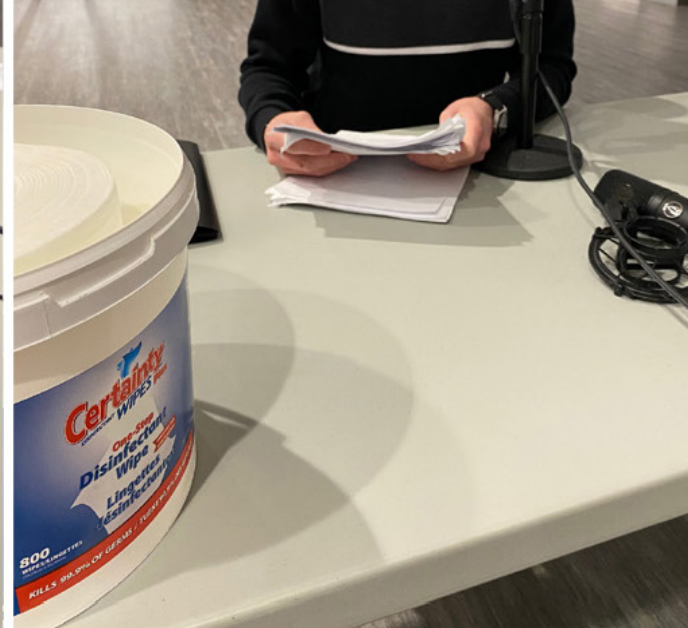


# PELHAM NEWSLETTER

February 2021

Volume 5 • Issue 2



Kudos to the SAY IT! On Stage team for putting together some great work under difficult circumstances. The collaboration between seniors and youth in Pelham continues to bring generations together and raises the community's culture profile.

## Pelham seniors and youth triumph in creation of original radio play

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic impacted everyone, forcing the review of daily activities and tasks and putting a premium on health and safety.

For the members of SAY IT! On Stage, a program supported by the Town of Pelham that engages seniors and youth in the community, the pandemic forced them to get creative in every facet of their production, including how to complete it.

It would have been easy to pack it in for 2020, chalk up the incomplete project to the pandemic, and hope for a better result in 2021. But for Colleen Kenyon, creative lead for the project, forging ahead was the only option.

"Where else can you find 17 and 70-year-olds together in a virtual space, interacting as peers?" said Kenyon. "We're delighted to have put our imaginations to work, producing a bit of audio entertainment for audiences to enjoy. The real worth of this program, however, is in the unique friendships that form across the generations throughout the process of building our performance pieces. Since the SAY IT! On Stage project launched in June of 2019, it has provided a space for people to share who they are, and to explore what they are capable of artistically."

Unable to meet in person, project members assembled in Zoom rooms, experimenting with a hybrid theatre art: old-time radio plays performed on a videoconferencing app. Through months of weekly virtual meetings, the members met to read through vintage scripts and then set to work, creating a radio play of their own. Developing their characters, plot lines, and setting the scene without a stage became the meetings' focus.

The resiliency of the arts became apparent as SAY IT! members rehearsed from a living document in a virtual venue. The performers did not let their endeavour's newness deter them from learning a whole new way to communicate, wait out unstable internet connections, and record endless electronic versions of a prodigious draft document. By early fall, the group's efforts saw a radio script in its final stages of editing come to life. Unearthed, an original radio play, was born.

The challenge then became how to record a podcast, with multiple voice actors, in a pandemic. Following the latest public health requirements, measuring tapes, clear barriers, contact tracing, a strict schedule, and plenty of sanitization supplies, recording day took place in late November. Just as the group adjusted learning Zoom, they quickly took to recording tracks for each of the performers.

"It was quite impressive to see the ingenuity and the passion that went into bringing this project to life," said Leah Letford, special events and festivals coordinator with the Town of Pelham who helped oversee the logistical elements of the production. "You could see the connection that these community members had built with each other through this process. And to do it, with the adversity presented by the pandemic's restrictions, it was quite remarkable and should be celebrated."

After several rounds of edits and review, the radio play was complete. The performers gathered around their Zoom screens over the holidays to have a listening party of their original production.

The final product of Unearthed follows a pair of armchair detectives as they unravel a tangle of suspects and clues. Those interested in listening to the radio play can find it through the Town of Pelham website [www.pelham.ca/arts](http://www.pelham.ca/arts) and can listen to the three episodes.

The SAY IT! On Stage group is now looking forward to this year's project, and those interested in joining are welcome to connect virtually to learn how they can be involved. This year, the group hopes to produce a film.

## Pelham Support Network back in action

The Town of Pelham is pleased to support the Fabulous Fenwick Lions Club as they team up with local businesses to relaunch the Pelham Support Network (PSN).

The network is made possible by volunteers bringing needed supplies to those in self-isolation or quarantine due to a positive COVID-19 test or has had close contact with someone who has tested positive or has symptoms.

Orders made before 1 p.m. will be delivered the afternoon of that day. Orders made after

1 p.m. will be delivered the following afternoon Monday-Saturday.

The driver will place items at your door and call you once they are delivered. There is no need to greet the driver, and it is asked that physical distancing be observed for the volunteers' safety.

For more information, please call Halee Braun at the Town of Pelham 905-892-2607 x347 or email the Lions at [psn@fabulousfenwicklions.org](mailto:psn@fabulousfenwicklions.org)

If you would like to be a volunteer delivery driver, please fill out the Volunteer Registration Form.

If you are a Pelham Business and would like to partner with PSN, please go to the Business Registration page.

Learn more at <https://fabulousfenwicklions.org/psn-main-page/>



This newsletter is designed to provide you with news, updates, information, and more regarding what happens at Town Hall and in the community. Primarily, this will be an electronic communication, though hard copies\* will be available in limited quantities at Town Hall, the libraries, the Community Centre, and Nick's Cleaners, usually within a few days after the online version is posted. You are encouraged to subscribe online by visiting: [www.pelham.ca/newsletter](http://www.pelham.ca/newsletter) and clicking the subscribe button. \*Not available in hard copy during pandemic.



# Beautification Committee spots candles for hope

Submitted by the Pelham Beautification Committee

Dr Louis Albanese is pictured in front of his home in Pelham. The lit candles have been displayed in his windows day and night for over 20 years. The candles were first placed in the windows to provide a feeling of warmth and welcome to his home that was built in 1929. This past year the candles have taken on an added significance due to the COVID-19 pandemic ... to light the way through this darkest time in recent history.

A lit candle displayed in windows dates back to colonial times. Some popular interpretations are that the burning candle in the window represents welcome to weary travelers, friendship and a sign of hope for better things to come. As we enter a new year the Pelham Beautification Committee would like to recognize the many homes throughout Pelham with candles burning in the window ... a symbol of welcome to a new year, friendships new and old, and a sign of hope that we will overcome this most serious health crisis with renewed energy and commitment to a better life for all. Stay safe and stay healthy.

This month's recognition is inspired by a recent article found on social media: "Last night, I saw my husband Jack place a single flameless candle

in our front window. When asked why, he replied that in times of war, families would put a candle in the window to light the way for their children to return home safely from battle. Today, the world is at war with a horrific pandemic that has ground daily life to a halt. This candle represents the light of hope...the hope that together, we will overcome this most serious health crisis. Let's unite and share this beacon of hope throughout our community. Please share with family, friends and neighbours and join us in this effort." (Lynn Polizos, Virginia)

The Pelham Beautification Committee is an advisory committee to Pelham Council. The Committee seeks to foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community involvement. The monthly 'Thank You' card program is one of the Committee's efforts to inspire the Town's businesses, organizations and residents to exemplify ideals defined in the Beautification Committee's Terms of Reference, available at [www.pelham.ca/beautification](http://www.pelham.ca/beautification).

The Pelham Beautification Committee will name a recipient each month. Individuals are encouraged to submit potential recipient recommendations to

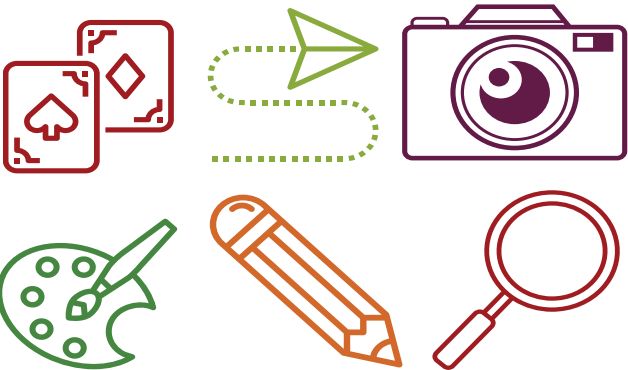


the Pelham Beautification Committee at: [beautification@pelham.ca](mailto:beautification@pelham.ca). For more information, contact: Cynthia Roberts, Vice-Chair, Pelham Beautification Committee, at 289-686-5676.

[pelham.ca/family-day](http://pelham.ca/family-day)



**February 12-15**  
**virtual missions**  
**fun & prizes!**



**Register online to receive  
your game code & download**  
**goosechase**

Sponsored by Peter Piper's Pubhouse

For more information visit:  
[pelham.ca/family-day](http://pelham.ca/family-day)



## Regional Chair announces membership of Community Coordination Task Force for COVID-19 Vaccination

As part of Niagara's response to the ongoing andemic, Regional Chair Jim Bradley is pleased to announce the members of the Community Coordination Task Force for COVID-19 Vaccination.

Dr. David Dec has accepted the role of task force chair. In this role, Dr. Dec will provide critical leadership, and will act as the group's primary community spokesperson. Dr. Dec will also serve as the direct liaison between the task force and the Board of Health (Regional Council).

Dr. Dec brings to this position decades of clinical leadership and teaching experience that will be invaluable over the coming months. In addition to his family practice, Dr. Dec is the current president of the Greater Niagara Medical Society, the local chapter of the Ontario Medical Association. He is also an Assistant Clinical Professor for the Department of Family Practice at McMaster University (Niagara Campus).

Chair Bradley is also pleased to announce that Dr. Robin Williams, former Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and former Niagara Medical Officer of Health, will act as a special advisor to the task force.

Additionally, the task force will draw on the expertise of professionals from a diverse range of backgrounds, including:

- Regional Chair, Jim Bradley
- Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Niagara Region
- Lynn Guerriero, President & Interim CEO, Niagara Health
- Chief Bryan MacCulloch, Niagara Regional Police Service
- Chief Kevin Smith, Niagara Emergency Medical Services
- Shelley Chemnitz, CAO, St. Catharines
- Ron Tripp, Acting CAO, Niagara Region
- Mike Kirkopoulos, CAO, Town of Lincoln
- Tom Kuchyt, CAO, Town of Fort Erie

- Adrienne Jugley, Commissioner, Community Services, Niagara Region
- Dr. Karl Stobbe, Medical Director, REACH Niagara
- Frank Ruberto, Executive Director, Niagara Medical Group Family Health Team
- Martha Mason, Executive Director, Fort Erie Multicultural Centre
- Brian Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Bethesda
- Nancy Garner, Executive Director, Quest Community Health Centre
- Martina Rosza, Vice President, Home and Community Care, HNHB LHIN
- Sean Simpson, President, Pharmacists Association of Niagara
- Lucie Huot, Executive Director, CERF Niagara
- Jennifer Dockstader, Executive Director, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre (IHN)
- Kathleen LaForme, Diabetes Wellness Coordinator, Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle (IHN)

As Niagara's vaccination strategy evolves and progresses, the task force will also consult and collaborate with other groups, organizations and sectors as required. Examples include Niagara's post-secondary education sector and school boards, the tourism and hospitality sector and others.

Under Dr. Dec's leadership, the task force will undertake the following:

Ensure a consistent and coordinated approach between all partners in the strategic delivery of vaccinations  
Localize the provincial vaccination strategy into the Niagara specific context  
Ensure high vaccination rates by building public trust through clear, accurate and culturally-informed communication on the vaccine and its safety  
Provide reports and updates to the community, the Board of Health (Regional Council) and local municipal councils on Niagara's vaccination activities, progress and milestones. The task force expects to hold its first meeting on the week of Jan. 25. The group is expected to remain active until Dec. 31, 2021.