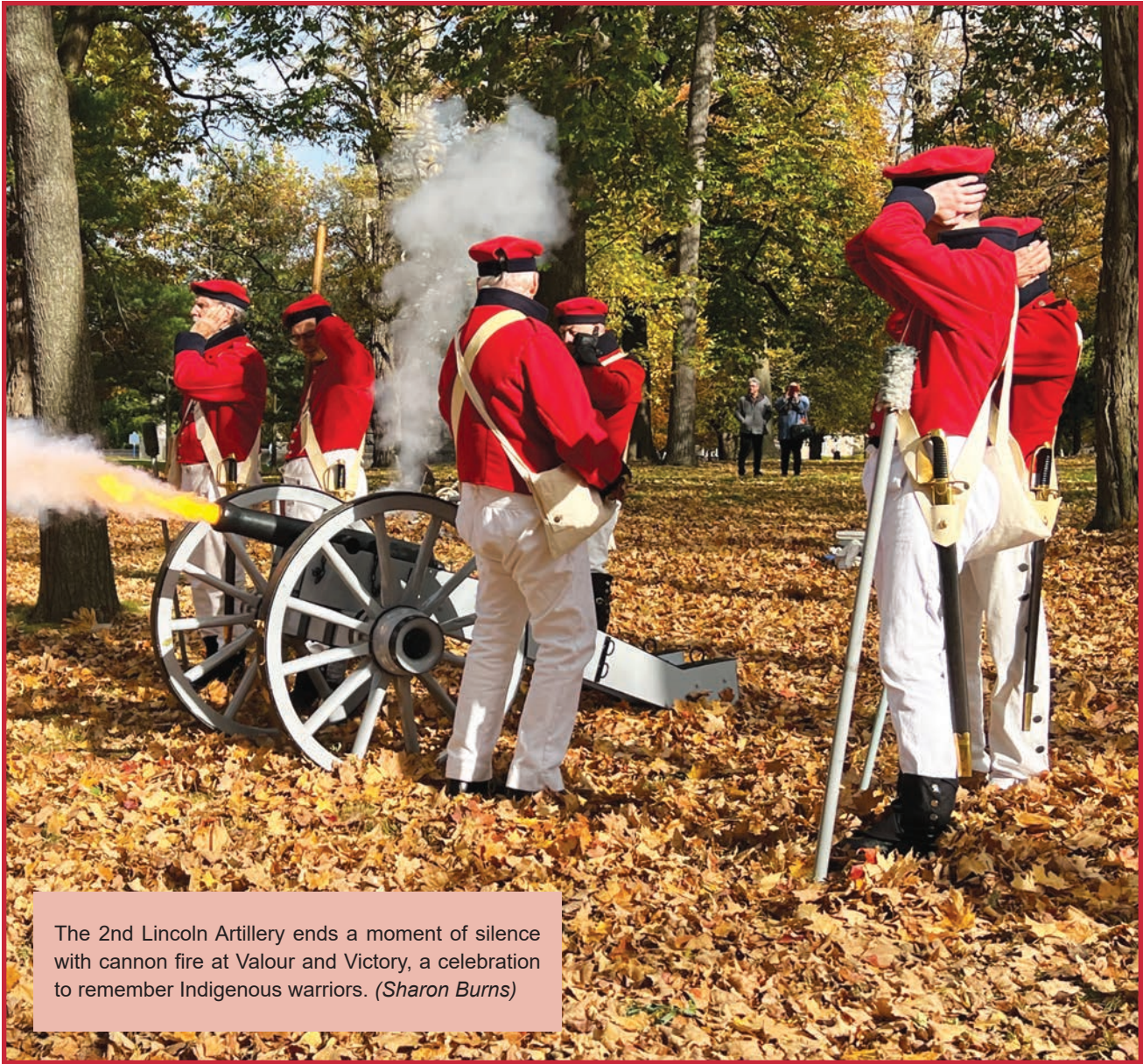




Harvest
Classic a
success for
NOTL Minor
Hockey

page 21



The 2nd Lincoln Artillery ends a moment of silence with cannon fire at Valour and Victory, a celebration to remember Indigenous warriors. (Sharon Burns)

Road work to be finished by end of year

Penny Coles
The Local

Road construction in Virgil is on budget and on schedule, which the region says means the end of the year for “substantial completion,” or 98 per cent of the project finished.

Most of what remains to be completed is landscaping, and some of the conversion of overhead hydro, Bell and Cogeco wiring to underground, says project manager Mike Wilson. The wiring and poles still have to be removed.

The landscaping includes parkettes at Four Mile Creek Road, Field Road and both sides of Line 1, Wilson said, and are all “the same concept,” but slightly different to accommodate the space available — the landscaped areas at

Field Road and Line 1 will be smaller.

The large limestone rocks are already installed at the corner of Four Mile Creek Road, and still to come are planting areas, benches, garbage receptacles, some coloured concrete surfaces and light bollards, which direct the light downwards for pedestrians.

The Field Road parkette will be at the corner in front of Cornerstone Church.

The town made a financial contribution of \$1.4 million toward the landscaping, and, as Wilson pointed out, was included in design decisions in the early days of the project.

Also still to be planted are trees, as well as some

Continued on page 2

Valour and Victory: Indigenous warriors recognized

Sharon Burns
The Local

Amidst the orange and yellow leaves of fall, the stark red and white uniforms of the 2nd Lincoln Artillery complemented the day as the artillery broke a moment of silence with cannon fire to honour Indigenous veterans at the Landscape of Nations in Queenston Heights Saturday.

It was the seventh anniversary of the unveiling of this landmark.

The smell of burning

sage, and smoke from a Ceremonial Fire tended by Brian Kon, set the scene of remembrance and gratitude during the ceremony.

Travis Hill, curator of Indigenous culture and heritage with the city of Hamilton, emceed the event. “We have a day representing Indigenous warriors past and present,” he said.

Karl Dockstader, Niagara College’s Indigenous education cultural consultant, began the Valour and Victory program with a traditional greeting “in the lan-

guage of people who lived here hundreds of years ago.” He translated his greeting as “our minds are one,” referring to social justice, Dockstader explained, “where we have a responsibility as people, together, to make things happen,” such as honouring Indigenous veterans.

Flanked by statues of John Norton (Teyoninhokarawen) and Joseph Brant (Ahyouwaehs), David Adames, chief executive officer of Niagara Parks, welcomed the large crowd of people.

“As contemporary en-

vironmental and cultural stewards of this land, we are grateful for the stewardship provided by Indigenous peoples for millennia,” he said.

“Niagara Parks takes great pride in collaborating with Indigenous leaders to celebrate and share the rich history of these lands. Public initiatives, such as the Landscape of Nations and the Valour and Victory ceremony today, help to affirm the proper place of Indigenous peoples, not only at the centre of the stories we tell here in Niagara, but

within Canada’s historical narrative,” said Adames.

He also commented on the significance of the number seven in Haudenosaunee culture, and pointed out that the Landscape of Nations reflects this with seven steel arches symbolizing a longhouse, and seven earthen mounds representing nature and signifying the Indigenous nations involved in the Battle of Queenston Heights and the War of 1812.

Tim Johnson, senior advisor for Heritage and

Legacy at the Niagara Parks Commission, announced the launch of a Landscape of Nations social media page. “We will be moving forward with the intention of providing the best historical content and factual news information and perspectives on Indigenous events and issues of the day,” he said.

Follow the Landscape of Nations page on Facebook to learn more www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089360265060

Continued on page 3

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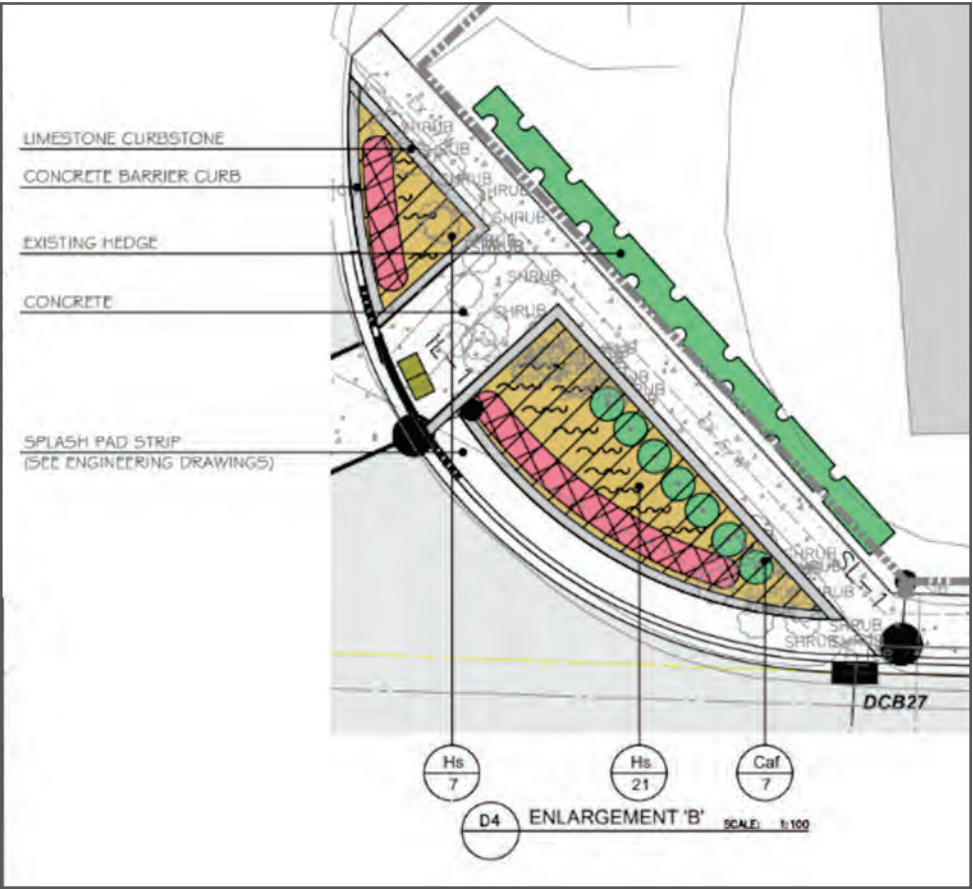
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Landscaping, parkettes still to be completed



This photo shows pavement completed and torn up — for a good reason. It allowed for decorative pedestrian crosswalks to be installed at Field Road and at Line 1. (Supplied)



A drawing of the parkette that will be completed at the corner of Four Mile Creek Road, by Silk's restaurant. (Supplied)

Continued from page 1

sod, mostly in front of businesses where there was grass before the road work began.

Sidewalks, curbs and banding, the grey strip between them, is in place.

“Our intention is to install vegetation this year, although it may be in a dormant stage,” said Wilson.

If there is any work to be carried over into next year, it might be the removal of the poles, and completing the landscaping around them, he said.

The road work went well, Wilson said, with no major surprises, “although

some of the underground work was challenging.”

And although traffic was not a surprise, “it was also a challenge” to keep traffic flowing through the area.

“When municipalities or regions begin doing road construction, there are always challenges trying to balance getting the work done faster with keeping roads open.”

He pointed out that as promised, Niagara Stone Road stayed open with one or two lanes throughout the road work. “Congestion is always a byproduct of what we do,” said Wilson, “but it was mitigat-

ed by keeping both sides open.”

Businesses were accessible throughout, he added, and although some business owners noted a drop in business, “the contractor has to get the job done.”

There were some changes made to the construction schedule to accommodate local events — road work was essentially stopped from the Thursday before the Virgil Stampede, with some temporary work done to make it easier and safer for pedestrians to navigate their way to the event, and construction did not resume until the Tuesday after the stampede, Wilson said.

Once the project is completed, “it will be a very nice stretch of road, with bicycle and pedestrian access improved. It will be lighter, brighter, safer and better able to move traffic through it safely as well.”

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Indigenous troops recognized for role in War of 1812

Continued from page 1

Paul Williams, historian and Six Nations lawyer, spoke about the significant

contributions of John Norton, Mohawk Chief and leader of First Nations allies in Upper Canada, who played a crucial role in sev-

eral major battles during the War of 1812. “When Brock fell and the British troops with him retreated, those 80 men

(under Norton’s command) pinned down 1,300 Americans for two hours until British reinforcements arrived,” said Williams.

Indigenous veteran and service members Jessica Miller and Cita Johnson were recognized for their service.

Retired Warrant Officer Miller, from the Six Nations and Mohawk Nation, started her 25-year military career as a naval communicator in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1999. She completed the ordinary seamen under training program on board the HMCS Algonquin, and during her posting, visited many ports throughout the world.

Cita Johnson, Onondaga from Six Nations, completed her basic training in the Black Bear Program, which combines Indigenous and military teaching. She is an officer in the 56th Field Artillery and is now helping run courses and is a troop leader. She fondly remembers her grandfather taking her to play at Queenston Heights Park.

An Honour Song, performed by long-standing cultural community member Phil Davis, and accompanied by Karl Dockstadter, preceded the Moment of Silence and Laying of Wreaths.



Officer Cita Johnson lights the cannon with the 2nd Lincoln Artillery.



Metis artist and firekeeper Brian Kon tends the Ceremonial Fire at the Landscape of Nations Valour and Victory event in Queenston Heights to recognize Indigenous warriors. (Photos by Sharon Burns)



Phil Davis and Karl Dockstadter speak at Valour and Victory at Queenston Heights.



Tim Johnson, with Richard Merritt and Jessica Miller.



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NOTL finalists for Niagara Women in Business Awards

Mike Balsom
The Local

A number of Niagara-on-the-Lake women are up for honours at this month's Women in Business Awards, presented by the Women in Niagara Council, an offshoot of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce.

St. Davids resident Rochelle Ivri, a judge with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, is a finalist for the Community Impact Award. She is joined in the category by Lise Andreana, chair of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

"It's really special and affirming for me," Ivri told The Local. "You do a lot of work not for the recognition, of course, but it's heartwarming and it makes me feel so special to be recognized by those right here in your community."

"Niagara region has so many talented, hard-working women contributing to our economy and social welfare, to be recognized by my peers makes me feel very grateful," says Andreana. "Women supporting women is a very effective way to help all of us grow in our careers and reach new highs. When women work together, all



Minerva Ward, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, is one of the nominees for the Hospitality and Tourism Award. (File photo)



Jessie MacDonald is up for an Entrepreneurship Award and the Young Professional Award. (Supplied)

of our community benefits." Also a finalist in that same category is former Shaw ensemble member Juliet Dunn, who continues to present many TD Niagara Jazz Festival events in town.

For more than 10 years the festival has provided work for a number of local musicians, and has encouraged the development of young musicians through its Jazz 4 The Ages program.

Many festival events, such as this past summer's Jazz in the Park in Simcoe Park, have been free programs. "It's the work of all of the volunteers that makes it all possible," says Dunn.

"Saying that the festival is a labour of love is an understatement. Without our collective volunteerism, there would be no Niagara Jazz Festival and none of the above contributions to

this rich community would have happened." In the Cultural Arts category, NOTL Museum managing director and curator

Continued on page 18

Niagara-on-the-Lake

MARKET UPDATE

Niagara Region
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\$678,640

Niagara-on-the-Lake
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36 Shakespeare Ave., NOTL | \$1,250,000

Awards should be rescinded, says Indigenous advocate

Junos victimize other Indigenous people, says Tim Johnson

Penny Coles
The Local

Tim Johnson feels strongly that “any and all” Juno awards given to Buffy Sainte-Marie intended to recognize Canadian and Indigenous musicians, should be rescinded.

Johnson, a Niagara-on-the-Lake resident, has a long list of accreditations, including his role as a museum professional who advanced Indigenous music programming and related exhibits at the Smithsonian. He has been a Juno awards judge for the Indigenous arts category.

Closer to home, Johnson was instrumental in the development of the Landscape of Nations in Queenston, and served on the committee for Voices of Freedom Park in NOTL.

He is also creator and producer of the Indigenous Niagara Living Museum Tour, and executive producer of the multiple award-winning documentary

RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked The World.

In a letter to Allan Reid, president and CEO of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, the organization responsible for Juno awards, he reminds Reid that the album *Rumble*, which Johnson produced along with Derek Miller (both from Six Nations of the Grand River), was nominated for the Indigenous Music Album of the Year Juno Award in 2016, alongside Sainte-Marie and others. Sainte-Marie’s *Power in the Blood* won the award, which is intended to recognize Indigenous artists.

“This now stands as a terrible travesty and injustice that demands rectification, particularly since Buffy Sainte-Marie is neither Indigenous nor Canadian.”

Johnson reached out to The Local to explain the context of his letter. He is referring to a very detailed report by CBC, which includes extensive research and documentation that says Sainte-Marie is not Indigenous, and

was born in Massachusetts, not in Saskatchewan, as she has claimed.

The CBC report said it located her birth certificate showing her place of birth, listing her parents as white, and that it was used in other documentation, including her marriage certificate and a life insurance policy.

Sainte-Marie responded the day before the *Fifth Estate* aired, anticipating what was coming. She learned of her Indigenous ancestry through her mother, who was part Mi’kmaq, she said, and was adopted by an Indigenous family as a young adult — a family who continues to support her.

She called herself “a proud member of the Native community with deep roots in Canada,” and said she struggled to learn about who she is, and to learn more about her background. But, she added, “I still don’t know where I’m from or who my birth parents were, and I will never know.”

Artists who receive Juno awards, said Johnson, gain increased recognition, and opportunities that boost their fame and income, and can receive contracts from Canada’s leading performing arts centres as a result.

He considers CBC’s *Fifth*

Estate’s extensive investigation into Sainte-Marie’s identity “thorough, compelling, and resolute.”

The investigation reveals “a concocted Indigenous identity that was used as the basis for creating a career persona and establishing relations with actual Indigenous people in ways that reinforced her fiction while supporting a livelihood. Deception of this scale and duration over some 60-plus years has caused incalculable reputational and financial damage to authentic Indigenous musicians. About this there can be no doubt,” Johnson said in his letter.

To The Local, he said, “So many of us working in the Indigenous world accepted her identity, over so many years. This information is pretty significant, and there are a lot of different complexities around it.”

We know now, he added, “that she was raised by her biological family to adulthood. She started spinning a number of misleading ideas about her Indigenous heritage years ago.”

As for her adoption into an Indigenous family as an adult, after years of creating a false identity for herself, he said, “You have to wonder what she was telling people,



Buffy Sainte-Marie (Shutterstock)

spinning stories about being born in Saskatchewan.”

“She is not the first pretension (a term for those who claim Indigenous heritage that doesn’t stand up to scrutiny) that CBC has exposed,” said Johnson.

“And kudos to CBC. It has done a systematic job of revealing these people. We still have over 600 Indigenous nations in Canada, with Indigenous populations. But we know there are pretendians out there and we need CBC to continue their good work.”

harmful by those who adopt a false heritage, Johnson continues, “particularly in this day and age when we talk about Truth and Reconciliation, and the damage that was caused. We need an organization to audit these things, and to ensure Indigenous people are protected.”

In the case of Sainte-Marie, it’s not just those nominated for awards that were given to her who are victims, “but her fan base among Indigenous people, they themselves are victims as well.”



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EDITORIAL

See you at the cenotaph Saturday, as we remember

This Saturday, as we pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy, the solemn ceremony may take on a new meaning for some.

The freedom so many lost their lives to protect and preserve in years gone by, who

fought to put an end to war, seems more precious each day, as we learn of more attacks in other corners of the world. Wars continue to take the lives of not only soldiers, but innocent civilians — grandparents, parents and children — and here at home friends and neighbours are

mourning family members lost, or fearing for those who are living in areas where attacks are occurring.

We must never take our freedom for granted, not when there are still people around the world dying as they fight for theirs.

Even closer to home, it

seems democracy is also being threatened, but from within — the country south of our border is fighting its own battles, maybe not with the deadly weaponry we see in countries at war, but certainly with more and more of the freedoms that are associated with democracy being

chipped away.

Saturday is a time to be thankful for living in a country where our children are safe, a time to remember that it didn't come without great cost, and to recognize the enormous sacrifices made by those who fought to keep it that way.

We also can't forget those who are still living in the heat of battle, still searching for the precious peace our Canadian soldiers fought to achieve and preserve for us. May they find what we are so fortunate to have.

Penny Coles
The Local

An argument regarding speciesism, food and conservation



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

Some of the content in this article may be disturbing. However, what I am about to discuss with you is a conversation designed to rethink how we see life, death and food on our plate.

Perhaps our species is the most disturbing of it all when it comes to the circle of life. As a modern society, we largely place ourselves ahead of other species with a sort of unwritten superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

In eco-philosophy, we can reflect and view humans as egocentric or ecocentric.

With the former model of thought, humans are the centre of the biological world. Our species trumps others, both morally and competitively on all accounts. Some animals may be regarded as nearer and dearer, while others are simply peripheral noise or entirely forgettable.

When considering the ecocentric model, there is no centre of the circle. The earthworm or an owl could hold the centre

of the circle as likely as a coyote or a wasp. The human being could be placed anywhere, implying that no animal is superior to another and that balance for all living things is not only equal, but necessary.

However, think about the last nature documentary you watched, or any clip involving a predator and its prey. Or is it prey and its predator?

Let's go with the classic footage of a gazelle running from a cheetah. If you were presented with the front-loading bias of the graceful herbivore simply grazing away on the grass before the cheetah, you are likely to feel sorry sentiment for the gazelle when a cheetah attack ensues. Especially when the big cat breaks the gazelle's neck and rips the moaning and groaning animal to death.

However, what if the clip started with a mother cheetah lying peacefully under a shady tree, purring away and grooming her adorable little cubs. Suddenly, you are presented with the inevitable — a mother needs to eat so she can remain healthy and continue to raise her young. She chases the gazelle and consumes the meal accordingly.

Both viewpoints are capable of eliciting emotion, and such complex reactions are

some of the beautiful features that make us human.

Dozens of times I have found myself behind the lens working on nature documentaries and watching one animal consume another, sometimes violently. I have watched raccoons in Florida's dry season waterholes hold up fish like a burrito, only to crunch in and bite the head off with precision while the creature's body continues to writhe. I've seen snakes devouring cute tree frogs alive, with their squeaking calls and smiley faces being swallowed backward into a serpentine death.

I think the theme that keeps me at ease during such scenarios is knowing that such processes are impossible to ignore. These things happen behind the scenes every day, and such events give way to balanced healthy ecosystems which ultimately keep animal populations alive and healthy. All of this benefits the human and the society we live in.

This is where modern-day hunting comes into the discussion. I am personally not a hunter, nor do I care to be, because I admit and acknowledge the human softness in me that would feel disturbed to shoot a white-tailed deer or a black bear. I would do it if I had to,



A white-tailed deer, seen here in Wainfleet, is a local and symbolic species in terms of our relationship with animals, and where we place them in biological society. (Owen Bjorgan)

but choose not to. There are many people like myself who purchase beef off of the grocery store shelf without flinching, though.

Therefore, it doesn't seem fair to demonize hunting. Even if it's not for you, it seems philosophically vapid to speak against it. The beef I choose to buy was from a farm, which deforested hundreds of acres of ecosystem and likely contributes to water and air pollution to this day. The person who trekked deep into the woods to shoot deer didn't inflict that type of biodiversity loss and damage, so who am I to argue it is cruel or ecologically destructive? If hunting is done legally and with respect to wildlife populations, then there are bigger fish to fry with regards to the death and perceived cruelty our society inflicts upon animals.

This is analyzing the human feelings involved with kill-

ing another living thing to satisfy our naturally omnivorous lives, and begs the next layer of question of why are we willing to eliminate some animals with ease, while protecting others with an open heart?

The human mind is full of fascinating theatrics attached to feelings. Harming a panda, a mountain gorilla or a seal is jarring due to their perceived cute and cuddly characteristics. Humans love relatability,

hence our general admiration for larger and more intelligent mammals with faces like ours. However, nobody bats an eye to the eyelash pit viper, the Bosavi woolly rat, or the rare butterfly that just squashed against your windshield.

In an ecocentric world without fabricated speciesism, all of these animals matter equally, both ecologically and inherently. This should give you something to chew on.

View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

Mr. Harrigan's Phone is a teen horror film is based on a Stephen King novella, and stars Donald

Sutherland. The film begins well with interesting premises, then gets bogged down; however, I still found it worth seeing.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go

to the movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

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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 was the second in a row without an answer — it was a Halloween special at Spirit of Niagara on Lakeshore Road. Hoping for a response this week — it should be easy.

COMMENT

— *Local* LETTERS Power brings responsibility for broader community —

I read with some interest your recent piece from Rainer Hummel outlining his views on local development and his opinion that the resistance demonstrated by local council and residents to some proposed development projects is misguided. In his view, provincial statutes prevail and justify proposals from developers that defy the Official Plan and over-reach the provisions within it that are intended to protect the town's viability as a place to live and as a unique economic entity. If the munic-

ipality is at odds with the province, then the province prevails, and as long as the developer conforms with provincial policy or intent, then he/she will assuredly win any escalated dispute. It would be difficult to argue with the logic of this stance. Indeed, the current power imbalance does greatly favour the developer, and offers ample opportunity for developers to breach the Official Plan. This is particularly true given that provincial edict must, by necessity, be broadly applicable and does

not necessarily take into account the unique needs of communities such as Niagara-on-the-Lake. However, a more mature perspective founded on wisdom rather than logic alone, would recognize that with great power comes great responsibility — responsibility not just for one's own interests, but for the interests of the broader community of which we are all part. Just because Mr. Hummel can essentially do what he wants, doesn't mean that he should. Might doesn't make right. The

power that he wields demands sensitivity to all facets of the town's long-term viability and an advanced acuity that makes it possible to filter legitimate resident concerns from crass NIMBYism. This requires true vision, and a level of creativity that delivers both profit and broad long-term sustainability for the town. Unfortunately, this type of wisdom is sorely lacking in virtually all of the substantive development proposals that have recently been put forward in Niagara-on-the-Lake, from

Glendale through to Old Town. The official plan is dismissed as the work of special interest groups and a blind eye is turned to the core principles underpinning it. What seems to be called for is a greater willingness on the part of developers to work with the town and appreciate the longer-term vision elected representatives are charged with protecting and advancing. To be sure, this does not always mean strictly following the Official Plan, but it does mean coming to solutions that

align with the plan's spirit. As Mr. Hummel rightly points out, the town does not have the power to single-handedly direct development in accordance with this spirit. However, particularly as an individual who purports to have a deep attachment to the community, doesn't the onus then rest with him to see the bigger picture, to apply creative vision in a broader sense, and to do more than simply what he can get away with? **Michael Ennamorato**
NOTL

— *Local* LETTERS Roundabout at York Rd., Concession 6 makes more sense —

I have been reading with interest the various articles regarding the potential vehicle roundabout for the village of St. Davids. I am a long-time resident in the area and am very familiar with the traffic flow in and about St. Davids. The village does not need, nor does it have the room for a roundabout in its midst. However, I will direct your attention to the intersection of York Road and Concession 6 and suggest this is the place for a roundabout due to the full reopening of Concession 6 in the next couple of months.

The current experiment that saw the installation of four-way stop signs at the intersection of York Road and Concession 6 has worked well, and it has been even more successful with no vehicular access up or down the escarpment due to the Concession 6 closure. In effect, this has made the intersection basically a three-way stop for most of the time the four-way stop signs have been erected. During the period Concession 6 has been under construction many vehicles going to and from Niagara Falls to Niagara-

on-the-Lake and vice versa have had no real choice but to traverse through St. Davids while Concession 6 has been closed. Having said that, when Concession 6 reopens I would not be surprised to see a decrease in the amount of traffic going through St. Davids and an increase in traffic flow on Concession 6. When I stand back and look at the big picture, I see a north-south vehicular corridor connecting Niagara Falls and NOTL that does not involve the village of St Davids proper. This corridor is already in place and

almost ready to go. With the prior improvements to the CNR railway bridge and now with the current road upgrades at the lip of the escarpment, Concession 6 stands ready to become a busy conduit once more for north-south traffic flow, and when this happens the four-way stop at the intersection of York Road and Concession 6 has the potential to become a bottleneck for both Concession 6 and York Road drivers. To assist with the flow of traffic in this north-south corridor, a roundabout at York Road and Concession

6 makes sense. It would facilitate the traffic flow through this intersection, and it would serve to tie in with the roundabout to the south (Mountain Road and Concession 6), the roundabout to the north (Highway 55 and Concession 6) and the roundabout to the west (Glendale Avenue and York Road) that currently service traffic flow towards this intersection. The only other thing that is needed to complete this big picture is the installation of traffic ramps on Highway 405 for entry onto and exit from Concession 6. Maybe that is a project for

future consideration. I will not dispute there is a flow of traffic through the village of St. Davids; however, the flow of vehicles and the traffic volume resulting in slowness at the village four-way stop is evident for short intermittent periods of time only. If the elected representatives from our local and regional governments continue to insist on spending my tax dollars for a vehicle roundabout, my vote goes for installing one at York Road and Concession 6. **Bill Morrison (Sr)**
1587 York Road, NOTL

— *Local* LETTERS Let's not forget those currently serving —

This Saturday, and for the two weeks prior, we take the time to honour those who have fallen in war time on our behalf by wearing a poppy and attending ceremonies at cenotaphs. And rightly so. However it would also be long overdue time to celebrate those currently serving. Our current state of our forces is in sad shape, which not only affects our ability to defend ourselves, but also our place on the world stage. This is not a reflection of those serving, but on government policies, or lack thereof. The current authorized strength of our military is 100,000 personnel. This includes all ranks in all three

services, both Reserve and Regular forces. We also have about 2,000 mainly Indigenous personnel that operate in the north. The military is currently 10- to 15,000 short of that strength. Equipment is also a problem. Among other things, the army has only recently replaced the Second World War pistols that have been carried with more up-to-date ones. Our army equipment has also been depleted due to service in Afghanistan and supplying Ukraine. The airforce has recently ordered a total of 88 F35 jets, which were first proposed during the Harper years and to be delivered by 2010. The most recent or-

der is for 16 of these aircraft to start being delivered in 2026 (three years from now) with a further 72 to be ordered in future years. We will not have our full complement until 2032, nine years from now. Even then those initial aircraft will be stationed in the U.S. until we can make ready here in Canada. Our navy is having to scavenge other ships in order to bring another ship's strength up before it can go to sea. Our troop deployment to Poland should be fed by military cooks but has not been able to. We were originally fed by Poland but now troops have to go restaurants and then put in a claim to be reimbursed.

We are also supposed to have 2200 troops in Poland. The army's strength is 44,000 which includes both Regular and Reserve numbers. At the end of the Second World War, Canada had the fourth largest air force and the fifth largest navy. Our army had its own beach at D-Day beside the two each for the U.S. and Britain, and made more inland progress than the other two countries. Think back to the last few elections. Do you remember the word 'military' coming up in any of them by any party? This also affects our standing in the world. More and more, Canada is being ignored when new defence

alliances and joint procurement plans are made by our allies. We have promised to bring our military spending up to the NATO minimum of two per cent of GDP. We sit at or near the bottom of countries that should be meeting this target. I believe the political parties should be challenged both now and in the next election as to their specific plans to deal with these issues. What is the plan to deal with the shortage of personnel and equipment? Don't want to hear how they love the military. Another way to show our military we appreciate their service, if you have a business, is to offer a mili-

tary discount and make it known that you do. In the U.S., military personnel have a lounge in airports. And all of us can thank them for their service when we see them. So honour our fallen by wearing a poppy and attending a Remembrance Day ceremony this Saturday. But also honour our current military personnel by ensuring our current and future governments know that Canadians need and support an effective military. Write your current MP and challenge all the political parties during the next election as to their vision and action plans for the military. **Doug Johnson**
Virgil

— *Local* LETTERS Speed camera to be installed at Crossroads —

An update on the soon-to-be-installed speed camera in Virgil: I had earlier protested the installation as it is historically proven to be an inefficient method of speed control in our communities. It has proven to be a

cash grab by the government, another way to add a tax to our already overburdened tax system. This location will be receiving its camera in January. It will be one of four owned by the region and currently in use at other

locations. These four communities have been complaining to the region about these cameras all fall, since they were installed. It is the intention of the region to move these cameras around to ensure a maxi-

mum opportunity to grab as much money as it can. This suggests that the argument of installing these cameras is to provide a more secure community is less than sincere. If their argument were sincere they would leave the cam-

era in place to ensure maximum effectiveness. The best solution for "locals" during this period while the camera is in operation is to bypass this area and use the back roads, putting more pressure on those back roads

and further disrupting those communities, just as we have been doing during the construction process in Virgil. Let the tourists pay for this safety solution. **Derek Insley**
NOTL

Survey will quantify need for seniors' housing options

Penny Coles
The Local

Before the last municipal election in 2022, Cindy Grant, then chair of Niagara-on-the-Lake's first community wellness committee, asked the town to make housing for seniors a priority.

At the time, she told councillors that seniors looking for appropriate options when they were ready to downsize were having to leave town to find the kind of housing they required — as much as they wanted to stay in NOTL, there was nothing that fit their needs.

The wellness committee has not been revived this term of council, which Grant says is likely for the best — town staff have more than enough to do. However, last spring, she and a group of locals began meeting and deciding to take it upon themselves to quantify the need for seniors' housing, and explore what kind of alternatives they are looking for.

"This work is the genesis of that wellness committee and its recommendations to council," says Grant.

Last winter, she explains, she had dinner with Tom Smith, Sandy Hardy and Bill Halpenny, and they got talking about the issue of serious housing needs. "We asked ourselves 'why not take the bull by the horns, get together and do something about this.'"



Terry Mactaggart, Fran Boot, Cindy Grant, Al Bisback and Peggy Walker are part of an ad hoc committee looking into whether seniors' housing is a problem, and if so, how to solve it. (Penny Coles)

When they all agreed, and started talking further about it, they realized that first "we have to quantify the problem," she says.

Others came on board, including Robert Bader, Al Bisback, Fran Boot, Cindy Grant, Terry Mactaggart, Sandra O'Connor, Tim Taylor and Peggy Walker.

Taylor reached out to NOTL residents Steve Ferley and Michael Ennamorato, survey research professionals with extensive national senior management experience in building, mounting and analyzing opinion surveys, who have volunteered their time and expertise, and have already created the survey.

Taylor also knew of a Niagara College School of Business analytics program and brought faculty head Nick Farnel and his graduate students on board to

help shape the survey questions into an online tool, explains Ennamorato, and who will work with him and Ferley to collect and analyze the results.

The survey will be conducted with the support of The Local and The Lake Report newspapers, says Grant, with committee members hoping to engage those 55 and older through a comprehensive survey to address their needs.

"We want to create a quantifiable data base and make the best effort to represent the population we're talking about. The survey is the building block for that rock solid data base," Ennamorato told The Local.

At this point, until the surveys are completed and the data analyzed, "we know there is the potential of an issue" in seniors' housing, says Grant.

All the information gathered so far that indicates there is a need for more housing options for NOTL seniors is anecdotal, she stresses, although Ennamorato and Ferley met with focus groups to talk about age-related housing needs.

They learned that people who have lived in a number of places, and have no mobility issues, have more choices than others who are more attached to their NOTL community, and for whom leaving it would be "highly problematic," says Ennamorato.

"I can rhyme off six or more individuals or couples who don't want to stay in their single family homes," adds Grant. "It's too much maintenance for them. They don't want to leave town, but there are too few options. So they're moving

out of town, with tears in their eyes because they don't want to leave their social groups or their community."

"They're forced to make a trade-off," adds Ennamorato. "We want to be able to quantify how many are going through this."

The survey is expected to run from mid-November until the end of the year, using QR code and URL (link) access in the newspapers. Posters will also be placed in high-traffic areas to encourage survey completion.

Grant says provisions will be made for seniors without Internet access to fill out the surveys at the NOTL Library, and she is offering to meet them there to help out.

Committee members have also met with town planning director Kirsten McCauley, and with regional housing representatives to discuss their plans, says Grant, "all of which lends some legitimacy to what we're doing."

The survey results, she adds, will determine next steps. "That will tell us if this is just an issue that is anecdotal, or a real systemic issue. Where we go next will depend on the survey."

Ennamorato says they will be satisfied with 400 completed surveys, but "given that this is an issue that should resonate, we're hoping the response is higher."

Looking ahead to a time when they are armed with the results, they can begin looking for solutions.

The survey, Ennamorato says, "will undoubtedly confirm some of what we expect, but there may also be some surprises."

They will make presentations to council, share their information with the region, and should the survey show the need for more housing options that are appropriate for seniors, they can approach local developers, showing them the number of people "who feel strongly that this is an issue, and ask them 'by the way, what are you going to do about it,'" Grant says.

Ennamorato adds, "from a development point of view, it may demonstrate there is an economic opportunity for them."

It's also a quality of life issue, he says, and a health issue, involving both physical and mental well-being.

The survey results "will tell a story, often an emotional story. We want to look at the data base and tell its story."

No personally identifying information will be collected; all data will be anonymized, kept confidential and protected by industry-standard data protection and security mechanisms. Information will be reported in aggregate form only.

Duplicate surveys will be identified and eliminated.

For additional information, contact Cindy Grant at 905-468-7498 or via email at grantcis347@gmail.com.

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Cornerstone teens collect 1,200 bags of food for Newark Neighbours

Sharon Burns
The Local

The senior youth group at Cornerstone Community Church collected nearly as much food as last year, however, this year the food has been donated to Newark Neighbours Food Bank.

"We historically have worked with St. Catharines Community Care, but this year, we knew that Newark Neighbours is a local group and they have a new location, and they can handle a large amount of food," said youth ministry director Michael Reimer.

Reimer said the youth group decided to keep their food drive local, in "our own community, where our church is, so that we can serve people around us."

For Newark Neighbours board chair Cindy Grant, this "ensures that we have sufficient supply of food to fill the Christmas hampers."

"It's beyond wonderful," she said.

The hampers will be handed out to the food bank's registered clients, added Grant. "We always do manage to fill them, but sometimes it's a bit of a scramble at the end to make sure we've got enough. However, when we get into January and February and

March, these things start to tail off and then you know we start to scramble a bit. I'm quite confident with what we've received already we are not going to have that problem. After Christmas we are still going to be able to have full shelves."

About 60 teens in the senior youth group organized bags, stapled instructions to them and then dropped them off to 1,200 homes in the Virgil area. Over the past three years, they have increased the number of bags from 500, then 800 and 1,000 bags last year.

"On Halloween night, we go around and pick up the filled bags that are out on porches," said Reimer, "while the teens trick or treat."

"It's great that we have youth who want to be able to serve," he added.

Youth group member Keza Hiebert looks forward to the food drive every year, not because it's fun running around town, but because it's such a great and easy opportunity to help people. "I really hope we as teenagers are setting the example of God's love for this generation," Hiebert says.

"It's amazing to see the community come together and give generously to such an amazing cause," agrees group member Hudson



A youth group from Cornerstone Church helped collect a lot of food for the Newark Neighbours food bank — enough to fill Christmas hampers and stock shelves into the new year. (Supplied)

Dyck. "It's such a blessing to be part of the process and be able to show gods love to others in that way."

Last year the teens gathered more than 4,000 pounds of food. Newark Neighbours does not have the technology to weigh incoming donations, but Reimer thinks they collected the same, or more.

"It's an amazing amount," he said. "The communi-

ty filled for us again, and we're just the people who go around and collect. It's actually a community thing."

"It is such a unique experience being able to give back to the community that you live in and show God's love through your work," said group member Noah Whyte.

"Serving my community means embracing a shared responsibility we have to come together and serve

those in need," added Brody Hall. "This is our way as a church to extend Jesus' hand of provision to those who might have less on their plate. Serving my community means showing the love of Jesus through acts of kindness like the food drive."

The senior youth group gathers twice a week. On Tuesdays, the senior Youth Bible Study meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The regular senior

youth program meets on Fridays from 7 to 9:30 p.m. High school students are welcome to join any evening at their town campus, 1570 Niagara Stone Road. Details can be found at ccchurch.ca.

As the holiday season approaches, Grant said the community can still support families and individuals in need with the donation of food and toys. "Just keep it coming," she said.

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Daniel Smeenck to talk about autism and adults

Author will be at library Thursday

Sharon Burns
The Local

Author Daniel Smeenck will be speaking at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library this Thursday about his book, *Autistic Adults: Exploring the Forgotten End of the Spectrum*, a subject he understands from first-hand experience.

Diagnosed with being on the autism spectrum at age three, and reassessed at 11 years old, Smeenck discovered that his experience of being an autistic adult varied greatly from that of autistic adults a generation before.

“A huge difference between me and them was that I’ve known my entire life that I was autistic. They could not have known because the knowledge

of autism and the diagnostic labels which came to them were not available yet.”

“The majority of autistic people are autistic adults,” said Smeenck, and “a lot of people don’t know enough about that.”

Smeenck found little research focussed on adult autism, and most service providers support autistic children. “It’s actually broadly agreed upon, certainly within the autistic community, that the cut-off date for services for autistic adults is age 18,” he said.

In his book, Smeenck explores behaviour which “sometimes may be excused a little bit more in children because people expect children to be, and I put this in quotes, ‘immature.’”

“But autistic adults are often not given the benefit of the

doubt,” he continues, “because we typically expect adults to be more mature.”

Whether or not that person may be autistic or is neurodiverse in some other way, because of how they behave around other people, “they still get a lot of the judgement and rejection.”

Smeenck, a St. Catharines resident, has a degree in history and political science. He started his career in journalism as a PR writer, and began writing this book during COVID.

“The thing that initially got me writing about the subject was that autism tends to run in families. It’s a highly genetic condition. And there were a lot of older people in my life who had a very different experience than me.”

Written for a popular audience, and from multiple perspectives, Smeenck’s book looks at how the needs of autistic adults are distinct from children. He offers suggestions for neurotypical people to interact positively and supportively with autistic people and also tackles concerns such as employment and public perception.

On Nov. 9, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Smeenck will give a brief overview of the book, and then open up the session for questions. “I can’t guarantee I’ll provide satisfactory answers. I don’t know everybody’s individual circumstances, but I can definitely try to help.”

Smeenck hopes his audience will leave with “an increased ability to think about the lives of autistic adults. If there is a change in awareness and acceptance of autistic adults,



Author Daniel Smeenck (Supplied)

and if more people accepted these people.” Register for this event on the library’s website, notlpubliclibrary.org.

Royalty visits NOTL



Sophie, the Duchess of Edinburgh, attended a service of remembrance held in St. Catharines Sunday, followed by a special performance by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Association Band. She was in Niagara for the Duchess of Edinburgh competition hosted by the Lincoln and Welland Regiment in St. Catharines, which has military groups compete in mental and physical military challenges. Sunday evening, a gala was held at Queen’s Landing Inn, which Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa attended with his wife Tammy, Dorothy Soo-Wiens and Deputy Lord Mayor Erwin Wiens. Zalepa said those in attendance were “discouraged” from taking photos of the Duchess. MPP Wayne Gates was also at the event, and is shown with Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and St. Catharines MPP Jennie Stevens. (Supplied)

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Save Haven for youth in St. Davids is back

Penny Coles
The Local

A St. Davids church has opened its doors again to provide a Safe Haven for teens, offering a gathering place twice a month on Friday evenings, for kids from Grades 6 to 12.

A.N. Myer Secondary School student Maya Gazzard is one of the teens who has taken part in the youth group from its beginning and helped to organize it at St. Davids-Queenston United Church on York Road.

It began last spring, took a break over the summer and now, Maya says, she has taken on the role of publicizing the group to build up attendance again, and is encouraging youth to give it a try.

Recently, Maya received a prestigious volunteer award from the Toronto Council of Churches for youth leadership in the church, for her help in getting the group off the ground — her award was one of 12 issued in Ontario.

And she is continuing to help build the group, by raising awareness of what it offers.

“We’ve come a long way” from when it began last spring, she says, and it will continue to offer more activities as it grows, which the young people attending seem to enjoy. They’ve had a session on origami, and are planning a baking activity. There is a ping-pong table for kids to use, a Nintendo and video games, musical instruments for those who would like to play, as well as a quiet corner.

Maya says there are plans to organize some outdoor activities as more kids show up.

The Grade 12 student is using social media to promote the drop-in centre, hoping to make more kids aware of it.

“When I was younger we didn’t have this. I wanted a safe place to hang out and talk and do activities, and that’s what this growing to be.”

When Rev. YongSeok Baek was hired at the church, he was enthusiastic about helping young people, and also about community outreach. He supported the youth centre in his belief that “kids need a time and place just for them, and we wanted



St. Davids-Queenston United Church Rev. YongSeok Baek, youth supervisor Sue Fos, and youth group founding member Maya Gazzard prepare for an origami session with the youth group. (Supplied)

to provide that — a positive, open space for them.”

He stresses that although it’s located at the church, it isn’t necessary to belong to the church, nor is it about religion.

“It’s just about the kids having somewhere to feel they’re safe.”

He doesn’t like to think of them hanging out at the mall, or gathering at the playground after dark because they have nowhere else to go.

“The church has a responsibility to serve the local community, not only for its members but for everybody, and this is a good way to connect with the community.”

Safe Haven is at 1453 York Rd., St. Davids, the first and third Friday of every month, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Christmas arrived early in St. Davids



The annual St. Davids & District Lioness Lions Branch Club Christmas Market was held Saturday at their York Road hall, which included a nickel table, a bake sale and a variety of vendors, with proceeds going back to the community. Organizers Janet Orr, Anna Marie Warriner and Sandy Tee welcomed visitors, while Lion Kim Typer was one of vendors with her Norway table. It was well-attended, they said, and they are already talking about their Spring Market returning this year, with more vendors than ever and lots of room to spread out in the York Road park. (Penny Coles)



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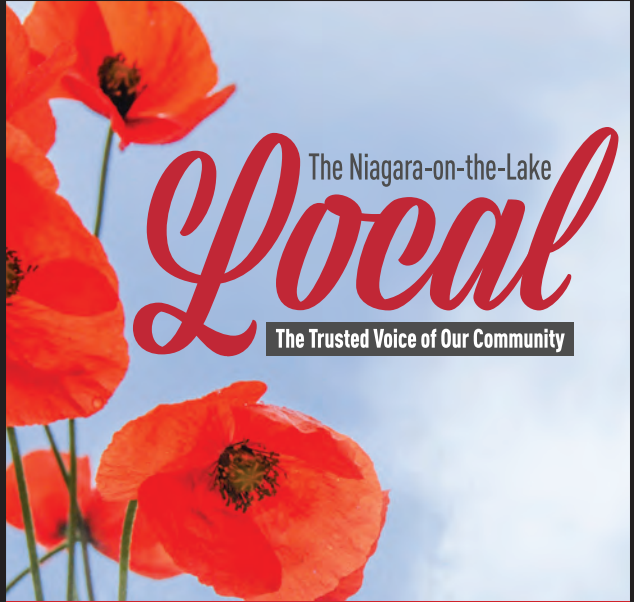


**Camerata
Silvestre Revueltas**
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Antonio García-Aguilar // Conductor
Juan Pablo Vera // Violinist

Saturday, November 11
St. Marks Church
41 Byron St.
Niagara-on-the-Lake
11:30 h
Donations to the Last Post Fund

Saturday, November 11
Grace United Church
222 Victoria St.
Niagara-on-the-Lake
16:00 h
Donations to the Last Post Fund



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November 11 Old Town Cenotaph

6:00 am

Cadet vigil starts. Cadets will follow protocols as listed in their operations order.

9:30 am

Queen Street closed to vehicular traffic.

10:50 am

Play *O Canada*, followed by a prayer.
Reading of *In Flanders Fields*.

11:00 am

Play *Last Post*, lower flag to half mast.
Play *Rouse*, raise the flag, and the Legion banner will return to its original place.
Remarks from Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa.
Official Wreaths placed followed by wreaths for families and institutions.
Benediction.
Play *God Save The King*.
The gathering departs.

November 11 Queenston Cenotaph

1:00 pm

Members will gather on the lawn in front of the Cenotaph, official dignitaries will gather along Queenston Street.

1:05 pm

Play *O Canada*, followed by a prayer.

1:10 pm

Play *Last Post*, lower the flag to half mast.

1:12 pm

Play *Rouse*, the flag is raised.
The Act of Remembrance.
Remarks from M.P.P. Wayne Gates.

1:14 pm

Official Wreaths placed followed by wreaths for families and institutions.
Benediction.

1:30 pm

Play *God Save The King*.
The gathering departs.



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Remembrance Day



In Flanders Fields


by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.








NOVEMBER 2-13, 2023

The NOTL Poppy Project

Outdoor installations of knitted, crocheted and fabric poppies at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (43 Castlereagh Street), the Niagara District Courthouse (26 Queen Street), and Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124 (410 King Street).





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NOTL schools make their mark on Region snowplows



The winning team from St. Michael Catholic Elementary School pose with Coun. Adriana Vizzari, Anthony Vani from Niagara Region, Coun. Erwin Wiens, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa and teacher Julie Scaletti (far right). (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Mike Balsom
The Local

When the snow begins to accumulate on the roads (face it, it's going to happen), students of three Niagara-on-the-Lake elementary schools will be proudly watching the plows clear the mess.

The principals of Crossroads, St. Davids and St. Michael schools all jumped at the chance to involve their students in the Niagara Re-

gion's first ever Paint A Plow initiative. Region trucks dropped a snowplow off at each location about three weeks ago, and staff and students got busy creating their designs.

After leaving the unpainted plows behind, crews from the region returned to each school with supplies, including metal paint and pool noodles to affix to the top of the plow to ensure students could climb safely inside without hitting their

heads.

"It's a new initiative," said Anthony Vani, Niagara Region's manager of road and bridge operations and a NOTL resident. "This is our pilot year for this. We thought it would be great to foster a relationship between our team and our stakeholders in a community that we serve, and to have a bit of a friendly competition."

Last Friday, Vani squirmed Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa

and Couns. Adriana Vizzari and Erwin Wiens from school to school, where they acted as judges, evaluating the students' creativity and handiwork.

The first stop was at St. Davids Public School, where principal Carl Glauser and a group of junior students were eager to show off their dragon-themed design. It was explained that after consulting with students of various grades, it was clear there was a consensus to in-

corporate the school's mascot into the artwork.

"We spent every morning and all of our first break for the past two weeks coming out to paint our snowplow," said Grade 4-5 teacher Haley Kwiecien, who supervised the project there with Grade 5-6 teacher Erin Wilmering. "They were so pumped to think of different ideas. In the end, we wanted to show our St. Davids Public School pride and have our dragon

on our plow."

The rubber protector at the top of the St. Davids plow holds the slogan Bring the Heat, a perfect theme for those cold winter days. Kwiecien told The Local it was chosen over other phrases, including Think Warm Thoughts and Summer Will Come Soon.

"We really loved Bring the Heat," she added. "With the idea of staying warm in-

Continued on page 17



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St. Michael students' artistry wins a pizza party

Continued from page 16

side, and the fire-breathing dragon, we thought it all fit well together."

From there the judges moved on to St. Michael, where they were greeted by principal Emma Fera-Massi and Grade 6 teacher Julie Scaletta, who supervised the project.

"I went from the Grade 6 room to the Grades 7 and 8 rooms and asked all the students for their recommendations," said Scaletta. "We wanted to embody the spirit of the community, the school spirit, everything. I selected a number of students to help, they all worked individually, then they presented their ideas."

The next step was to lay out their ideas on a plow-sized piece of poster paper. At one point they had sketched an ice rink populated with skaters, but realized that would be too intricate for them to complete. Instead, an ice-skating snowman made the cut, as did a depiction of the Queen Street cenotaph, a grape vine, and the school logo. The clever slogan Catch Our Drift was painted on the bottom blade of the plow.

"Bit by bit they would come out and sketch it on," said Scaletta, "They worked through rain; one day it was snowing. They would come in and warm their hands under hot water and go right back out there. They worked right until the very end."

That was also the case at the final stop, Crossroads, where two Grade 8 students were using orange paint to put finishing touches on the rubber protector that read There's Snow Place Like Crossroads.

The Crossroads students were buzzing not just about the competition but also about having just received delivery of their grad hood-



Crossroads students pose with their plow along with the judges and two of the crew members from Niagara Region who will be operating the student-designed plows this winter.

ies. Hence the entire group was all decked out in their new attire, thankfully all devoid of any paint splashes.

The intricate coyote design stood out immediately to the judges. Vizzari was especially impressed by the way the blue animal, painted mostly by student Hanna Zhao, popped out from its orange background.

"Blue and orange are complementary colours," said art teacher Ruby Krake, the staff advisor on the project. "When you blend them you get brown. So we really had to work hard on making sure that didn't happen."

Though the students started working on the design as soon as the plow was dropped off, they admitted with a loud collective laugh that they only put brush to plow for the first time a day before the judges arrived.

"This has been an unbelievable process to witness," said principal Kate Fish. "The effort and expertise of the kids is what's truly been remarkable. We knew we had a lot of great artists here, but we never expected something like this. I shed a few tears of pride over the finished product."

Perhaps just short of tears, Vizzari, Wiens and Zalepa had similar reactions

to the work done by all three groups of students. That must have made their job as judges more difficult than they expected.

In the end, St. Michael took the top prize, narrowly beating out the other two schools. Vani explained that the students will receive a pizza party to celebrate their victory, and the region will supply them with a truck and trailer for the students to sit on while leading their winning plow through the upcoming NOTL Santa Claus Parade next month.

The snow plows were scheduled to be picked up by region trucks Monday afternoon and brought back to a central location where they will be treated with a clear coat to ensure the designs last as long as they can through the winter.

"It was an extraordinary day, showcasing an unexpected level of artistry that has truly set the bar in this event for years to come," concluded Vani.

"We got messy, and laughed a lot, and it was fun to think of new ideas," said St. Davids student Vivienne Atwood. "When people see the plow I hope they think of our school, of us making it, and about all the fun we had."



A close-up look at the winning St. Michael design.



St. Davids Public School students get a closer look at their own handiwork on their plow.

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More than 80 women nominated, with 13 award categories

Continued from page 4

Sarah Kaufman is a finalist for the second straight year. In 2022, Rima Boles of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre was the recipient.

“Rima is an amazing leader in our community so it was great to be put into a category with her,” says Kaufman. “I really appreciate the second nomination and the appreciation for the work we’re doing at the museum. It would be amazing to win but I think I am more excited to be in a room with so many women who are excelling in their field.”

Town CAO Marnie Cluckie is up for the Corporate Leadership Award, while Alyssa Waldes of White Oaks Resort and Spa, Alana Hurov of 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa, and Minerva Ward, president and CEO of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake are all finalists for the Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism Award. Ward and Hurov collaborated on an event that brought McLaren cars to Queen Street this summer.

“That speaks volumes about the spirit of collaboration over competition,” Ward says of both her and Hurov being named in the same category. “Our joint ventures have always been about elevating the experience for the visitors to Niagara-on-the-Lake, and being recognized for that effort in tandem is a great thing.”

Said Hurov, “it’s such a huge honour to be recognized at this level. I’ve only been at the hotel for about a year, but I’ve been working really hard to promote the region and the town with all of our different activities.”

Hurov plans to bring her daughter to the awards luncheon. “I want her to see that women are strong and powerful,” says Hurov. “I want her to see women who

are breaking down barriers. And of course, I want her to be proud of her mother.”

Jessie MacDonald of MAC Inc, part of the Revel Realty group that operates an office on Four Mile Creek Road, is up for awards in two categories, the Entrepreneurship Award and the Young Professional Award. Waldes joins MacDonald as well in the Young Professional category, as does Brandy Fulton, who works in HR with both Abatement Technologies and Ravine Vineyard in St. Davids.

“I’m super proud to be nominated for an award,” says MacDonald. “I’m not from Niagara, but my husband (Evan) and I decided to stay in Niagara because we fell in love with it. I’m proud to be a part of the community here.”

MacDonald, a former world champion wrestler, says her 20 years in the sport has translated well to her post-competition career in real estate.

“I learned about dedication and sacrifice, and time management,” says MacDonald. “And there’s the competitive edge, always facing challenges. In business, I’m motivated by working hard and seeing a reward for the effort that I put in. It’s in my blood.”

Stephanie Lakeit-Hall is also a finalist for the Entrepreneurship Award. She is a NOTL native whose family runs Caroline Cellars on Line 2. Since 2019, Lakeit-Hall has been the principal of a company called SH Consulting Group, offering human resources services to small- to medium-sized businesses.

“I actually got involved in it because of the winery, to help my parents,” says Lakeit-Hall. “From there I started to help other businesses as well, small businesses that can’t afford to have full-time HR on staff.”

“It’s very exciting,” she added about the nomination.

tion. “I’m very honoured and very grateful to be recognized for all of the work we’ve done in the community helping small businesses.”

Also being honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the event is NOTL resident and veteran broadcaster Valerie Pringle. As well, Deborah Rosati, founder and CEO of Women Get On Board Inc., an 850-member social-purpose company, will receive the 2023 Ruth Unrau Legacy Award. It is given annually to a woman who has lifted up female entrepreneurs through her work and support.

The Niagara Women in Business Awards will be announced at a lunch-time ceremony on Nov. 16 at the Marriott on the Falls in Niagara Falls.

2023 Niagara Women in Business Awards Finalists:

Business that Gives Back Award

- TD
- Dwyer-Hamilton Paralegal Services
- Corks and Bubbles Inc.

Community Impact Award

- Angela Casucci, Meridian Credit Union
- Beth Fleeton, CAA Niagara
- Caterina Ficano, Royal LePage
- Juliet Dunn, TD Niagara Jazz Festival
- Lise Andreana, Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
- Melissa Debeau, Skycomp Solutions Inc.
- Pam Lilley, MNP
- Rochelle Ivri, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Corporate Leadership Award

- Amanda Buonocore-Kish, Walker Industries
- Caitlin Armstrong,

Meridian Credit Union

- Carolyn Ryan, YourTV Niagara
- Cassandra Ogunniyi, Niagara Region
- Chandra Sharma, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
- Deidre Miller, Niagara Falls Convention Centre
- Fiona Peacefull, Niagara Health
- Marnie Cluckie, Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
- Pam Lilley, MNP
- Serina Carbone, DeSantis Homes
- Tracy Feor, General Motors Canada

Cultural Arts Award

- Gina Schafrick, These Architects Inc.
- Jean Bridge, Rodman Art Institute of Niagara
- Sarah Kaufman, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (Niagara Historical Society)
- Sonia Aimy, African Women Acting AWA

Emerging Business Award

- Angela Browne, INVICTUS LEGAL LLP
- Carrie Elefante, Nibbleez Boards Platters Catering & More
- Devon Elcomb, Pressed In Time
- Emily Barrett, Mosaic Psychotherapy Collective
- Gabrielle Smith, Fix My Books Inc.
- Michelle Gadula, Starnotch Costume and Garment Design
- Stacey Stemplowski, Grounding Balance Wellness & Psychotherapy

Entrepreneurship Award

- Britt Dixon, Britt Dixon Creative
- Debi Katsmar, PRowl Communications
- Dr. Daniela DiPaola, Impact Health
- Dunya Alhaddad, Oemchem

- Jessie MacDonald, MAC Inc
- Kelly Frechette, Board Boss Drywall
- Lesley Calvin, Positive Forward Motion
- Lori McDonald, Provisions Food Company
- Stephanie Lakeit-Hall, SH Consulting Group

Equity Entrepreneur Award

- Gabrielle Smith, Fix My Books Inc.
- Neska Morrison, Annessi Beauty Salon
- Sharon Corcoran, Corks and Bubbles Inc.

Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism Award

- Alana Hurov, 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa
- Allysha Howse, Topsy Theory
- Alyssa Waldes, White Oaks Resort and Spa
- Eileen Tinio-Hind, NF4U Hospitality Services
- Makayla Van-Helsdingen, Calamus Estate Winery
- Melissa Sauer, Niagara Parks Commission
- Minerva Ward, Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
- Whitney Rorison, Dillon’s Small Batch Distillers

Excellence in the Not-for-Profit Sector Award

- Alicia Merry, Hospice Niagara
- Andrea Scott, Niagara Health Foundation
- Christine Clark Lafleur, Port Cares
- Deanna D’Elia, YMCA of Niagara
- Lorrey Arial-Bonilla, Early Childhood Community Development
- Nicole Regehr, Gillian’s Place
- Shauna MacLeod, Willow Arts Community
- Tracy Geoffroy, Hotel Dieu Shaver

Excellence in Trades Award

- Kaitlyn Simpson, Safe Tree Ltd.
- Katie Clarkson,

R2G Construction Inc.

- Shelley Parker, Alectra Utilities

Health Care Hero Award

- Jennifer Hansen, Hotel Dieu Shaver Health & Rehabilitation Centre
- Julie Christiansen, Julie Christiansen Counselling & Psychotherapy (Spa for the Soul)
- Karen Lutz, Niagara Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Award

- Bobbie Thoman, NOCO Energy Corp. and Stratum
- Darby McGrath, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre
- Hillary Kumm, General Motors
- Mariana Garrido de Castro, Kytos

Young Professional Award

- Alyssa Stuppiello, DDL & Co.
- Alyssa Waldes, White Oaks Resort and Spa
- Brandy Fulton, Abatement Technologies Limited and Ravine Vineyard Estates Winery
- Brianna Aymar, Goldie’s Museum
- Brianne Bradley, Beattie Stationery Limited
- Emily Barrett, Mosaic Psychotherapy Collective
- Emily De Sousa, Seaside with Emily
- Erin Hagar, SunOpta Inc.
- Jessie MacDonald, MAC Inc.
- Jordan Saksena, The Kesh Group - Royal LePage NRC Realty
- Kaitlin Vandenbosch, Bench Brewing Company
- Krystal Riddell, Essentials Cremation and Burial Services Inc.
- Marissa Stones, YMCA of Niagara
- Nicki Lumsden, The Niagara Sold by Kate Team at Remax Niagara





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Growers say tonnes of grapes will rot on the ground

Rick VanSickle
Wines in Niagara

The 360-degree view, 20 feet above the vines on a blue-sky harvest day in Niagara is a feeling of pure bliss as the hulking harvester straddles a row of ripe Gamay grapes at the Huebel Grapes Estates home vineyard in Niagara-on-the-Lake and makes quick work of stripping the vines of their precious bounty.

The mechanical harvester is shockingly efficient and can pick, destem and sort grapes on board before offloading to vats enroute to the press for processing.

I'm riding shotgun with pilot Liam Barrett and Jessica Oppenlaender Solanki is outside the cab behind us as we zip up and down the rows of Gamay. I've witnessed countless harvests in Niagara and other wine regions around the world, but never from a perspective such as this. Today was a good day.

Touring the family's Creek Road Vineyard with Alison and Jessica, you can feel the pride in the family's latest endeavour in winemaking. The plump Gamay grapes that will become part of the 2023 vintage of Liebling wines are ready for picking, and two special rows have been set aside for the project.

It's exciting to see the younger generation take the reins in a business that is increasingly feeling challenges, not the least of which is a looming surplus of grapes in Niagara that is sending shockwaves across the region for growers.

Growers say there are Niagara grapes worth millions of dollars sitting on the vine unsold. If buyers aren't found, and found soon, they will be cut to the ground, left to rot. What's even more shocking is the fact that the surplus comes after a shortfall just a vintage ago.

For Huebel and the Oppenlaender family, a well-run, successful business with most of its 400 acres of grapes

contracted to the larger wine companies in Ontario, they, too, have felt the squeeze on grapes.

"It does impact our business as well," said Matthias, mostly with some of the company's rented vineyard properties. But he fears if things don't change quickly, some contracts might not get renewed in the future.

The Grape Growers of Ontario, an organization that represents grape growers farming more than 18,000 acres of vineyards and sets the price of grapes, is deeply concerned over the surplus, the largest glut since 2008 when 8,000 tonnes went unsold.

Wines in Niagara interviewed GGO CEO Debbie Zimmerman, chair and former Grape King Matthias Oppenlaender, and market analyst Mary Jane Combe last Friday. The problems and the solutions are complicated and there are no easy fixes.

The Ontario wine industry is at a crossroads, with declining sales, changing consumer habits and the expanding zero-alcohol market. Upcoming decisions being made at Queen's Park by Doug Ford and his government is the wild card that will either help or hinder growth for grape growers and estate wineries.

"The future seems uncertain," said a frustrated Zimmerman. She points to market share at the LCBO stuck at 7.3 per cent for Ontario VQA wines, with the number only rising to 12.1 per cent overall for all VQA wine sales. The rest of the market is imports at 55.6 per cent and IDB (International Domestic Blends, which can contain as little as 25 per cent Ontario grapes) at 32.3 per cent.

Zimmerman and Oppenlaender feel that the uncertainty about where the market is heading is the main factor why wineries aren't purchasing more grapes for their productions, creating the surplus.

As one grower, who asked not to be identified, told me,



The Oppenlaenders take a break in the vineyard. The next generation of the family is leading a new virtual brand. (Rick VanSickle)

"Sales are down but that is not the full reason for the surplus. The feds and province had to rethink their programs (due to the world trade challenge) that encouraged the blenders (the larger Ontario wine companies such as Peller and Arterra) to put 100 per cent Ontario product in the IDB bottles," he said. "These re-thinks have taken the benefit away and now the blenders are going back to 25/75 (25 per cent Ontario, 75 per cent foreign) blends. This has put a lot of grapes in surplus with many more coming as grape supply contracts mature and are not renewed. I believe the last time there were 5,000-tonne surpluses the province and the federal government came up with programs to encourage purchases, and it was great for the industry for 11 years."

A consortium of wine industry associations recently joined forces to lobby the Ontario government to make profound changes to right the ship for wineries and growers alike. To achieve that, many

factors would have to be enacted for the strategy to ever be successful. Some of key takeaways:

- The tax burden on Ontario wine is too high: Ontario's wine industry is the most heavily taxed in the world. Ontario's wine producers also don't have direct delivery privileges in their own markets. What's more, leading wine jurisdictions from around the world receive billions of dollars in subsidies.
- Retail expansion must be done right or else it threatens the future of Ontario wine and further supports heavily subsidized, foreign wineries: The GDP impact of a private retail model on domestic wine sales and tourism was estimated to be a negative \$760 million in GDP at year 10 after retail expansion, before indirect and induced effects.
- The LCBO holds the future of the domestic wine industry in its hands. It must make the domestic industry its priority — or stunt its growth: The market share for Ontario wines has remained relatively



Rick VanSickle says he feels like the king of the world as he tours Oppenlaender vineyards. (Alison Oppenlaender)

flat over the last 20 years. A major contributing factor is the lack of representation on LCBO shelves. If the Ontario wine market share by sales (33 per cent) increased to that of B.C.'s market share (47 per cent), it could provide \$800 million in additional GDP over a 10-year period to Ontario's economy

Zimmerman and Oppenlaender also point to other factors that need to be addressed:

- A 6.1 per cent "sin" tax levied on every bottle of VQA wine, but not on imported wines, sold in the province must be eliminated permanently.
- The LCBO can do much more for Ontario wineries. "Right now, Ontario wines are treated like an import," said Zimmerman.
- Reform the way Ontario wines are sold in Ontario with a model based on the B.C. retail system, with a permanent and uncapped VQA and 100 per cent Ontario wine support program.

That last point is critical,

said Zimmerman: Ontario wines are not imported products and should not be treated as such.

In the short-term, Zimmerman and Oppenlaender know the GGO must be better communicators with grape growers.

Zimmerman said the organization is "working on a varietal plan that will help guide the future" for growers. "We want to make sure we're planting the right varietals. We need to fix the market for the long-term."

The GGO has also floated the idea to both B.C., which has a shortfall of grapes, and Nova Scotia to see if the surplus of Ontario grapes can benefit them and help Ontario growers at the same time. That solution comes with its own challenges, but every avenue is being explored to prevent as few grapes as they can from rotting on the ground.

"We're still looking at things we could do," Oppenlaender said, but one thing is certain: "Failure is not an option."

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Music Niagara offering two Remembrance Day concerts

Mike Balsom
The Local

Music Niagara Festival rekindles a long-standing relationship with Mexico's Conservatorio de Musica y Artes de Celaya this Remembrance Day.

The Conservatorio's Silvestre Revueltas Chamber Orchestra will perform two concerts this Saturday, Nov. 11. The first, at St. Mark's Anglican Church, will immediately follow the annual cenotaph ceremony on Queen Street, while a second performance at 4 p.m. will be held at Grace United Church.

The two shows wrap up a whirlwind week for the youth orchestra, one of the most important orchestral ensembles in their region.

Conservatorio directora general Aurora Cardenas Avila checks in with The Local via phone from Ottawa, where the 21 musicians, conducted by Antonio Garcia-Aguilar, are to perform for the Mexican Embassy Monday at the First Baptist Church in the capital city.

"We are so excited that the ambassador (Carlos Manuel Joaquin Gonzalez) will be at the concert," says Cardenas Avila. "After that, we will go to Toronto for a concert at St. James Cathedral. That same day we head to Oakville for an artistic exchange with some students there. Then it's back to Toronto to perform at Beaches Presbyterian Church."

Cardenas Avila says the cultural exchange between Conservatorio de Musica y Artes de Celaya and Music Niagara has been ongoing for about seven years. Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas often travels to Mexico to work with students from across the country at Celaya. In turn, Conservatorio students have visited Niagara-



The Silvestre Revueltas Chamber Orchestra, a youth orchestra from Mexico, will be performing two free concerts in NOTL Saturday. (Supplied)



Musicians from Conservatorio de Musica y Artes de Celaya. (Supplied)

on-the-Lake frequently in past years to contribute to festival performances.

Over its 30 year existence, the Conservatorio has established itself as a hotbed of music professionals who join as performers and teachers in various government and private projects. Its student body consists of musicians aged 16 to 25 years old from 27 municipalities in the state of Guanajuato and 18 states in the Mexican Republic.

Over 1,1000 students

are part of a multi-faceted program at the Conservatorio, which operates as a non-profit organization.

"We have three different areas," Cardenas Avila explains. "The first is our professional education, then we have extension programs for kids from five years old to 18, and we have social projects in multiple areas, where we run community orchestras and choirs. We are a very big organization."

Besides the Silvestre Revueltas Chamber Orchestra, Cardenas Avila also

oversees a youth symphonic band, a youth symphony, a mariachi ensemble, a guitar ensemble and a youth choir. Two days after their NOTL performances, some of the chamber musicians will be performing back home as part of a string quartet at the Festival Internacional De Musica De Morelia.

"It's one of the most important music festivals in Mexico," adds Cardenas Avila. "And we're back there three days later with the chamber orchestra af-

ter another concert on the 14th in Celaya, our city."

The St. Mark's program Saturday, expected to start at approximately 11:30 a.m., will see the Mexican musicians paying tribute with the soul-stirring music of Mozart and Bartok, while Bankas himself will perform *The Lark Ascending*, a captivating work for violin and orchestra written in 1914 by the English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams. In addition, actor Guy Bannerman will share soldiers' stories from the

memoirs of war veterans.

As in previous years, a cup of soup will be served to guests upon arrival, generously donated by The Sandtrap Pub and Grill.

Later, at Grace United Church at 4 p.m., there will be more Mozart, as the Silvestre Revueltas Chamber Orchestra will perform a full concert for Music Niagara as the sun sets on Remembrance Day.

Both concerts are free, but donations will be accepted to support the cultural celebration.

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Harvest Classic hockey tourney huge success for Wolves

Mike Balsom
The Local

By all metrics, last weekend's annual Harvest Classic Hockey Tournament hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Association was a huge success.

Arenas packed with rep hockey players, their parents, grandparents and siblings? Check.

A total of 36 teams in six divisions, including four from NOTL, descended upon both the Meridian Credit Union and Centennial Arenas Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with a 70-game schedule.

Both lobbies were filled with players and supporters between games, and fans had to gingerly step around massive piles of equipment bags to make their way to observation spots at ice level. Of course, pauses were necessary when passing young players practising stickhandling moves before heading onto the ice.

Players and parents flocked to the photo station, checking out action shots from games just completed. Raffle tickets were purchased by many, and the lineups at the concession stand were constant but fast-moving.

A strong showing by the host club? Check.

Under head coach Devon Neudorf, the U18 Wolves made a run at their age group's championship at the tournament. Though Friday began with a 2-0 loss to New Hamburg, they bounced back to take an early lead against Lambeth later that same day and held them off for a 5-4 victory. Their 6-1 win over Twin Centre Saturday afternoon put them in the semi-final against the Saugeen Shores Storm.

The Meridian Credit Union arena was packed for that game, which saw end-to-end play to no avail for either team in the first period. Then, with 2:40 left to play in the second, Noah Whyte skated around the Storm net and was able to tuck the puck past the Storm's goaltender to put the Wolves on the board.

But just 24 seconds into the third period Saugeen Shores found a way to beat NOTL goalie Quintin Davis on a rebound to tie it up.

Regulation ended in a 1-1 tie, and neither team scored in the five-minute overtime. The game then went to a shootout to decide the victor. Dylan Price was up first for the Wolves and he quickly beat the Storm goaltender. Saugeen Shores missed their first two penalty shots, but tied it up on their third and final shot to force extra shots. Whyte and Logan Rossi were both stopped on their attempts, and

the Storm finally netted the winner on their fifth attempt, going on to win the tournament championship in that age group.

The U13 and U15 teams both went 0-3 in pool play and finished last in their divisions. The U11 Wolves lost 3-0 to Lambeth and 9-2 to Mooretown Friday, but turned things around and dropped South Grenville 5-2 Saturday. That wasn't enough, however, to move them into the semis.

Evenly matched teams and close games? Check.

Though there were a few lopsided scores during pool play, it's clear from the results games that the 36 teams involved were seeded correctly.

"There were five semi-finals that went to overtime," says tournament convenor James Cadeau. "Four of those went to a shootout, too. Many games throughout the tournament ended in ties or were decided by one or two goals. The teams were very well-matched."

The only hitch with all the overtime was an extended wait for the next games to take place. The semi-final between NOTL and Saugeen Shores scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. but was delayed by at least 90 minutes.

Tournaments are supposed to bring in revenue for their hosts. Check.

Though treasurer Phil Leboudec was still working on the final count, he's sure this year's tournament will be a money-maker for the Wolves.

"The barbecue did extremely well this year," says Leboudec, "and we were able to open the concession stand for the first time since COVID. That complemented the barbecue nicely."

The Harvest Classic continues to grow in popularity. Registration filled up fast and the club ended up turning away an additional 20 teams.

"We increased our registration fees a bit this year," says Leboudec, who also refereed a few games during the weekend, "and that should add a bit to our bottom line, too."

A team of volunteers working hard to make things go smoothly? Check, check and double check.

This weekend marked Cadeau's debut as tournament convenor for the Wolves, and by all accounts he did a bang-up job.

For Cadeau, it was trial by fire, but club president Peter Flynn, vice president Joe Pagnotta, volunteer coordinator Carrie Plaskett, registrar Peggy Braun, public relations director Tana Fera-Vangent and equipment manager Glen Davis were close by for the bulk



NOTL Minor Hockey president Pete Flynn manning the barbecue, a popular place to be. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



The U13 Wolves against Listowel in game 2 of the Harvest Classic.



The Wolves U15 against Ilderton in their game 1 of the Harvest Classic.



Nicholas Munera in the Harvest Classic U18 Wolves semi-final against Saugeen Shores.

of the weekend to offer advice and assistance.

"I think I was there for about 15 hours each day," says Cadeau. "But I had to leave Saturday to coach my U18 house league team in Thorold. We won, by the way. Then I came right back here to the tournament."

Cadeau, who with his wife Erinn Lockhard runs Sweets and Swirls at the NOTL Community Centre and the arena concession stand, credits the phalanx of volunteers, including house league hockey players, parents and other board members, for the tour-

namment running so smoothly.

"A few things came up, and there was a learning curve for sure," says Cadeau, "but everyone was there to help deal with any problems that arose. And the arena staff was great. We had a bit of an issue with the ice Sunday morning and they were right on it."

Young volunteer scorekeepers were moving in and out of the office picking up and dropping off iPads, used to keep a live scoresheet during each game. The system allowed visitors to the Wolves' website to see scores of games in progress and to view the

results immediately following the final whistle.

Barely fazed by any of the hitches encountered over the three days, the calm, even-keeled Cadeau seemed to be the right person for the job of tournament convenor.

"Overall it was a real positive experience, but I did take a whole page of notes," he laughs. "Things that we can do to make it better. Like maybe adding five or 10 minutes to each game to account for those overtimes, so we don't end up behind schedule."

And he'll take those notes with him into board meetings

as the hockey association gets closer to the March Break Classic, a tournament that draws 42 house league teams from across the province in different age groups. Registration for that tournament is already full.

Cadeau's fellow board members are looking forward to working with him on that next big event.

"It's the first time that this group has managed this," says Leboudec. "We did a lot of learning, and I think we did very well. It was a great team effort. We should have it all worked out for the next one."

Spec Tennis offers fun and exercise



Spec Tennis has made its return to the community centre for a third season, with play open to everyone on Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. The game is easy to learn and lots of fun, says organizer Rosemary Goodwin. Skills and scoring are similar to tennis, and the smaller court and slower balls make for a game that provides fun and exercise to a wide range of players. With a fee of \$5, equipment provided and a convenient location in our beautiful community centre, "it's win-win-win," says Goodwin. Spectators are welcome, and more information is available at rosemarygoodwin@mac.com. (Supplied)

LocalSPORTS

Predators face tough test against number one team this weekend

Mike Balsom
The Local

On the heels of their fourth loss in a row, Niagara Predators head coach Kevin Taylor is looking for answers. And with a home-and-home series coming up against the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League's only remaining undefeated team, he needs those answers fast. With the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Association hosting their annual Harvest Classic Tournament this weekend, the Preds had a rare

Friday night off. Perhaps that's one of the reasons they looked so rusty Saturday on the road in their 6-3 loss to the Northumberland Stars in Colborne. In all fairness, they did outshoot the Stars 47-29, but they also topped Northumberland in penalty minutes, 35-28, including a game disqualification to defenceman Gehrig Lindberg in the second period. Saturday started out well, with the Preds scoring first and the opening period ending in a 2-2 tie. But the Stars picked up two of their three power play goals in the second period en

route to the 6-3 victory. "Amazingly undisciplined," Taylor said of his team's performance Saturday night. "Just too many unnecessary penalties. We put ourselves into tough situations. As a team we just have to be better. We have to take accountability for the penalties we're taking, and the leadership has to step up more." Cam Savoie, Nicholas

Nicoletti and Rhys Jones all scored for Niagara. Sunday afternoon's game against the Ravens in St. George also began positively. "We played well in the first

period," said Taylor. "But we had a short bench on Sunday. We're putting guys into situations they are not used to being in. Our best players are playing way more minutes than they need to be playing, and doing way more than what they need to do, because we're so short." Lindberg's Saturday disqualification meant he had to sit out Sunday's game. Also in civies with injuries were Nolan Wyers, Dylan Denning, Georgy Kholmovsky, Ethan Culp and goaltender Zane Clausen.

Newly acquired goaltender Kyle Magri got his first start for the Preds in the 4-1 loss Sunday. "We put him in on Saturday after we pulled Georgii (Kodzaev)," Taylor explained. "He played well Sunday. He made the saves, but when our team is not playing 100 per cent we need a goalie to steal the win for us." Cam Savoie scored the lone Predators goal on a power play, assisted by Isaac Locker and Luca Fernandez.

The losing streak has dropped the Preds from fifth to seventh in the eight-team South Division standings, with a record of 4-7-1. They have, however, played only 12 games so far. That's eight fewer than sixth place St. George, who are 6-14-0 on the season.

Taylor is expecting to have some of the players who missed Sunday's game back for the two contests against the first place North York Renegades.

"Nick and Cam Savoie should both be back this weekend," says Taylor. "Lindberg will be back, too. We're hoping to have Denning back as well."

In addition, prior to last weekend's two road games, the team re-signed 2022-2023 forward Declan Fogarty, who amassed 10 goals and 28 assists last season, making him third in points on the Preds. As well, forward Tyler Gearing just re-signed with the team and should be available for the North York games.

"He brings something different to the team," says Taylor. "He'll give us a bit of a different look. We're missing the jump we need. He plays with a lot of emotion, a lot of fire to every shift. That's what we're looking for."

Of the mounting losses, Taylor insists at least five of those games should have gone in the Preds' favour.

"We can't blame anybody but ourselves," he says. "We've put ourselves into this situation. I'd like to get some points this weekend. It all depends on who shows up to play."

The Renegades, with Christopher Rende, the league's leader in points with 38 and assists with 23, visit the Meridian Credit Union Arena at 7:30 p.m. this Friday, Nov. 10. The Preds travel to the Canlan Ice Sports Centre in York to return the favour Sunday at 3 p.m.



Tyler Gearing, shown in a game last season, returns to the Predators for their games against North York this weekend. (Mike Balsom)

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St. Davids tennis community is growing!



Tennis instructor Karen Wright says students from St David's School had a great time learning, rallying, counting points and laughing with their friends on the courts on a recent fall day. Community tennis facilitator Sandy Burns kept kids safe and attentive while also teaching skills to those who needed a bit more practise. Wright credits Rosemary Goodwin and Rachel Gould for been instrumental in growing the St. Davids tennis community, and she looks forward to helping more youth and adults at the new Niagara Falls Racquet Centre on Kalar Road this fall. (Supplied)

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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

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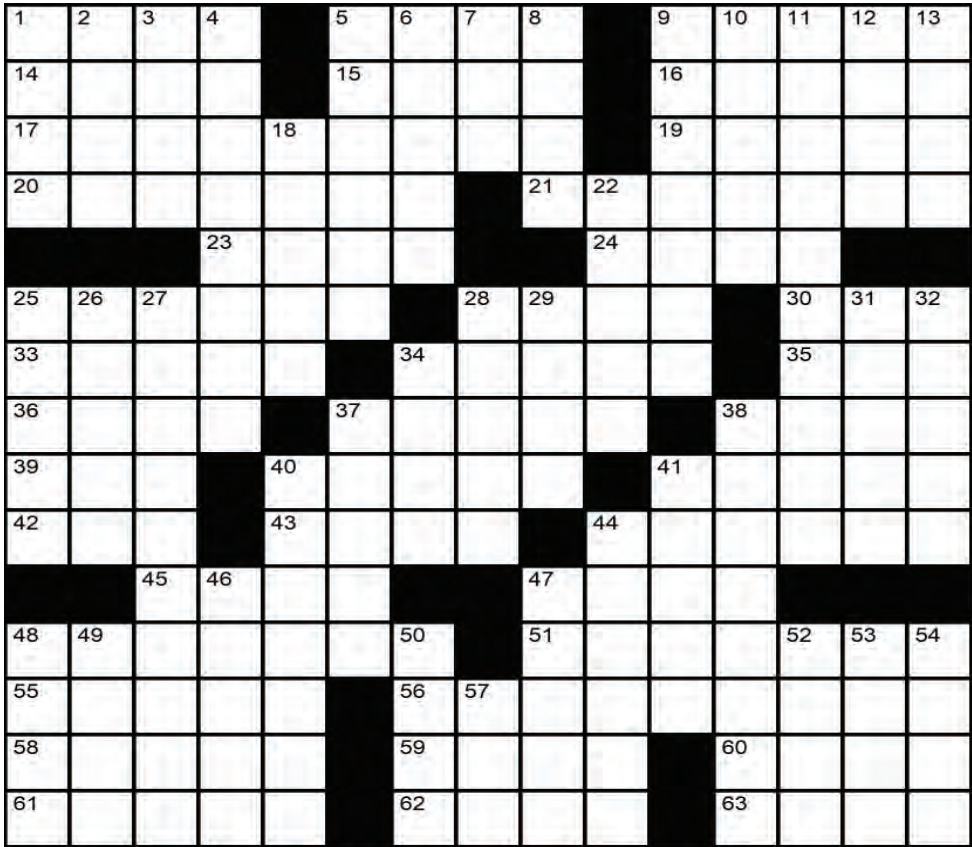


Rotary

Club of Niagara-on-the-Lake



CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU



Across:

- 1 Butter units
- 5 Au naturel
- 9 Sea state 5
- 14 Brusque
- 15 "... --- slayeth the silly one" (Book of Job)
- 16 Crackshot Oakley
- 17 Speech of violent denunciation
- 19 Bequeath
- 20 Least happy
- 21 Linked
- 23 Egyptian sacred bird
- 24 Jaunty rhythm
- 25 What's coming down the pike
- 28 Connption
- 30 Winter time in Halifax
- 33 Turned Samoa upside down to find a terrorist
- 34 Not very enthusiastic
- 35 Cost-of-living indicator
- 36 Hindrances
- 37 Al ---, baseball's "Hebrew Hammer"
- 38 Zachary Taylor was one
- 39 Cowpoke's sweetheart
- 40 Not so many
- 41 Chessman
- 42 Shout to a matador
- 43 Foam at the mouth

Down:

- 1 Mount for electronic components
- 2 Experienced by migraine sufferers
- 3 Stepped
- 4 Play grounds
- 5 Scottish legend
- 6 Single things
- 7 Movie medium
- 8 Onlooker
- 9 Came from behind
- 10 "Paper Moon" Oscar winner
- 11 Loose

- 12 "Out with it!"
- 13 Observe
- 18 "Black Widow" lead --- Winger
- 22 The --- Marbles, from the Parthenon
- 25 Do without
- 26 Customary
- 27 Crumb catcher
- 28 Put back to zero, for example
- 29 Impressionist
- 31 Extra interest
- 32 Possessor of "fearful symmetry" (Blake)
- 34 Hall, crier, car or house, perhaps
- 37 Give feedback
- 38 Erie wins scramble for beverage producers
- 40 Shiver of excitement
- 41 Raw hides
- 44 Polish off, or polish?
- 46 Depend
- 47 Talks up
- 48 Scat queen
- 49 Those opposed
- 50 Taking all the tricks
- 52 UN body promoting peaceful nuclear power
- 53 In a little while
- 54 Spike
- 57 Such as cinnabar

OBITUARY

DIANE NAPIER-ANDREWS NÉE WATTS NOVEMBER 3RD, 2023 AGE 79



Diane has died peacefully, with dignity, on her own terms, at her home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, in the loving arms of Nigel Napier-Andrews, her husband of 14 years. Her stepdaughters, Rebecca and Megan, were at her side. She chose MAID after struggling with a rare neurological disease for a number of years.

She was born on April 17, 1944, to Ivy and Stuart Watts, in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England, where she grew up as an only child. Her father owned a factory supplying the cutlery trade and her mother was a homemaker.

She attended Harrogate Ladies' College, followed by the Inchbald School of Design, in London. In 1967, friends were leaving for Canada and, on a whim, she joined them. In Toronto, Diane's design career flourished. She discovered her entrepreneurial flair working with her then partner, who owned a chain of record shops. Diane managed their classical music store. They published Fugue, a classical music magazine, and Epicure, a gourmet magazine, of which Diane was editor, though she never learned to cook. Her love of animals led her to open a tiny shop called Alexander Pushkin's Colossal Pet Emporium, named for her Siamese cat. Her next ventures were a wholesale showroom in Toronto's Designers' Walk and a retail store at Avenue Road and Yorkville Avenue. She started making large custom mirrors and renamed her business Diane Watts Exquisite Mirrors and Fine Furniture. This enterprise was such a success that at one time she was selling through 17 showrooms across Canada and the US.

Diane had the ability to engage with anyone and had a wonderful sense of humour. Her many friends attest that being around her was always fun. Diane loved sports cars and owned six Jaguar XK convertibles in a row, until she had to give up driving in 2021. She adored cats and always had at least one as a companion from the time of her arrival in Canada onwards. She gave a good home to many strays. Her final feline companions were Ollie and Zoe, two Siamese. She travelled widely, visiting England frequently. She toured the US and Europe on both business and pleasure, as well as favourite destinations in the Caribbean. When she married Nigel at the age of 65, she chose a beach wedding in Barbados.

By her firm request, there will be no service, ceremony, or burial, but she wished her ashes to be mixed with the ashes of her former cats Tiggy and Lulu and scattered. She asked that her friends celebrate her life at a later date with a "good party."

She had a final drink of her favourite Veuve Clicquot Rosé champagne before she departed and raised her glass with her classic toast: "Here's to you and here's to me, and should we ever disagree, the hell with you and here's to me!" Memories may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



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PUZZLE ANSWERS - SUDOKU PUZZLE ON PAGE 22

Across: 1 Pats, 5 Nude, 9 Rough, 14 Curt, 15 Envy, 16 Annie, 17 Broadside, 19 Leave, 20 Saddest, 21 Related, 23 Ibis, 24 Lift, 25 Future, 28 Rage, 30 A S T, 33 Osama, 34 Tepid, 35 C P I, 36 Rubs, 37 Rosen, 38 Whig, 39 Gal, 40 Fewer, 41 Piece, 42 Ole, 43 Rant, 44 Fender, 45 Chic, 47 Tile, 48 Enlists, 51 On trial, 55 Loons, 56 Louisiana, 58 Let go, 59 Arts, 60 E E O C, 61 Ashen, 62 Mesh, 63 Sane.

Down: 1 P C Bs, 2 Aura, 3 Trod, 4 Stadiums, 5 Nessie, 6 Units, 7 D V D, 8 Eyer, 9 Rallied, 10 Finish, 46 Hinge, 47 Tours, 48 Ella, 49 Noes, 50 Slam, 52 I A E A, 53 Anon, 54 Lace, 57 Ore, 28 Reset, 29 Ape, 31 Spice, 32 Tiger, 34 Town, 37 React, 38 Wineries, 40 Frisson, 41 Pelts, 44 O'Neal, 11 Unattached, 12 Give, 13 Heed, 18 Debra, 22 Elgin, 25 Forgo, 26 Usual, 27 Tablecloth, 10

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