Valour and Victory: Indigenous warriors recognized

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 Queenston Heights Saturday.

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, opened 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 language 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 (Terenshokaronen) and Joseph Brant (Ahuyowews), David Adames, chief executive officer of Niagara Parks, welcomed 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 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 “We will be moving forward with the intention of providing the best historical content and factual news information and perspectives on Indigenous events and issues of the day,” he said.

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 of the infrastructure.

Continued on page 3

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 of the infrastructure.

Continued on page 2
Landscaping, parkettes still to be completed

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, are 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 mitigated 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.”

Boost Your Vision with Every Bite!
Discover the delicious path to better eye health with foods such as leafy greens, fatty fish, berries, eggs, and nuts.

Prioritize your eye health with these eye-friendly foods to nourish your vision and promote long-term eye health.

Dr. Kevin Clark and Dr. Rebecca Zabek-Clark
Dentists and their registered Dental Hygiene Team
369 MARY STREET
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
www.niagaradental.ca

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
EVENING HOURS AVAILABLE
905-468-3009

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

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

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

A drawing of the parkette that will be completed at the corner of Four Mile Creek Road, by Silk’s restaurant. (Supplied)
Indigenous troops recognized for role in War of 1812

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 several 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 Dockstader, preceded the Moment of Silence and Laying of Wreaths.

Continued from page 1

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

Mets 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 Dockstader speak at Valour and Victory at Queenston Heights.

Tim Johnson, with Richard Merritt and Jessica Miller.
Minerva Ward, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, is one of the nominees for the Hospitality and Tourism Award.

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 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 Mike Balsom is a finalist. The NOTL finalists for Niagara Women in Business Awards

Continued on page 18
Seniors know a lot, but there’s always more to learn.

Help ensure your later years are safe and secure by learning about programs, services, and information available for seniors.

Canada.ca/seniors 1 800 O-Canada
This Saturday, as we pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy, the solemn ceremony may be a new name 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. We learn of 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 in harm’s way.

We must never take our freedom for granted, not just in the circle of life, but certainly more so 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 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 center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?

To have this conversation, you need to bring to the table empathy and understanding. What if the circle of life was as simple as a circle, with no biases? Some animals may be morally and competitively on all species trumps others, both superiority complex, in a growing term known as speciesism.

With the former model of thought, humans are the center of the biological world. Our thought, humans are the center 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. Is it prey and its predator?
I have been reading with interest the comments regarding potential vehicular roundabouts for the village of St. Davids. I am a long-time resident in the area and very familiar with the traffic flow in and about St. Davids.

While the village does not need, nor does it have the room for a roundabout in its mid-streets, nor does it have the need, nor does it have the funds for a roundabout, we do need to review the full picture of Concession 6 in the next couple of months.

This Saturday, and for the two weeks prior, I have taken 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 nation.

Our current state of 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 the political parties and policies, or lack thereof.

The current authorized strength of our military is 100,000, but it includes all ranks in all three services, both Reserve and Regular forces. We have about 2,000 mainly Indigenous personnel that operate in the north. The military is currently 10-15,000 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 service in Afghanistan and supplying Ukraine.

Our navy has recently ordered a total of 88 F35 jets, which were first proposed during the Harper provincial policy or intention, but I believe the political parties during 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 know how they love the military.

Another way to show our military we appreciate them is to offer a military discount and make it easier to get to where they do in. 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.

Doug Johnson
Virgil

An update on the soon-to-be-installed speed camera in Virgil. I had earlier proposed the idea that as it is historically proven to be an inefficient method of speed control in our community. It has proven to be a cash grab by the government, another way to add a tax to our already overburdened economy.

This location will be receiving its camera in January. It will be one of four currently being installed in use at other locations.

These four communities have been complaining to the ministry data on these cameras all fall, since they were installed. It is the intention of the region and the city of Niagara-on-the-Lake, from Glendale through to Old Town. The official plan is dismissed as the work of special interest groups and an advanced camera that makes it possible to filter legitimate resident concerns from mass data. This requires a true vision, and a level of creativity that delivers both both profit and broad long-term community utility 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 almost every department of speed control in our municipality. If the wields data sensitivity to all facets of the town’s long-term viability and an advanced camera that makes it possible to filter legitimate resident concerns from mass data. This requires a true vision, and a level of creativity that delivers both both profit and broad long-term community utility 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 almost every department.

I have been reading with interest the comments regarding potential vehicular roundabouts for the village of St. Davids. I am a long-time resident in the area and very familiar with the traffic flow in and about St. Davids.

While the village does not need, nor does it have the room for a roundabout in its mid-streets, nor does it have the need, nor does it have the funds for a roundabout, we do need to review the full picture of Concession 6 in the next couple of months.

This Saturday, and for the two weeks prior, I have taken 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 nation.

Our current state of 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 the political parties and policies, or lack thereof.

The current authorized strength of our military is 100,000, but it includes all ranks in all three services, both Reserve and Regular forces. We have about 2,000 mainly Indigenous personnel that operate in the north. The military is currently 10-15,000 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 service in Afghanistan and supplying Ukraine.

Our navy has recently ordered a total of 88 F35 jets, which were first proposed during the Harper provincial policy or intention, but I believe the political parties during 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 know how they love the military.

Another way to show our military we appreciate them is to offer a military discount and make it easier to get to where they do in. 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.

Doug Johnson
Virgil

An update on the soon-to-be-installed speed camera in Virgil. I had earlier proposed the idea that as it is historically proven to be an inefficient method of speed control in our community. It has proven to be a cash grab by the government, another way to add a tax to our already overburdened economy.

This location will be receiving its camera in January. It will be one of four currently being installed in use at other locations.

These four communities have been complaining to the ministry data on these cameras all fall, since they were installed. It is the intention of the region and the city of Niagara-on-the-Lake, from Glendale through to Old Town. The official plan is dismissed as the work of special interest groups and an advanced camera that makes it possible to filter legitimate resident concerns from mass data. This requires a true vision, and a level of creativity that delivers both both profit and broad long-term community utility 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 almost every department.
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 council 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?’”

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 Farrel 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. Duplicated surveys will be identified and eliminated.

For additional information, contact Cindy Grant at 905-468-7498 or via email at grantcics54@gmail.com.
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.

A scramble at the end to make sure we’ve got enough. However, when we get into 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 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 community 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.
Daniel Smeenk to talk about autism and adults

Author will be at library Thursday

Sharon Burns
The Local

Author Daniel Smeenk 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, Smeenk 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 Smeenk, “and a lot of people don’t know enough about that.”

Smeenk 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, Smeenk 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 neurodiverse in some other way, “because of how they behave around other people, they still get a lot of the judgement and rejection.”

Smeenk, 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.”

Smeenk, 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.

Written for a popular audience, and from multiple perspectives, Smeenk’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., Smeenk 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.”

Smeenk 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, and if more people accepted these people,” then for who they were, that would make an enormous difference in the lives of autistic adults.

On Nov. 9, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., Smeenk 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.”

Smeenk 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, and if more people accepted these people,” then for who they were, that would make an enormous difference in the lives of autistic adults.

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’s 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 attended the event, and is shown with Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and St. Catharines MPP Jennie Stevens. (Supplied)
Local Love

Loyalty Discounts for the Locals we Love

SIMPSON’S

Customer Appreciation Day
Every 3rd Wednesday of the month, everyone saves 20% off most products*

Seniors’ Day
Every Last Thursday of the month, over 60s save 20% off most products*

*Most current products only. Includes prescriptions, over-the-counter, tobacco products, gift cards, in-store events, and pharmacy services.

Visit one of our two convenient locations!
Medical Centre • 905.468.3211 • 1983 Niagara Stone Rd, Virgil
Old Town • 905.468.8400 • 233 King Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Shop online at www.simpsonsparmacy.ca | FREE local delivery

Riverview Cellars
Fall for Pinot
This season, stop by our tasting room and fall for our 2021 Pinot Grigio! Zesty with notes of citrus and green apple.
Now on case sale! 12 bottles for only $129.
Free shipping Canada-wide with your online purchase!

Flavours of the week

Pistachio Dark Balsamic Vinegar
50% off Nov 3rd - Nov 9th
(limit 2 per customer)

Caramel Dark Balsamic
50% off Nov 10th - Nov 16th
(limit 2 per customer)

10% LOCAL DISCOUNT* FOR NOTL RESIDENTS
*Excludes 50% off items

118 Queen St., NOTL | olivniagara.com

SPIRIT IN NIAGARA
SMALL BATCH DISTILLERS

FABULOUS FOOD
AWARD WINNING FARM TO GLASS
SPIRITS & COCKTAILS
TAPAS TUESDAYS
ALL OF OUR BEST
(INCLUDING LOBSTER RAVIOLI)
FROM OUR AMAZING MENU

3 FOR $39 5 FOR $59

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

~ Featuring live music every week! ~
No cover charge ~

Monday: Wilber James Blues Band or On The Mark Jazz Trio
Thursday: Eddie Pizzo on the Baby Grand
Friday: Dragan on the Saxes

Happy Hour Every Friday!
$8 cocktails 4-6 pm

THE FARMHOUSE
CAFÉ

Open For Lunch Daily
Reservations Strongly Suggested
Online Booking Now Available!
Or give us a call to book
905-468-8814

Bring this ad in for 10% off lunch on any Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday in November

NO COVER CHARGE ~

CAROLINE CELLARS WINERY

WINE BOUTIQUE & TASTING BAR

Open 7 Days a Week
Wine Tastings Offered Daily

Reservations Strongly Recommended for Wine Tasting

1010 Line 2, NOTL 905.468.8814 www.CarolineCellars.com

Love Where You Live: SUPPORT 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 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.
REMEMBRANCE DAY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
Lest We Forget

For those who leave never to return.
For those who return but are never the same.
We remember.

TONY BALDINELLI MP
NIAGARA FALLS

Lest we Forget

Gould AUTOMOTIVE
REPAIR SERVICE
Since 1939

12 Henegan Rd., NOTL | 905.468.1576

WAYNE GATES, MPP
Niagara Falls Riding representing
Niagara-on-the-Lake & Fort Erie
wgates-co@ndp.on.ca • 905-357-0681
waynegates.com
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. 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.
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.

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).
**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 Region’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 squired 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 incorporate 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**
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 the 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 hoodies. Hence the entire group was all decked out in their new attire, thankfully all devoid of any paint splotches.

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.”
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 put her in 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 CAC Marnie Clackie 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. Walles joins MacDonald as well in the Young Professional category, as does Brandon Fulton, who works in HR with both Abatement Technologies and reserve Vineyard in St. Davids.

"I’m super proud to be nominated for an award," says MacDonald. "I moved 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, sacrifice, and necessary moments. I am 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 the Festival. She quickly took notice and by the time I turned 13 he wasn’t home much after fighting started all over again. He finally had enough. I do remember my dad more years old, my parents split and very grateful to be recognized for the Niagara Region. Edesia Miller, Niagara Falls Convention Centre. Fiona Peacefull, Niagara Health, Marnie Clackie, Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake 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

• Dwyer Hamilton Paralegal Services
• Corks and Bubbles Inc.

Community Impact Award

• Angela Casucci, Meridian Credit Union
• Beth Flewellyn of CAA Niagara
• Caterina Ficano, Royal LePage
• Juliet Dunn, TD Niagara Jazz Festival
• Lise Andreana, Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre
• Melissa Debeau, Skycompton Services
• Pam Lilley, MNP
• Rochelle Irvi, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

Corporate Leadership Award

• Amanda Buenoore-Kish, Walker Industries
• Caitlin Armstrong, Meridian Credit Union
• Carolyn Ryan, YouTV Niagara
• Cassandra Oggninnyi, Niagara Region
• Chandra Sharma, Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
• Deside Miller, Niagara Falls Convention Centre

Cultural Arts Award

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

Emerging Business Award

• Angela Browne, INVICTUS LEGAL LLP
• Carrie Elefante, Nibbleez Platters Catering & More
• Devon Ecomb, Pressed In Time
• Emily Barrett, Mosaic Psychotherapy Collective
• Gabrielle Smith, Fix My Books Inc.
• Michelle Gadhula, Starndh Costumne and Garment Design
• Stacey Stempowskii, Grounding Balance
• Wellness & Psychotherapy Entrepreneurship

• Britt Dixon, Britton Creative
• Debi Katsmar, Prasol Communications
• Dr. Daniela DiPaola, Impact Health
• Dunya Abhaddad, Oromchi

• Jesse MacDonald, MAC Inc.
• Kelly Frechette, Board Boss Drywall
• Lesley Calvini, Positive Motion
• Lori McDonald, Provisions Food Company
• Stephanie Lakett-Hall, SH Consulting Group

Equity Entrepreneur Award

• Gabrielle Smith, Tix My Books Inc.
• Nessa Morrison, Annusi Beauty Salon
• Sharon Corcoran, Corks and Bubbles Inc.

Excellence in Hospitality and Tourism Award

• Alana Hurov, 124 on Queen Hotel and Spa
• Alyshia Howe, Tipsy Theory
• Alyssa Waldes, White Oaks Resort and Spa
• Minerva Ward, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

Young Professional Award

• Andrea Scott, Niagara Commerce & Tourism
• Christine Clark Lafleur, Health Foundation
• Jordan Saksena, The Kesh Group
• Erin Hagar, SunOpta Inc.
• Allysha Howse, Co-Proprietor, Lakeit-Hall. "From there I...
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 Niaga- ra-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 en route to the press for processing. I’m riding shotgun with pilot Liam Barrett and Jessica Oppenlaender Solanki is out back 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.

“Today, the family’s Creek Road Vineyard with Alison and Jessica, you can feel the pride in the family’s latest vintage as we deavour in winemaking. The plump Gamay grapes that will become part of the 2023 vintage of Liueming wines are ready for picking, and two special rows have been set aside for the project.

It’s exciting to see the yonger generation take the reins in a business that is increasingly feeling challenging, 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. Farmers aren’t picking, and found soon, they will be cut to the ground, left to rot.

What’s more is that this is the fact the surplus comes after a harvest that just a vintage ago.

For Huebel and the Oppenlaender family, a well- run, successful business with the pride in the family’s latest vintage is the fact that the surplus of grapes is deeply concerning 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 CCO King Matthias Oppenlaender, and market analyst Mary Jane Combe last week.

The solutions are complicated and there are no easy fixes.

The Ontario wine industry is a crisis zone, with declining sales, changing consumer habits and the expanded import alcoholic market.

Ontario’s wine industry was once a grower’s paradise, but if things don’t change quickly, some contracts might not get renewed in the future.

With the surplus of grapes, the solution comes with its own challenges, but every avenue is being explored to prevent new surpluses from occurring.

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 new surpluses from occurring.

“The LCBO can do much more for Ontario wineries. Right now, Ontario wines are treated like an import,” said Zimmerman.

Sales are down but that is not the full reason for the surplus. The LCBO holds the market share by sales plus of Ontario grapes can 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 flat over the last 20 years. A major contributing factor is the lack of representation onLCBO shelves. If the Ontario wine market share by sales (33 per cent) increased to that of B.C. 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.

• Reform the way Ontario wines are sold in Ontario 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.

“A few more changes could do wonders for our industry,” said Zimmerman.

As such, a new virtual brand. (Rick VanSickle)

“We want to make sure we’re planting the right varietals. We need to fix the market for the long term.”

“The LCBO can do much more for Ontario wineries.”

“Right now, Ontario wines are treated like an import,” said Zimmerman.

“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.”

Growers say tonnes of grapes will rot on the ground.

For Huebel and the Oppenlaender family, a row of ripe Gamay grapes that 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 challenging, not the least of which is a looming surplus of grapes in Niagara that is sending shockwaves across the region for growers.

Growers say tonnes of grapes will rot on the ground.
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 director Ara founder and artistic director Atis Bankas often travels to Mexico to work with students from across the country at Celaya. In addition, actor Guy Rannerman 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.

Mike Balsom
The Local

Over 1,100 students have visited Niagara for a week of music playing with students there. Then it’s back to Toronto to perform at St. James Cathedral. That same day we will go to Toronto for a concert at the Festival in 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 after 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 to 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.

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

Mike Balsom
The Local

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.

THE NOTL

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)
Harvest Classic hockey tourney huge success for Wolves

Mike Balsom
The Local

By all metrics, last week-ends annual Harvest Classic Hockey Tournament hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Association was a huge success. Annas 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 lounges were filled with players and supporters between games, and fans had to gingenly step around piles of equipment bags to make their way to observation spots at ice level. Of course, pauses were necessary when passing young players practise 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 lines at the concession stand were constant but fast-moving.

A strong showing by the host club! Check.

Under head coach Dev- on Neudorf, the U18 Wolves made a run at age group championships at the tournament. Through Friday began with a 2-0 loss to New Hamburg, they bounced back to take down South Grenville U18 Storm on Saturday, 9-2. The U18 Wolves entered the 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 Saugeneh Shores was 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 says this year’s tournament will be a money maker for the Wolves league. "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 Pete Flynn manning the barbecue nicely. "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 score sheet 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-leved 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 allow for those overtimes, so we don’t end up behind sched- ule."

And he’ll take those notes and implement them 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,” says Goodwin. Spectators are welcome, and more information is available at rosemarygoodwin@mac.com. (Supplied)
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 Tuesday night off. Perhaps that’s one of the reasons they looked so rusty Saturday on the road in their 6-3 loss to the Northumber-land Stars in Colborne.

In all fairness, they did out-shoot the Stars 47-29, but they also topped Northumberland in penalty minutes, 35-28, in cluding a game disqualification of defenceman Gehrig Lind-berg 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 perfor- mance Saturday night. “Just too many unnecessary penalties. We put ourselves into tough sit- uations. 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 situa- tions 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 dis- qualification meant he had to sit out Sunday’s game. Also in crevices with injuries were No-lan Wyers, Dylan Denning, Georgy Kholmovsky, Ethan Culp and goaltender Zane Clauser.

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 George (Kod- ewart),” 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 Luke Fernandes.

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 week- end,” says Taylor. “Lindberg will be back, too. We’re hoping to have everyone playing by the end of the month.”

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 as- sists 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 dif- ferent to the team,” says Taylor. “He’s a bit of a different look. We’re missing the jump we need. He plays with a lot of emo- tion, 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 situa- tion. I’d like to get some points this weekend. It all depends on who shows up to play.”

The Renegades with Chris- topher Rende, the league’s leader in points with 38 and assist 23, visit the Mer- idian 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.
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 Esquisite 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 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 she depart 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.

Puzzle Answers - Sudoku Puzzle on Page 22

Decks and Fences

LOEWEN’S FENCING & DECKS/REPAIRS
289-696-3509
Post Hole Service Available • Dump Service
Call Peter

Garden Services

A Little Off The Top
SPECIALTY PRUNING SERVICE
Fall Pruning • Garden Clean-up
Certified Horticulturalist
30 years experience
LORRAINE
905-932-0308

Crossword and Sudoku

Across:
1. Butter units
2. As natural
3. Sea state 5
4. Brusque
15. -- 说 why the silly one? (Book of Job)
16. Crackpot 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. Corruption
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. Cowpox’s sweetheart
40. Not so many
41. Chesman
42. Shout to a motorist
43. Foam at the mouth
44. Cowcatcher
45. Cool, sarcastically
46. Scrabble piece
48. Signs up
51. Under close scrutiny
55. Idots
56. State with a pelican flag
58. Be released
59. Fine, black or liberal, martial
60. Federal anti-discrimination agency
61. Deathly pale
62. Synchronize
63. Composers merits

Down:
1. Mount for electronic components
2. Experienced by migraine sufferers
3. Stopped
4. Playgrounds
5. Scottish legend
6. Single things
7. Movie medium
8. Ornate
9. Came from behind
10. “Paper Moon” Oscar winner
11. Loose
12. “Out with it!”
13. Obverse
14. “Black Widow” lead — Winger
22. The — Marbles, from the Pantheon
25. Do without
26. Custody
27. Crumb catcher
28. Put back to zero, for example
29. Impressoist
31. Extra interest
32. Possessor of “fearful symmetry” (Blake)
33. Hall, crier, car or house, perhaps
37. Give feedback
38. Eire wins scramble for beverage advertising
40. Shiver of excitement
41. Raw hides
42. Polish off, or polish?
45. Depressed
47. Take up
48. Scot queen
49. Those opposed
50. Taking all the tricks
51. Un buoyy promoting peaceful nuclear power
52. In a little while
54. Spike
57. Such as cinnamon
$1,849,000 - BACKYARD PARADISE

123 WILLIAM ST, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

$1,319,000 - COMING SOON - EXTRA LARGE BUNGALOW

ALMOST 5000 SQ FT FINISHED SPACE

VERY WELL CARED FOR, YOURS TO REFRESH!
OPEN HOUSE NOVEMBER 11TH & 12TH 12-2PM

608 VICTORIA STREET, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

$1,499,000 - FABULOUS BUNGALOW WITH FINISHED BASEMENT

270 FT - PRIME WATERFRONT 5.5 ACRES

515 SANDY BAY RD, HALDIMAND COUNTY

$999,921 - 2.09 ACRES

$1,365,000 - STEPS TO THE LAKE

OVER 4000 SQ FT FINISHED BACKING ONTO FOREST

1652 FOUR MILE CREEK RD #117, VIROIL

OVER 300% IN RENOVATIONS & UPGRADES IN PAST YEAR!

5 LOWER CANADA DRIVE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

FEATURED BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Lakeshore Eye Care Clinic

OPTOMETRY AND OPTICAL

Our Optometrist and Optician are dedicated to providing exceptional eye care solutions tailored to your unique needs.

OUR SERVICE:

- Comprehensive Eye Examinations
- Fast & Friendly Services, On Sight Lab, Quality Assured Products
- Over 700+ Frames to Choose From & Designer Brands Available!

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

CONTACT US

905-935-3874
www.lakeshoreeyeclerinc.ca

152 Lakeshore Road

ANGELIKA GIVES THIS 5 STARS

#1 Angelika & Associates

LUXURY REAL ESTATE

FREE HOME EVALUATION CALL ANGELIKA TODAY!

289-214-4394

ANGELIKA ZAMMIT HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THE EXCLUSIVE MCGILLIVRAY TRUSTED AGENT IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

#1 BROKERAGE IN THE GTA
THE LARGEST INDEPENDENT BROKERAGE IN CANADA