



Local
FROM A
PUMPHOUSE
TO A HOME A3

THE NIAGARA FALLS REVIEW

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Friday, September 19, 2008

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UPFRONT

BUILDING IN FORT ERIE: Developers unveiled their \$5-million plan for a Fort Erie commercial property Thursday. **A3**

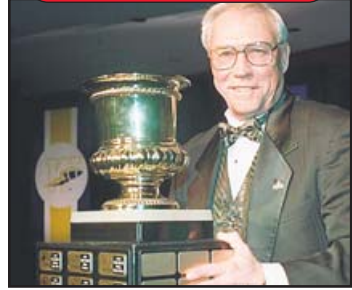
NATIONAL

NEW CHIEF: Monique Smith, a North Bay MPP, is the new provincial tourism minister after Premier Dalton McGuinty's cabinet shuffle Thursday. **A15**

WORLD

SAVE KHADR: Lawyers for Guantanamo Bay detainee Omar Khadr are courting public opinion in their efforts to help the Canadian prisoner who goes to trial soon. **C16**

SPORTS



MOURNING THE 'LITTLE GENERAL': CFL loses a giant with the death of Ron Lancaster. **C3**

FORGET GREEN BAY: Brett Favre's total focus is on the New York Jets now. **C6**

WEATHER

 **HIGH:** 21°C
LOW: 15°C

Sunny
More **WEATHER** page A2

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'A CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS EVERY SATURDAY'



Queen Street wants to see your creative side this weekend. For the next six weeks, Art Saturdays will feature a 'Creative Creature' costume contest. Pictured is Megan Pew, as the Reigning Monarch of Queentopia. John Law, The Review

Artists hope to draw crowds with six-week long festival

BY JOHN LAW
Review Staff Writer

Niagara's artists are taking it to the street this weekend. And everyone's invited to join them.

The first of six "Art Saturdays" runs 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. along Queen Street tomorrow, putting the spotlight on new artists and galleries to open within the past year, along with artists from Niagara and beyond.

"It'll be like a celebration of the arts every Saturday," says volunteer co-ordinator Christopher Pew.

But it won't resemble the series of downtown festivals that recently wrapped up with Days of Elvis.

The streets won't be closed off, but co-ordinator Melanie Mullen is hoping to jam the sidewalks with a unique made-in-Niagara vibe. In addition to artwork, there will be acting lessons, dance classes, art workshops – even a weekly 'Creative Creature'

costume contest leading into Halloween.

Queen Street's 'Class of 08' artists feel the six-week showcase will go a long way toward establishing the downtown's blossoming art scene.

"It's in its infant stages, and building up the way I expected it to," says John Newby, who closed his popular Niagara-on-the-Lake gallery in the spring to relocate to Niagara Falls.

He feels it will take at least a year for the scene to take

hold with locals and tourists. In that time, Queen Street will continue to evolve with new cafes, restaurants and a major theatre.

"I just think ... once you get through Clifton Hill and the casino, there's a definite need for an area like this."

Photorealistic wildlife artist Ed Spera also made the leap to Niagara Falls from Niagara-on-the-Lake, opening a new gallery on Queen Street last month.

please see **FESTIVAL**, page A2

MAYORS ECHO CALL FOR CENTRAL BIRTH SITE

Salci, Martin back 'exciting' idea for Falls hospital

BY RAY SPITERI
Review Staff Writer

Two mayors have joined with Niagara Falls MPP Kim Craitor in calling for the honeymoon capital to be the birthplace for all Niagara babies if maternity services are centralized.

And Craitor – an outspoken critic of the Niagara Health System – has struck a nerve with other regional politicians.

"I think it's an exciting idea and worth pursuing," said Niagara Falls Mayor Ted Salci. "Certainly, our numbers of growth and our increasing birth rates support his suggestion."

On Wednesday, Craitor said if there's only going to be one hospital in Niagara where women give birth, it should be at Greater Niagara General Hospital and not a new health-care complex in west St. Catharines.

Craitor based that on hospital accessibility and population growth projections. He said he supports the construction of a new community hospital and cancer centre in St. Catharines – but the proposed centre of excellence for women's and children's health should be in a more central location, which he believes to be GNGH.

"It would be better for us," agreed Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin. "Right now, we are going to Niagara Falls for that service so it would have no impact, which is a good thing."

Maternity units in Port Colborne and Fort Erie hospitals were closed years ago. Most women there travel to Welland and Niagara Falls to give birth.

Martin said to drive from his Fort Erie home to where the new St. Catharines hospital is to be located near Fourth Avenue and First Street takes about 40 minutes. A trip to GNGH takes 20 to 30 minutes.

please see **BABIES**, page A2

Week of bad news started with the storm

BY TONY RICCIUTO
Review Staff Writer

First, they had to endure a harsh wind storm that caused power surges that blew out their TVs, computers and other appliances.

Now some Ridgeway residents don't like the fact they are out thousands of dollars because of the damage, and the only way to recover those losses will

be to file claims with their insurance companies which will they fear will drive up their premiums.

The storm ripped through the community close to Lake Erie late Sunday night and into Monday morning.

At various times, damage to lines caused by falling branches left up to 6,000 people without power.

The worst damage seems to

be in the Highland Drive area, which runs between Gorham Road and Ridge Road.

One family lost a stove, computer, television, X-box gaming console and radio.

Now, a meeting is planned for 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Ridgeway Legion hall so residents can discuss their options.

Homeowners like Rob Eberly are still adding up their losses and won't know the total until

"On my street, just about everybody I've talked to has had some type of damage."

Ridgeway resident Rob Eberly

everything in his home has been checked over by an electrician.

"On my street, just about everybody I've talked to has had

some type of damage," said Eberly, who lives on Glenwood Drive in Ridgeway.

please see **STORM**, page A2

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