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ESTABLISHED 1997

The Voice

Vol.24 No.40 ★★★ October 7, 2020 Published every Wednesday

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Attempted theft leads to tragedy in Fenwick



Uniformed officers and detectives along Highway 20, between Cream St. and Balfour St., investigating the discovery of a resident's body, Oct. 2. **DAVE BURKET**

Police appeal for public's assistance

BY VOICE STAFF

A critically injured, elderly male was discovered in Fenwick by Niagara Regional Police early Friday morning, Oct. 2. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to an NRPS statement released Friday, officers responded to a welfare check call around 2:45 AM in the area of Cream St. and Highway 20.

"Uniform officers arrived on scene and located an elderly male

with serious injuries. The male was pronounced deceased at the scene," said the statement.

The Pelham Fire Department also responded, called out at 2:50 AM.

"The victim was deceased upon our arrival and Fire was cleared shortly after," Chief Bob Lymburner told the Voice.

Through an update late Friday evening, the NRPS identified the

victim as Earl Clapp, 74, and said that a "suspect vehicle" was involved.

On Saturday, the NRPS requested that anyone who had contact with the victim in the days leading up to the incident contact them.

On Sunday, the police service released additional details that point-

See **TRAGEDY** Page 10

Column Six

Pandemic musings

Squirrels be warned— school's back

BY JANE BEDARD
Special to the VOICE

September 8th was considered a great day for students and a sad day for squirrels.

For many students, this marked the official end of a six-month March Break. And while most of those kids might normally dread the end of summer, I got the feeling that many were itching to get back to something tangible, something that they could sink their teeth into—masks notwithstanding. The experiment of going back to school may be short-lived as a second wave hovers and threatens to tear apart what is so tenuously stitched together, but, to use an autumn metaphor, we'll just rake up our pile of leaves and hope we don't land in dung when we jump in, proving once again that a ready, fire, aim approach can be the best approach.

For squirrels, this was a very bad day indeed. It appeared that a genocide had

See **COLUMN SIX** back page

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A tractor trailer remained parked on the north side of Highway 20 in Fenwick, after its driver was told by police that he could not proceed early Friday morning.

DAVE BURKET

TRAGEDY

continued from Page 1

ed to a botched theft gone tragically wrong.

Through a statement, the NRPS said that homicide detectives have reason to believe that Clapp may have interrupted an attempted theft of one of his trailers. Clapp ran his business, Niagara Farm Metal Products, at 1351 Centre St., in Fenwick. Sources tell the Voice that Clapp had already had at least one trailer stolen in the recent past.

Police theorize that Clapp was

struck and dragged by the would-be thief's vehicle as it fled north on Centre, then west on Highway 20. Clapp's body was found on 20 west of Cream St., down the slight grade leading to Balfour St., about 1.5 kilometres from his home.

Voice correspondent Brian Green observed several small, blue evidence cones placed along the length of Centre St. early Friday afternoon. Returning about a half hour later, Green said that the cones had been replaced by numbered tags, and investigators were taking photos. Green, who lives in neighbourhood, added that two officers visited his home to ask

whether he had heard or seen anything unusual the night before. He had not. Residents along Canboro Rd. in Ridgeville also reported police visits.

For much of Friday, police blocked Highway 20 between Centre St. west to Balfour St., leaving one local big rig driver stranded.

"I just live four, five minutes away," said the driver, who was departing at 4:30 AM Friday when police told him that he couldn't proceed. At midday, his rig remained parked along the side of the road near Cream St.

A member of the Peninsula Lakes Golf Club greenkeeping staff told

the Voice that at around 11 AM he noticed something covered in white cloth along the side of Highway 20. A half hour later it was loaded into a grey van near the incident scene.

"It looked too small to be a person," said the staffer, who asked not to be named.

Individuals identified as detectives by an NRPS officer stationed at the intersection of Cream and Highway 20 were seen by the Voice walking door to door at noon.

As is often the case with the NRPS, police did not identify the exact location where Clapp was discovered. However, based on the position of emergency vehicles

and yellow caution tape, the location seemed to be very close to 660 Highway 20 West, where a long driveway led to a residence.

At about 3:45 PM, police announced that they had cleared the area and the roadblocks had been removed.

Detectives are asking anyone who resides in the area that has video footage, or vehicles with dash cams that may have been in the area between the hours of 12 AM to 3 AM on Friday, Oct. 2, to review their video footage and contact the Niagara Regional Police Service at 905-688-4111, dial option 3, ext. 9134.



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Flu shots now available

Limited supply as seasonal vaccine is distributed earlier than usual

BY DON RICKERS
Special to the VOICE

As if COVID wasn't bad enough, we are now entering the annual flu season. Health experts are encouraging flu shots in an effort to avoid a "twindemic," when both influenza and the coronavirus circulate at high levels of infection at the same time.

Anticipating an increased demand for the flu shot, the Public Health Agency of Canada has reported that the provinces have ordered a record 13.7 million doses of the vaccine, up over 20% from last fall.

Publicly funded influenza vaccines are available in Ontario as part of the Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP). The Ford government is implementing the largest flu immunization campaign in the province's history, part of a comprehensive plan to prepare the health system for a second wave of COVID-19.

Almost \$70 million has been invested to purchase 5.1 million flu vaccine doses (700,000 more than ordered last year).

For those age 65 and older, there are two different seasonal flu shots available. The standard-dose quadrivalent vaccine protects against four strains of flu virus, whereas the high-dose vaccine protects against three strains of flu virus, but in higher concentration. The province has ordered 1.3 million high-dose vaccine doses for Ontario seniors, intended for those with pre-existing health conditions, and those vulnerable individuals in long-term care homes, hospitals and retirement homes. The high-dose invokes a stronger immune response.

Children six months to four years old can get their flu shot from a doctor, nurse practitioner, or local public health unit, but

those under five years old cannot get a flu shot at a pharmacy. Flu shots take about two weeks to reach full effect.

According to the Ontario Ministry of Health, last year's viral strains resulted in just over 5,700 flu-related hospitalizations in Ontario, and 280 deaths.

Kyle Boggio, pharmacist/owner at Boggio's Pharmacy on Highway 20, said that the government has planned a controlled release of vaccine to pharmacies between now and October 19. Additional supplies should be released thereafter.

"We are still very early in the flu season," said Boggio. "Last year, the program didn't start until the last week of October, so we're several weeks ahead of where we were in 2019."

Boggio's has both the quadrivalent and high dose vaccines, but the latter is currently in very limited supply. He said that most people will opt for the quadrivalent.

Because of the necessary COVID screening measures, Boggio's is providing flu shots only by appointment for now, although walk-in service could be an option in the future. Forms can be accessed from the home page of their website (boggios.com), and brought in for a pre-scheduled shot.

At Shoppers Drug Mart, located in the Fonthill Shopping Centre, pharmacist Nasrin Habashy said that both the quadrivalent and high-dose flu vaccines are in stock, and appointments are required.

Glen Sisak, pharmacist/owner at PharmaChoice, in the Fonthill Marketplace/

See SHOTS Page 16

Multiple arrests in Fenwick murder investigation

At least two taken into custody related to death of Earl Clapp

BY DAVE BURKET
The VOICE

Through a statement released late Friday night, Oct. 9, just over one week since the death of 74-year-old Fenwick resident Earl Clapp, the Niagara Regional Police Service announced that they had arrested a suspect in Clapp's murder.

Police said that shortly before 5 PM Friday, Matthew MacInnes, 39, of Wellandport, was arrested and charged with the alleged offence of second degree murder.

MacInnes was held in custody pending a video bail hearing.

In a second statement, released Saturday, the NRPS announced a second arrest. Police said that on Saturday afternoon, shortly before 2 PM, they arrested Jason Lusted, 49, of no fixed address, and also charged him with the alleged offence of second degree murder.

Lusted was held in custody pending a video bail hearing.

Detectives asked for the public's assistance in their efforts to locate a 2007-2014, black Ford Expedition that they said may be associated with Lusted or MacInnes, and driven on the night of the incident.

Some Voice readers contacted the paper on Sunday, suggesting that a third arrest had also been made. On what appeared to be the Facebook pages for MacInnes and a woman living in Welland, both referred to each other as boyfriend and girlfriend. A woman whose name matched that of MacInnes's apparent girlfriend was listed on a St. Catharines courtroom docket, along with MacInnes, for



Police on site along Hwy 20 West on Friday, Oct. 2. DAVE BURKET

a hearing that was to take place on Tuesday, Oct. 13, after the Voice went to press.

By press time, police had not confirmed whether the woman had been arrested in connection with the Clapp investigation or on an unrelated matter.

The second suspect arrested, Jason Lusted, was paroled from prison in 2015 after serving seven and a half years for his connection to a 2007 murder. According to reporting by the Hamilton Spectator, Lusted and a friend took the victim from his Hamilton apartment at gunpoint. Lusted testified that it was the friend who shot and killed the victim. The friend received a life sentence. Lusted received ten years for accessory to murder after the fact. The newspaper reported that it was Lusted's fourth federal sentence.

Police earlier theorized that Clapp had interrupted an attempted theft of a utility trailer at his home

and business on Centre St., in Fenwick. In the ensuing events, police think that Clapp was dragged approximately 1.5 km north then west on Highway 20 West, where his body was found between Cream and Balfour Streets early on the morning of Friday, Oct. 2.

Police say that the investigation remains ongoing by detectives with the Homicide Unit. Sources tell the Voice that the NRPS allocated substantial resources to investigating Clapp's murder. Police officers and detectives widely canvassed Pelham neighborhoods as far east as Fonthill in a search for eyewitnesses and home security camera recordings.

A community vehicle procession honouring Clapp and his family was organized for Thanksgiving day.

Detectives are urging members of the public with information to contact the Niagara Regional Police Service at 905-688-4111, Option 3 Badge 9134.

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Court appearance for accused in Clapp case

Lawyer for Matthew MacInnes says he has been unable to speak with his client

BY JOHN CHICK
Special to the VOICE

One of two men charged with second-degree murder in the death of Pelham resident Earl Clapp made a brief appearance via video link in a St. Catharines court on Friday, Oct. 16. Matthew MacInnes, 39, of Wellandport, spoke only to give his name before his lawyer Andrew Burton told the court he has been unable to connect with his client since MacInnes' Oct. 9 arrest.

"One of the issues with respect to this matter is that I haven't been able to speak with Mr. MacInnes since he's been taken to the detention centre," Burton said. "I've been in touch with his family, there have been a number of different discussions — the details of which are all important that I want to share with him privately."

The attorney asked the court to be able to speak with MacInnes one-on-one via the video booth at the St. Catharines courthouse on Monday, Oct. 19. Justice of the Peace Linda Pearson agreed.

Burton added that he had been barred from visiting his client at the Niagara Detention Centre in Thorold.

"For the record, I've been to the jail to try and see him in person there, and I've been denied access to him ... the assertion is [MacInnes has] been quarantined on a COVID droplet protection protocol," Burton said. "Despite

my actual attendance at the jail, I haven't been able to speak with him, and for whatever reason he hasn't been able to reach me."

Burton did not reply to a Voice request for comment.

MacInnes and 49-year-old Jason Lusted, of no fixed address, have been charged with second-degree murder in the Oct. 2 death of Clapp. Niagara Regional Police believe the 74-year-old Clapp interrupted an attempted theft of a trailer on his Centre Street property, and was then struck and dragged to his death by the suspect vehicle.

Lusted was also scheduled to appear in court via video link on Monday. Because of Lusted's involvement in a still-unresolved 14-year-old murder case, his proceedings are subject to a court-ordered publication ban.

However, a source told the Voice last week that after being detained in Clapp's death, Lusted attacked a guard by biting them at the Niagara Detention Centre, and was subsequently placed in solitary confinement.

A Ministry of Solicitor General official didn't name Lusted, but told the Voice there was an incident.

"The ministry can confirm an incident involving an inmate and staff member at Niagara Detention Centre on Oct. 11, 2020. The

staff member was not injured," spokesperson Kristy Denette said. "Violence within our correctional facilities is unacceptable and the ministry has zero tolerance when it comes to assaults or threats against staff. If staff are assaulted or threatened, the police are contacted to investigate."

Niagara police confirmed they were contacted by the jail on Oct. 11, but didn't provide details.

"That investigation remains ongoing, as such we have nothing further to provide at this time," Const. Phil Gavin told the Voice.

Lusted was a star witness in the Hamilton murder trial of Jeremy Hall, accused of killing 27-year-old Billy Mason in 2006. Lusted and Hall testified at that trial they both ran a profitable auto theft ring and chop shop throughout the Golden Horseshoe. Lusted testified against Hall, claiming he was merely a bystander when Hall abducted and shot Mason to death, then drank beer with Hall as Mason's corpse was burned.

Hall was convicted of first-degree murder in 2013, with Lusted pleading guilty as an accessory after the fact. However, the Hall conviction was later overturned on appeal, with a Hamilton judge scheduled to deliver a verdict in the retrial this Oct. 30.

Coincidentally, a woman identifying herself as MacInnes' girlfriend is due in court Nov. 3 on unrelated weapons charges from 2019. Tamara Aubertin of Welland lists that she is "in a relationship" with MacInnes on her Facebook account. Aubertin did not reply to a Voice request for comment.



Matthew MacInnes, from his Facebook page.

FACEBOOK



Courtroom sketch of Jason Lusted, testifying in the first-degree murder trial of Jeremy Hall, Feb. 4, 2013. MARCELA PRIKRYL ILLUSTRATION/SPECIAL TO THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

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PUBLISHER'S CORNER
by Dave Burket

Corrections at the top: Well, that was just silly. In a photo that accompanied our Legion Poppy Campaign story last week, we managed to label Marvin Junkin the "Mayor of Fonthill." Despite being the centre of the municipal universe, Fonthill does not have a mayor. Pelham does. Fenwick, of course, enjoys the unofficial mayordom of one Gary Chambers, not to confuse things. Any nominees for Ridgeville? How about Chile Bob...
Speaking of dropping names: The Waterloo Region District School Board has passed a motion to review all school names and board facilities to determine whether any have racist links. DSBN, here's your chance to right the wrong perpetrated in 2016, when you decided that a school named for a beloved local educator should be renamed instead for a racist and anti-Semite. Trustee Nancy Beamer, over to you...
Breakfast with a Side of Santa: As I write this, the forecast for Tuesday is sunny and 22 degrees—not exactly the sort of weather to put us in a Christmas frame of mind, outside Los Angeles or Sydney. Nonetheless, the day is only six weeks away, and the Fonthill Lions have invited Santa down for their Drive-thru Santa Breakfast, happening at the club on Sunday, Nov. 9, 9 AM to noon. \$5 gets you four pancakes, three sausages, maple syrup and butter. Details at www.fonthillions.ca...
Early holiday gifts: A belated thank-you to Marj Desjardin and Sharon Vizbulis for dropping off some old newspapers and clippings. Interesting reading!...
Time's melody plays on: Bonnie Raitt turned 71 on Sunday, Neil Young turns 75 on Thursday, and Billy Joel's "Piano Man" was released this week in 1973. (According to a 2011 biography, Joel was only ever paid \$8000 in royalties—roughly a dollar for each time I've heard the tune, willingly or otherwise, since it was released.)...
The weight of history: If the paper seems heavier this week it's due to three Remembrance Day-inspired stories—lest we forget—each fascinating in its own way. It's been 75 years since the Allies defeated fascism in Europe and Asia. With much of the world recently again lurching to the far right, the US election results came as good news, if still a sobering reminder that nearly half the population of our southern neighbour remains under the sway of a con man. There are encouraging signs, though, with the Fox News empire, which created #45 as a political force, is now distancing itself from his tantrum over losing. Let's hope he goes quietly at the end...
Something to cheer you up: I'm afraid I must insist, once you've finished reading every one of these sterling 24 pages, that you sit yourself down on the sofa, head to Netflix, and launch into The Queen's Gambit, the new seven-episode drama that debuted in late October. It is outstanding. You will thank me. Yes, it's about a 1960s chess prodigy, and this alone put me off until a friend twisted my arm. Resist the urge to binge. Let them settle for a day before moving on...
Reality check: Four straight days of 1,000-plus infections in Ontario. Stay safe out there. ♦

IN THE NEWS

Suspect in Clapp murder case hospitalized

BY JOHN CHICK
Special to the VOICE

Jason Lusted, one of two men detained in the death of Pelham resident Earl Clapp, allegedly attempted suicide by hanging himself last week while in custody at the Niagara Detention Centre, a source told the Voice.

The Ministry of the Solicitor General – the governing body of Ontario corrections facilities – confirmed that an inmate remained hospitalized as of Sunday after being found in medical distress at the jail on Nov. 5.

"The ministry can confirm that an inmate was found in medical distress on November 5th, 2020 at the Niagara Detention Centre," spokesperson Greg Flood told the Voice. "The inmate was transported to hospital and remains in hospital at this time. It would be inappropriate to comment any further as it would be a breach of the inmate's health privacy."

Lusted, 49, of no fixed address, was arrested on Oct. 10 – eight days after Clapp was dragged to his death by a vehicle police believe was involved in the attempted theft of a trailer from the 74-year-old's Centre Street property.

Like Lusted, 39-year-old Matthew MacInnes of Wellandport was also arrested and charged with second-degree murder.

A day after Lusted's arrest, he allegedly attacked a



Jason Lusted. FACEBOOK

guard at the Thorold detention centre. Lusted made a brief video court appearance on Oct. 19 and is due back in court Nov. 27. MacInnes is set to appear again this week.

Lusted was prominently involved in the still-unresolved, decade-and-a-half-old Hamilton murder of Billy Mason. Lusted testified against alleged accomplice Jeremy Hall in that case, claiming he was a bystander as Hall shot Mason and burned his corpse in 2006. Mason's ultimate conviction was overturned on appeal in part because of defense lawyers attacking Lusted's credibility. A verdict in that retrial had been scheduled for last month, but Lusted's arrest in the Clapp death has prompted Hall's lawyers to ask for more time to review items "relevant to a material issue in the case."

NRPS impaired driving charges

In an effort to bring further attention and deterrence to driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs, the Niagara Regional Police Service reports the names of those people who are charged with an alleged criminal impaired driving offence in the Region. None of the following charges have been proved in court.

In addition to being charged, these individuals are also bound by a Ministry of Transportation 90-Day Administrative Driver's License Suspension and are prohibited from operating a motor vehicle on a roadway. The public is encouraged to contact the Niagara Regional Police Service Traffic Safety Hotline or Crime Stoppers to report those who are driving in contravention of the suspension.

The following individuals have been charged criminally with impaired driving by alcohol or drugs, driving with a blood alcohol concentration above 80 mgs of alcohol in 100 ml of blood, or refusing to provide a breath / blood sample.

- Carl H. DUNN, 56, Niagara Falls
- Christopher M. HUNERMUND, 38, Niagara Falls
- Joanne L. MCBRIDE, 48, Grimsby
- Kenneth R. CHUMIENSKI, 36, Grimsby
- Brandon D. COLE-TREMBLAY, 26, St. Catharines
- Travis J. P. DUNCAN, 33, Pelham
- Michael F. PALVETZIAN, 33, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Niagara Regional Police Service is committed to reducing impaired driving offences through education and the apprehension of offenders through enforcement programs like RIDE. Impaired driving is still the leading cause of criminal deaths in Canada and destroys thousands of lives every year.



What's That SIREN Pelham Fire Department Weekly Calls

The Pelham Fire Department responded to two calls from Friday Oct. 30 to Friday Nov. 6, 2020.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

Brush fire, Victoria Road (started by a discarded cigarette), Fenwick

Friday Nov. 6

Grass fire, Farr Street (controlled burn), Fenwick

Voice on vacation!



Bob and Kim Reid at the Vatican, in Rome.

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