone who did a lot for minor hockey and minor sports in general. I knew him through hockey, that's why it's so nice that they asked me to do this, I really appreciate the request."

Last year's first James Berg tournament was held on Friday, December 23, the day a massive snowstorm shut down all of Niagara. Eight teams hit the ice early that morning while the snow accumulated outside.

here at one point," Madison recalls. "They showed up and said 'why are you here, everything is closed?' We told them marine and freshwater biolowe had special permission to be here. Then they asked if they could come in and use the bathroom because everything ey.com/) some time in the new was closed. They couldn't even year. stop at a Tim Hortons."

raised \$5,500 through entry fees, concession sales and do-

In August, the Berg family presented a cheque for \$4,500 away though. I'm really looking to the Wolves and awarded 18-year-old Sam Walker, a member of last year's U18 Wolves rep team who won silver in the Niagara District Hockey League, the very first James Berg Memorial Scholar- ment has become extremely ship of \$1,000.

Walker was one of four



"We actually had the police The James Berg Memorial Tournament 2022 winners. (Supplied)

University of Guelph studying gy. Applications for this year's scholarship will be available on the Wolves website (notlhock-

This year, weather permit-Last year's tournament ting, a barbecue will be added to the mix and a raffle table will also help to raise funds.

"We're doing the scholarship again this year," says Madison. "It's on a Saturday this time and hopefully there's no snowstorm, so more people can come out and watch the games. We hope to raise even more for minor hockey."

She adds that the tournapopular in just a short time.

"We had to turn down four applicants for the scholarship. teams this year starting in Sep-

He is in his first year at the tember," says Madison. "We donned his zebra shirt last mayor, who will officiate in hope that next year we might week and he assures The Local to include more teams. It will depend on whether or not we 11 years ago. can get more ice time."

be able to grow the tournament that it actually fits quite well, perhaps even better than it did the other official quite a bit.

As for Zalepa, he says he me, though," laughs the lord

games scheduled for 1:40 and 2:40 p.m. "I'm going to rely on And I haven't skated since last "I hope they take it easy on Christmas. I hope they don't regret asking me to do this."



Mackenzie, Madison, Carolyn and Mitchell, the family of James Berg and tournament organizers. (Mike Balsom)

U18 Wolves in good shape heading to Silver Stick

Mike Balsom The Local

With the International Silver Stick finals just around the corner, the Niagaraon-the-Lake Wolves U18 rep team's recent play bodes well for them.

The Wolves picked up their 10th win of the season last week, a 5-1 victory over the West Niagara Flying Aces at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. Their record of in the Niagara District Hockey League with eight games to go in the regular season.

the Flying Aces just 15 seconds into Wednesday's con- shown up since our Silver test, the Wolves stormed back, Stick win," he says, referring with captain Dylan Price fir- to their gold medal perforing a wrist shot into the West mance in Midland in Novem-Niagara net 13 minutes later. ber. "They're pushing, they're They took the lead with 6:29 remaining in the first period three periods. Over the last 10 when Logan Rossi scored the games we've had some 5-0, first of his two goals in the 5-1 wins. We're not making game. Noah Whyte and Lucas the mistakes that can keep the Roberts Ramos added singles before the horn sounded at the end of the third.

Outside of a recent 3-1 10-3-3 puts them in first place loss on Dec. 6 to Thorold, period with the lead," Neuhead coach Devon Neudorf says he and his coaching staff have been very happy with After giving up a goal to the solid play of their squad.

"The boys have really giving 100 per cent for the full games tighter."

The win over West Niagara is a good example of that.

"We came out of the first dorf points out. "They really rallied after that early goal,



Continued on page 26 Team captain Marco Gruosso takes a shot. (Mike Balsom)

Even Ganta Shops at O

See us for all of your holiday gift giving needs:

• Ready to go gift baskets • Olive wood charcuterie boards, dishes & spoons

• Olive oil skin care products • Gourmet food items • A whole range of other gift ideas Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oils & True Balsamic Vinegars





YocalSPORTS

Preds look to ring in New Year by slaying Bulls

Mike Balsom The Local

The Niagara Predators close out the calendar year with a home-and-home series this week against the Bradford Bulls. Picking up a few points against the South Division's second place team would be a Wednesday's 9 a.m. showcase that in the form of a 3-2 win in great way to end their current three-game skid.

"To pick up any point right now is important," says head coach Kevin Taylor. "This has been a really tough part of our schedule. We got some points where we weren't expecting to. Where we lost some points, we can't dwell on that anymore. We have to look forward and try to pick up the points where we can."

Taylor is talking about the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League team's last six games, during which they faced the of the way. first place North York Ren-Durham Roadrunners twice each, with two league show-

Division's Temiscaming and fore against Temiscaming (Ni-West Nipissing in the middle. They went 2-3-1 in that stretch that again the next day." when many predicted they might have been completely Durham 4-3 on the road last blanked against some tough Monday the Roadrunners competition.

Unfortunately, game against the West Nipissing Lynx was the Preds' fourth largest crowds of the year. game in six days, including games three days in a row. It riod Durham's Zach Burns was the first of three losses in

Niagara for the first 15 minutes that day, they gave up two goals in 20 seconds to the Lynx and the wind seemed to have third, with Durham's Yenry been knocked out of their sails. West Nipissing cruised to a 5-0 shutout of a tired and hapless Preds squad who looked lost favour of the extra attacker on the Gale Centre Ice the rest with more than 90 seconds

"It was just too much," Tayegades and the third place lor said about Wednesday's game. "Nine o'clock, I never see 9 a.m. And we had such a

agara won 5-3). It's tough to do

After the Preds beat came to town Friday night last looking for revenge. They got front of one of the Predators'

After a scoreless first pegot the Roadrunners on the scoreboard 12:45 into the sec-After some strong play by ond when he beat Preds goalie Zane Clausen on the short side.

> The two teams exchanged goals back and forth in the Jibb and Loenzo Sullivan and Niagara's Nolan Wyers scoring. Taylor pulled Clausen in remaining. Rhys Jones replied for the Preds to make it 3-2 with 30 seconds left, but the Roadrunners closed the door the rest of the way.

The Predators played a strong game defensively, with two of the Durham goals coming on rebounds that Clausen couldn't adjust to. And they outshot the Roadrunners 35-

But Taylor felt his team should have won the game, and that the loss came down to some basic fundamentals.

"We asked them to dump the puck in," explained Taylor Friday night. "Every time they did that we controlled the know what to expect. But we in open ice.

case games against the North great game the afternoon begame. When we began trying have to come out with a good to take the puck in ourselves, effort and play a full 60 minwe became isolated. We had utes." no puck support. We were trying to beat three or four guys and lost the puck, and they couldn't figure out why."

> The Predators suffered their third loss in a row Sunday, a 5-1 decision on the road in favour of the North York ed two-week break for all in-Renegades.

Taylor's team found itself in a deep hole by the end of the first period, giving up goals to Reily Wosik, Jedidja Somersall and Christopher Rende, the latter of whom scored short handed. Though they had some power play opportunities in the final 40 minutes the Preds couldn't come back from that deficit.

"We came out flat and they got three quick ones," Taylor laments. "We played a lot better in the third period, we came out with a lot more jump. But we were missing some key players. I think we've had maybe one game with our full lineup this year."

Injuries and illnesses have slowed down some key Predators as of late, including Declan Fogarty, Nolan Wyers, Reece Bisci, goalie Mike Mankowski and defenceman Nick Savoie. That has forced the coaching staff to move some of the players around to face the Bulls, who are 19-9-0 on the season.

"They have a good team," admits Taylor. "This is our first

The Predators travel to the Bob Fallis Arena in Bradford Wednesday night for the first game in the home-and-home series, then host the Bulls in Virgil this Friday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

After that it's a much-need-

volved with the team.

"We're all a bit run down from this last stretch, coaches included," says Taylor. "We're worn out. The guys need a break, and I'm hoping they come back with a renewed interest in the game, wanting to prove exactly what we can do."

To view more photos visit notllocal.com



Tyler Gearing finds some open ice. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



time playing them, so we don't Preds forward and NOTL native Josh Frena fight for the puck

Gruosso provides team leadership

Continued from page 25

LOYAL TOAST 2 P.M. **ALL WELCOME UNIFORM OR BUSINESS**

LEVEE

JAN. 1, 2024 | 1 P.M.

Poeal HAPPENINGS

ATTIRE PREFERRED

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION BRANCH 124 410 KING ST | NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE With or without a border, colour graphics optional.
Prices starting at \$25. Deadline: Monday 3 p.m.
Call Joy 416·817·0920 or email: joy@notllocal.com

and they piled it on in the second. It was great to see. We shook up the power play a bit and that helped light a fire under them."

provides to the young team.

"He's a really strong personality," says Neudorf, "really outspoken and well-spoken, a great motivator. He always has a positive attitude, that's why we gave him the role. Lucas (Roberts Ramos) sits next to him in the room. I'll hand it to them to finish a speech, I let them talk so they can give a little push from within."

And his strong goaltending tandem of Quinten Davis and Braden Sawyer sometimes makes for some tough decisions.

"They were the two goalies on the U16 team last year," Neudorf points out. "We have two starting goaltenders who have been battling back and forth with each other with great performances night in

game by game in league play, on the third place Panthers in usually take some time off bethe early rounds and then go with our gut after that."

Union arena near the scoreboard.

The three losses in league play to Thorold, Fort Erie (3-1, Nov. 12) and Port Colborne (3-0, Oct. 23) still stick out a bit in Neudorf's mind, though.

"We've never had back-toback losses, which is good," he says. "A lot of it came down to preparation and being ready to play. There have been games where we're playing a weaker team and we go through the motions a bit, making games a lot tighter than they should be. But there's no team in our league we shouldn't beat every time."

The Wolves host last place Fort Erie Wednesday night and night out. We rotate them then travel to Pelham to take Balsom)

and in tournaments we tend their last game before the Interto give them each a start in national Silver Stick in Forest, Ontario, on Jan. 5 through 7.

"We're doing a father-son That strategy paid off in game and a Christmas party Midland, when they went on Friday, too," laughs Neuwith Davis in net for the final dorf. "I'll be lacing up the Neudorf gives credit to few games on their way to skates and so will the other Marco Gruosso, the team's beating the South Muskoka coaches so it will be a lot of captain, for the leadership he Bears 3-1 to take home the fun. There might be one or bright green banner that now two guys who we pulled off hangs in the Meridian Credit the power play who might tise, and practise hard. We're want to rub me out against the boards."

But where they would

fore league play resumes, they have kind of a big deal coming up right after Christmas.

"We have a heavy schedule of practices," Neudorf explains. "About five or six of them. We need to stay on the ice, keep the legs moving. It's obviously the holidays, and plans with their families come first. But we're going to pracgoing to be ready."

To view more photos visit notllocal.com



Braden Sawyer guards the NOTL net for the Wolves. (Mike





classified@notllocal.com

Compassionate **Transparent** No Pressure www.morganfuneral.com

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14	1		t	1		15				16	1	1	1	t
17	1	1	t		18					19				
20		1		21						22		1		t
23			24				25		26					
		27				28						29	30	31
32	33				34				35		36			1
37				38				39			1			t
40	1						41		T		42			t
43				44		45				46				
i			47						48		1		49	50
51	52	53				54		55				56		t
57				1	Н	58			1		59			t
60						61				62	-			1
63			1			64	1			65		+	-	╁

Across:

- 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
- "Band of Gold" singer Freda ---
- 48 Miscreants

- 57 Nautical fastener
- 58 To
- explorer
- 62 Extended area of land
- showers are
- 65 Solemn promises

Down:

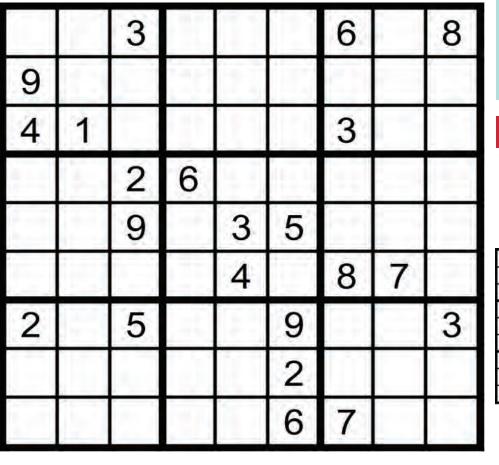
- Ahead of the field
- Litter of pigs
- **Bracket**
- Security detachment
- for this film, aged 11
- 11 The pen
- 12 Recoil

- 51 Economizer
- 54 Succeed 56 One of New York's finest,
- perhaps
- 60 Carroll's rabbit-hole
- 61 Wyo. neighbor
- 63 Waterproofed as many
- 64 Affirmative vote

- Pennsylvania Mennonites
- Sri ---, formerly Ceylon
- Mineral source
- Stimulus
- Anna Paquin won an Oscar
- 10 Spanish winds

- 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 Ladv")
- 53 Bridal wear
- 55 Start of a Hamlet soliloguy 59 Geological time composed of periods





FENCES AND DECKS

LOEWEN'S FENCING & DECKS

built • repair • dump runs services · concrete pads · drive ways · clean gutters · pressure washing drive ways **Call Peter 289-696-3509**

NOTICES

To place an Obituary or In Memoriam in our Classifieds, please contact Julia at: julia@notllocal.com or 905.934.1040 Deadline is Tuesdays at 1 p.m.



Sell your unwanted items or advertise your garage sale in our

CLASSIFIEDS

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



PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from **December 13, 2023**

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

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

61 Neb, 62 Tract, 63 Tiled, 64 Aye, 65 Oaths. Saver, 54 Get on, 56 Cop, 57 Cleat, 58 In order to, 60 Alice, 42 Oslo, 43 Ant, 44 Prawn, 46 Tot, 47 Payne, 48 Felons, 51 Gas, 35 Andrea, 37 Avoided, 39 Glories, 40 Manner, 41 Sum, Hansom, 25 Topis, 27 Few, 28 Tulsa, 29 App, 32 Mere, 34 it, 17 Intercept, 19 Erica, 20 Ski, 21 Rarer, 22 Perky, 23 Across: 1 Aloof, 6 Tip, 9 Tasks, 14 Maura, 15 I'm a, 16 Hit

8 December 20, 2023 THE NOTL Yord ______ notllocal.com

