Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell address-es the crowd gathered on Queen Street Saturday morning during the 100th anniversary celebration of the cenotaph and clock tower. (Mike Balsom)

Ontario’s Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell’s arrival Saturday in Niagara-on-the-Lake was greeted with appropriate pomp and circumstance. In town to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the NOTL clock tower and cenotaph, and to help mark Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee, Dowdeswell was chauffeured onto Queen Street and met by Lord Mayor Betty Disero and members of NOTL council at the side of the cenotaph. Dowdeswell then walked amongst the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Association Band, who played God Save The Queen and O Canada at the start of the ceremony. The Queen’s representative in our province extended greetings to a number of band members, before moving on to do the same for the gathered local branch members of the Royal Canadian Legion, first responders, Canadian Navy members and veterans on parade. Resplendent in her feathered red hat, Dowdeswell spent additional time speaking to 100-year-old veteran John Wikabrod before taking her seat next to Disero. The Lord Mayor began the proceedings with the land acknowledgement, then welcomed local dignitaries before turning the spotlight to Dowdeswell.

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Lord Mayor Betty Disero joins Dr. Tom Pekar, also the NOTL town crier, on the steps of the Court House Thursday, June 2 at 2 p.m. for the proclamation of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

With Lord Mayor Betty Disero counting down the seconds, at exactly 2 p.m., June 2, he began the announcement from the Court House steps with a shortened version of his humorous call to attention, following it by the proclamation that was announced around the world:

“Today in our nation, and throughout the Commonwealth, we are celebrating our glorious Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Elizabeth, the second of that name, our most beloved sovereign and head of the Commonwealth for 70 years.

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“Let it be known, in proclaiming this tribute to Her Majesty the Queen, on her Platinum Jubilee, that we are one nation and one Commonwealth.”

“God Save the Queen.” Queen Elizabeth was at Windsor Castle Thursday to lead a ceremony that included more than 3,000 beacons being lit around the UK and the Commonwealth, including in Ottawa, symbolizing unity and celebrating her 70 years on the throne.

In Canada, town criers in cities across the country were asked to announce the specially-scripted proclamation in honour of the Queen’s historic reign, at 2 p.m. their time June 2.

Disero also congratulated Queen Elizabeth and offered best wishes from NOTL on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

Pekar told The Local after the proclamation that one of the things he has learned from the pandemic is the importance of having attachments — whether it’s a bubble, family, tribe, community or wider connections, “without attachments we do not thrive.”

His attachment to the community of criers is worldwide, not just the Commonwealth, and is about 3,000 members strong.

He believes about half of them in Canada are in communities that celebrated the Jubilee — the others did not because of their diverse populations.

“I celebrate that by chance of fate I was born in Canada, and without the Indigenous support in 1812 we would have a different flag flying over us today,” he says. “For me the Jubilee is a rite of passage, like all birthdays, and deserves to be celebrated — the Queen just has a bigger party.”
Continued from page 1

be closed, but the clock tower would still stand.

Dale explained that veterans were also adamant that the clock tower stand in the centre of town, not in an alternate location in Simcoe Park. Designed by Toronto architect Charles Willmott, the cenotaph was funded through the sale of Victory Bonds and unveiled on June 24, 1922.

Dale went on to speak of NOTL residents lost in later conflicts, before turning the service over to councillor Gary Burroughs, chair of the cenotaph committee. Burroughs spoke of the need for fundraising efforts to restore the cenotaph to its former glory.

"It's a landmark that is so unique to this town," said Burroughs. "As we mark this century, it is amazing to see how well the cenotaph has been preserved. Still, the persistence of weather and time have begun to leave their marks. Moving forward, the plan is a full restoration."

The 29th Lieutenant Governor stepped to the podium after Burroughs to a standing ovation from the crowd that lined both sides of Queen Street.

"One hundred years ago this memorial was unveiled by my predecessor, the Honorable Henry Cockshutt, who himself had been a veteran in the Great War," said Dowdeswell. "The fact that this memorial occupies such a prominent place in your community is a testament to how important that war really was."

"Some of the dead that we honour today barely made it out of their own childhood," she continued. "Private Robert Follett Best was aged 18, Gunner William Perry Currie only 19. The world is perhaps indeed a happier place. But we know there are still so many dark clouds."

Dowdeswell urged the adults of today to consider what kind of world they want to leave for the children of tomorrow, and to think about what they could do to lessen their burden. She went on to speak of service, both in the military and other forms, such as that of frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, before turning her focus back to the structure behind her and what it represents.

"This clock tower is a place of solemnity, but also a place of beauty," said Dowdeswell. "The flowers arranged around it every spring signify and embody continued renewal. In honour of those who came before us, and with their stories in our minds and their names in our hearts, let us commit to upholding the values of loyalty and caring that they fought for. They will not be forgotten."

A prayer was read. Last Post was played, and the names of the fallen were then listed. Following Reveille, Dowdeswell was then invited to place a wreath at the foot of the cenotaph to honour the fallen. The band and parade then led Dowdeswell and Disero, riding along in the car with the Lieutenant Governor, to Queen’s Royal Park, where a tree planting ceremony was held to recognize the Queen’s 70 years on the throne.

There, Disero reflected on the many visits to the town by the royal family over the years, and remarked on the numerous accomplishments of Queen Elizabeth over seven decades.

"Her reign is longer than that of her four predecessors put together," marveled Disero. "What an outstanding milestone. Nationwide ceremonies have also been held to mark her Silver, Gold and Diamond Jubilees. Reaching the age of 96 is also unprecedented for a monarch."

"To some here in Canada it might seem quaint to continue observances of the British crown," Disero continued. "But in many ways it remains the historical backbone of our nation and is entrenched in many of Canadian institutions."

Disero then handed Dowdeswell a shovel, and the Lieutenant Governor distributed soil at the base of the tree planted earlier last week to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.

Following the tree planting ceremony, Dowdeswell read a prayer, "In honor of those who came before us, and with their stories in our minds and hearts, let us commit to carrying on their legacy and to upholding the values of loyalty and caring that they fought for. They will not be forgotten."

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We’re in a better place, ‘but pandemic isn’t over’

We’re in a good place with the pandemic, Dr. Mustafa Hirji told reporters Monday.

The acting chief medical officer of health told reporters Monday he doesn't think we're going to need to close businesses or institute capacity limits this summer, and we might even get a reprieve from wearing masks.

But while we're in a much better situation than we were last fall, he expects to see ongoing hospitalizations and deaths, continued strain on the health care system, people suffering from long COVID, and ongoing economic consequences, he said — the pandemic isn't over, and infections could increase in the fall.

Nor is it going to be like a typical seasonal flu, he added, speaking of long-term plans that should be considered to control the virus.

Vaccinations remain the best protection, and he urged those who are not fully vaccinated to complete the series, saying that while 81.5 per cent of Niagara's population has received two doses of vaccine, only 50.6 per cent have gone back for third doses, when three doses should be the standard.

He also suggested that proof of vaccinations should be updated to include a third dose, for employers who want to use the 'vaccination tool' for staff or customers, and to be prepared "for the eventualty of bringing it back in the fall" if needed.

We need to make staying home when we're sick part of our culture, even if we have a cold, and paid sick days to encourage us to stay home, and work from home if we're able.

Hirji suggested investments should be made to improve ventilation and filtration, making public buildings safer. Building codes need to be updated for new builds and those going through extensive retrofits and renovations, with financial incentives for businesses to encourage them to make those improvements.

He also talked about looking at holiday calendars, building in some time off to prevent the spread of disease when we return to work.

With rapid tests still widely available, we should make use of them in certain circumstances, such as if we know we've been in contact with someone who has COVID, in which case we should use them for three days to be sure we're negative.

We should also take a rapid test for any cold-like symptoms, staying home whether we get a negative or positive result, but if the test is positive, we should also notify anyone we've been in contact with.

And it doesn't hurt to take a test when we know we're going to be in a group of people, just to be sure we're safe to attend the gathering — we could be positive without having any symptoms.

Hirji said a non-partisan commission should set up to take “a really deep-dive look” at what occurred during the pandemic, to see what we can do better if it happens again.

With border crossings and restrictions still an issue for travellers, Hirji said he doesn't think all measures should be dropped, but we don't need "onerous restrictions."

They could be simplified to eliminate confusion, even with documentation on an international level, and "easier measures in place that people can understand as they cross borders.”

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New look.  
Same foundation.

When Niagara Community Foundation (NCF) was established as a millennium project in 2000, it began with two donations of $100,000 each. In its first round of grants, it proudly invested $9,500 into the community. In these early days, the foundation had eager intentions to grow, to gain awareness but most of all, to meet the changing needs of the community, making an impact on the charitable sector here in Niagara.

In 21+ years, the foundation has grown to $76 million in assets, over 400 fundholders and grants over $2.5 million each year. This exceptional growth has shaped and changed Niagara in and in turn, has shaped and changed NCF as an organization. But it’s not just about the numbers. Another shift happened.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, NCF was gearing up for a year of celebration as they marked their 20th anniversary and the NOTL Fund, a local community fund under the umbrella of NCF, hit their first milestone of 5 years. As we all know, the tone of that year quickly shifted from jubilation to emergency response, supporting a charitable sector that was hit from all sides. 2020 did not go “as planned” but in many ways, it brought NCF back to the epicenter of who they are as an organization. They met the changing needs of the community; they adapted their granting schedule, tightened up their application process and ensured that their donors were able to see their assets at work. It was through this crisis, that NCF was able to reflect on who they were as an organization. They are Niagara’s philanthropic partner. This time of reflection led NCF to the decision to rebrand the organization.

“We are thrilled to have developed a new brand that reflects how our organization has grown and matured and we look forward to presenting it to Niagara,” says Bryan Rose, ED of NCF.

“The goal of this rebrand is twofold,” says Suzanne Veenstra, NCF’s new Marketing and Communications Coordinator. “To build on the solid foundation of who we are as an organization and to propel us forwards into the future ahead. As a visual representation of the organization, we wanted our brand to reflect our core identity while also inspiring our community and the philanthropic sector.”

Though NCF has a new look, the core of who they are remains unwavering. With each step of the rebranding process, NCF came back to the intentions established in 2000, to meet the changing needs of the community, making a noticeable and sustainable impact on Niagara. This is what brought NCF together in the first place and what will remain central to their path moving forward. Niagara Community Foundation turns intent into impact.

“New look.  
Same foundation.”

We are thrilled to have developed a new brand that reflects how our organization has grown and matured ...

Bryan Rose

 Turning intent into impact.

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Newark Neighbours needs our help

Newark Neighbours, a local food bank and thrift store that has been serving Niagara-on-the-Lake residents for 50 years, is asking for our help.

The organization has had several homes over the decades, from a boiler room in a factory to a large estate home on the Niagara Parkway, that was once intended as a museum, and became Riverbend Inn. In the 1990s, the location where it is currently located, beside Riverbend, was provided to Newark Neighbours, and with the help of volunteers and local businesses, the barn, as it was called with affection, where it still has had its thrift shop and food bank, was built. It is the only food bank serving Niagara-on-the-Lake. Clients can visit twice a month, and can receive a full holiday basket of groceries and other treats three times a year. All revenue from the thrift shop helps to support the food bank.

Newark Neighbours has outgrown the John Street East location, and is in need of a new home. Cindy Grant, Newark Neighbours board chair, says there is an unmet need in NOTL for the food bank, and a new location with more space would allow them to address that. She reached out to the community last fall for help finding a larger space, and it is once again asking us for assistance with a location for this much-needed organization in our community to continue to operate. She and her board are looking for ideas and suggestions for a potential new site, with space to better serve the growing needs of the community — the numbers of families and individuals requiring assistance has doubled in the last year.

A requirement “wish list” has been developed. Grant says, including a minimum of 2000-plus square feet, ideally in a central location, with ground floor accessibility and the ability to provide privacy for food clients. She asks, is there any available property available, any existing buildings that can be retro-fit, or any other relocation options the board hasn’t thought of?

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a community of generous people who are accustomed to seeing a need and making sure it’s fulfilled. When Newark Neighbours needs food for holiday meals or just to fill its shelves, when it asks for gifts for children, the response is instantaneous and overwhelming. Niagara-on-the-Lake looks after its own.

What they are asking for now is not as simple as buying a few extras while shopping, or making a cash donation. It may be a challenge, and likely won’t be a simple solution, but it is essential that this organization be provided space it needs so it can continue to effectively and efficiently serve the needy in NOTL.

Surely if some of you smart, visionary people in NOTL, so accustomed to problem-solving, put your heads together, you can come up with an idea, a piece of land, an existing building, something that could be the future of New- ark Neighbours, and the work it must continue to do for this community.

Please reach out to Grant and her board of directors at 905-468-3519, or newarkneighbours1@gmail.com.

Penny Coles
The Local
Lord Mayor addresses inclusivity, diversity

Lord Mayor Betty Disero

I recently attended a Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) Ambassador training session, and after a presentation by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Committee (DEI), I thought it important to share some of my thoughts.

Diversity means that every one is unique. We know that. We are all unique - when and where we were born, our dreams, thoughts, and values. There are no two people exactly alike.

Inclusivity means that everyone, even though we are all unique, has a voice at the table.

Equity ensures that every one at the table has an equal voice and is treated with an equal measure of dignity, respect, and civility; even (especially) when there is a disagreement.

When the DEI Committee explained its mission, I realized that the DEI Committee’s mandate is not only to ensure that council is inclusive and fair to all, but also to spend time teaching community members how to compassionately and respect for one another that are vital in our everyday lives and in the way we approach each other.

But what about our own personal thoughts and actions regarding diversity, equity, and inclusivity? I began to think:

• Are we, each one of us, inclusive?
• Do we celebrate our diversity?
• Do we try to ensure everyone is included and has an equal opportunity to all share in the wonderful benefits and beauty of our Town?

As I learned from the DEI Committee, we are all unique, we should all have a voice, and each voice should matter. Each of us should have the full opportunity to make our contribution to our community.

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Local LETTERS

Watch out for turtles

Joy Sanguedolce

Sourdough journey turns out to be an easy one

There are true good Samaritans around that care about our wildlife!

This morning we were running out to do some errands. A woman on her way to work pulled her car over at our neighbour’s house and came over to our house to ask if we could help rescue a snapping turtle. She had to get to work.

This snapping turtle was headed towards Lakeshore Road where possibly his journey would have come to an end. She must have had a keen eye, as this turtle was about 20 feet from the road.

Be warned: break-ins in rural areas

Local Staff

When a thief breaks into one garage or car in a driveway, it may not seem like a big deal, and neighbours need to be warned.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake chapter of the Buy Nothing Movement is a Facebook group where neighbours are able to take what they need don’t need — was looking for 1/4 litre containers, full, half, quater, you name it. I’ve got it.

It was a long COVID winter, and takeout from said container was a trusted connection. Needless to say I had plenty to share. Janice Taylor posted the request along with the offer of sourdough starter to anyone who was interested. I had the containers to give, but not the time to keep alive — this was not for me. So sourdough remained with Janice until one day I went over to our house to ask if we could help rescue a snapping turtle. She had to get to work.

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Chautauqua residents hoping for more planning controls

Lord Mayor emphasizes no desire to rush process

Penny Coles
The Local

The town is moving toward a name change for Ryerson Park.

Last summer, town councillors had a brief discussion about renaming the green stretch along the shore of Lake Ontario in the Chautauqua neighbourhood, but with no time to act.

Town staff have recently discussed the issue with the Niagara Regional Native Centre and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, the Chautauqua Residents Association, and members had a conversation about their preferences during their recent annual general meeting.

They hope to be included in the town’s ongoing discussions and eventual decision, says CRA president Brian Crow, who was also a member of The Friends of Ryerson Park, which formed to deal with other issues related to the park.

“We got an email from Marnie (Chickie, the town CAO) late last week about the park name,” says Crow.

She mentions a meeting in the next week or two with the three organizers of The Friends of Ryerson Park, Crow, John Scott and Sean Devlin, to discuss the name change.

Members of the CRA first talked about it at a meeting a year ago, and decided to wait until the town was closer to a decision before discussing it.

When the issue was raised again recently, and some research done about the area, Crow says, the CRA chose the name Chautauqua Park.

There is already a Chautauqua Park in New York. The streets were laid out like spokes in a wheel, an amphitheatre in the centre, designed to resemble Chautauqua in New York.

It’s a pocket of Niagara-on-the-Lake that has remained relatively untouched by tourists or progress, and residents want to keep it that way.

Continued on page 13

Discussions underway to rename Ryerson Park

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Continued on page 13
Continued from page 1 was beside me, and I love her dearly. My kids and grandkids understand and love me, and stand beside me knowing I'm trying to make a better world for other people's kids and grandkids."

They know he has to be a voice for others, especially those who are struggling, many of whom he met while going door to door leading up to the election.

"I enjoy campaigning. I like talking to people at the door. Some are happy, but I also talked to people who are struggling, so there was a lot of sadness. A lot of people in Niagara and across the province are living in poverty," Gates says he had been going over election results in his head all weekend, thinking about people who are struggling to put food on the table, and to pay their rent, and yet the voter turnout was dismal. About 43 per cent of the people in Ontario voted, and about 18 per cent voted for the Progressive Conservatives, he says. "We have to figure out why people feel so hopeless."

"It breaks my heart to see seniors going to bed hungry, when profits are going up for the billionaires, including the Weston family, owners of Loblaw. At what point do we share the wealth? I will work with every ounce of my energy," says the high-energy MPP, "for people not just in Niagara but across the province. We need to improve health care, to protect our environment and our history. But the big issue is affordability. It is in crisis, and it's hitting all of us. We all have to work together to find a way for people to live in one of the richest provinces in this country."

With health care still a priority, one of his first battles will be to ensure Ford scraps Bill 124, which he says is saying he will consider. The bill has capped increases for some provincial employees, such as nurses, para-medics and teachers, to one per cent, when inflation was at 6.8 per cent across the province in April.

"The opposition to that is just not from the NDP, but from all sectors. There will be an enormous amount of pressure for that to change."

Nurses especially, once called heroes of the pandemic, are now exhausted, feeling disrespected and left doing their jobs alone, Gates says. And it doesn't help patients who end up in hospital to be treated by nurses who are exhausted and suffering from low morale, he adds. A pay increase would just be a partial answer to the shortage of nurses, but it's a start.

He can't wait to start working on that and all the other issues before him. "I have to do my job. I'm incredibly honoured to be representing the people of this riding. I'm their voice, the face of their community. I have to make it better. And I'm very, very lucky to do it surrounded by the love of my family."

As for considering the NDP leadership, that process isn't likely to begin until December, or into the new year, and Gates says he is focused on the job before him.

The leadership race will follow a very similar process as the current federal Conservative leadership contest, and although he has seen the comments on social media and received emails from constituents asking him to put his name forward as a candidate, that's a long way away. For now he plans to be busy working on that and all the other issues before him.

If he continues to be encouraged to run for the leadership, he adds, "I'd have to sit down with Rita, my kids and grandkids, and see what they think." Elections Ontario was still posting unofficial results as Tuesday morning, showing Gates finished with 24,608 votes (48.08 per cent), ahead of Progressive Conservative candidate Bob Gale with 18,662 votes (36.4 per cent), Liberal candidate Ashley Waters with 4,298 (8.4 per cent), New Blue candidate Christine Lewis-Napolitano with 1,427 votes (2.79 per cent), Green candidate Tommy Ward with 1,382 votes (2.7 per cent), Ontario Party candidate Wesley Kavanagh with 670 votes (1.31 per cent) and None of the Above Direct Democracy Party candidate Devon St. Denis-Richard with 136 votes (0.27 per cent), and a voter turnout of 41.11 per cent.

Across the province, the Progressive Conservatives won 83 seats, the NDP 31 seats; the Liberals eight seats; the Green Party one seat. An independent also won one seat, with the Ontario elections website showing a voter turnout of 43.03 per cent.
Gaslight theme has renewed relevance today

Mike Balsom
The Local

The term gaslight, meaning to make a person question their own reality, is thought to have originated with the 1944 film of the same name. In the wake of the #MeToo movement, gaslighting found new relevance as a way to describe malicious efforts of men to keep women in their place.

That makes the timing perfect for the Shaw Festival’s presentation of Gaslight this summer. Johnna Wright and Patty Jamieson have adapted Hamilton’s original play for the Royal George Theatre into a feminist tour-de-force, directing the joy from Bella’s heart. The Shaw audience may at times seem convulsed, but at others he is convincingly mean-spirited, and force to keep Bella at her husband’s seeming loss of her mind. As well, the gaslights that hang from the ceiling and line a wall periodical dim and flicker, supposedly only seen by Bella herself.

Though it may be clear to the audience, Bella is unaware she is being manipulated by Jack. At times Morin’s Jack comes across as merely sly and calculating, but at others he is convincingly mean-spirited and angry, using bluster and force to keep Bella at bay. Jack also spins Bella’s mother’s history of mental illness and her subsequent institutionalization as proof that there is something wrong in the house, where prior to her becoming Mrs. Manningham, a robbery and murder had taken place.

She gains confidence and begins to turn the tables on a snivelling Jack, reclaiming her identity and her strength along the way.

Saying more would give too much away. Suffice to say, though, that Wright and Jamieson have reimagined Hamilton’s original work as a story about Bell’s strength and resourcefulness. And the audience reacted during the Friday matinee performance accordingly.

Though the Victorian setting of Shaw’s production may at times seem quaint and anachronistic, Wright and Jamieson’s adaptation, combined with expert performances by Lumsden and Morin, make Gaslight very relevant to modern times.

Gaslight is onstage at the Royal George Theatre until Oct. 8. For tickets visit shawfest.com.
Cricket match to receive help from town

Local Staff

On Monday, Rev. David Pritchard of St. Davids, asked town councillors for some help with a cricket match scheduled for this Sunday.

He made a virtual delegation to the committee of the whole meeting as a member of the Caribbean Workers Outreach Project, which is organizing its annual cricket match, this year at Memorial Park, between a team of offshore workers from Niagara-on-the-Lake, and a team from Lincoln, which will be held this Sunday, June 12, beginning at 2 p.m.

There are 20 members on each team, he said, and about 200 spectators and volunteers attending the event.

Pritchard was asking to use the field rent-free, and for a donation from the town of $600 to offset the cost of the event, which in June, will be held this Sunday, but said there is no discretionary funding available from the town this year.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said during the meeting that she was getting messages of people watching, because she was getting messages from them that they wanted to donate to the event. She said she, along with Coun. Erwin Wiens, who also wanted to help, would ensure that the cricket match was supported, and when the budget committee looks at discretionary grants, the CWOP cricket match would be considered.

Councillors supported relief of the field rental for Sunday.
Strawberry Festival returns in full force

Local Staff

There will be flats of fresh, juicy local strawberries for sale at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, and other goodies prepared by volunteers for the popular annual Strawberry Festival, Saturday, June 18.

“We’re all excited to be back, with mostly everything from other years, and a few small changes,” says volunteer Elaine Landray.

Expect to also find strawberry shortcake, crepes, and strawberry jam.

In addition to fresh strawberries for sale, some of them donated by Seaway Farms, there will be fresh strawberry jam made by church volunteers next week.

There will be lots of goodies on the bake table. And as usual, volunteers will be providing great barbecued selections. Also enjoy some delicious frozen yogurt.

There will be a used book sale, and inside the church hall, a silent auction and tour of the historic church, with history provided by Richard Merritt—plan to wear a mask inside. It will be the first festival for interim minister Rev. Clyde Ervine from St. Catharines, who has come out of retirement to help the church. “He is doing a wonderful job,” says Landray. “We’d like to keep him.”

Musical entertainment will be going on throughout the day, with the Ukusters and other bands, and activities for kids, including sit-down art for them to enjoy.

The festival, Saturday, June 18, runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Simcoe Street church. Admission is free.

The last Strawberry Festival was in 2019, and all involved are excited for the return of the annual fundraiser for St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church.

Lynn Lingard and Beth Alma were busy making strawberry crepes when they last volunteered at the festival. (File photo)

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Writers Circle Books at the Barn is back.

On June 18, the same day as the Strawberry Festival, authors from the Writers Circle will be set up at tents at 322 Simcoe Street, across from St. Andrew’s Church, providing an opportunity to meet local authors, buy books and have them autographed.

The lineup of authors features:

Terry Belleville, author of Raising the Bar (A young couple struggles to restore a ramshackle country pub in Australia in the 1990s); Matters of Kindness (nine short stories reveal different aspects of kindness), The Printer, the Actress, and the Cat She Couldn’t Mention (a romantic comedy set in Buffalo and New York City), and Things That Happened Or Might Have (A collection of 15 short stories, many of them true). Elizabeth Currie will be there with Lucifer’s Pride (rival sisters hook up with the world’s most notorious bike gang, and what price will they pay for love and money?).

Sharon Frayne, author of Caught Between the Walls, 10 ghostly short stories based on true events, and set in the long-lost historic NOTL Courthouse and Jail, will be there as well.

Paul Masson presents his latest novel, Evil Ever Lives, the fourth volume in his detective series the ABC Files. A collection of his first three novels will also be for sale.

Patricia Nicholls-Papernick, author of Annie and Fred, a biographical novel spanning more than 100 years, many hardships, two World Wars, Alzheimer’s and survival, and A Season of Miracles (a trilogy of short stories: a detective story, a fantasy and a love story).

The books cover a wide range of genres and styles: children’s books, fantasy, mystery, romance, historical fiction, young adult literature, as well as memoirs and other non-fiction subjects. There’ll be something of interest for all readers. So stop by and have a look!
Neighbourhood needs a secondary plan

Continued from page 8

One neighbour on the other side of Circle Street came to council in 2019, say- ing then a plan was needed for Chautauqua to prevent in- appropriate new builds, and although some changes were made to the first proposal for 6A Circle St., he feared it would have a negative impact on the streetscape, setting a precedent for what will occur going forward.

That is also Byart’s con- cern. The retired high school principal and history teacher believes the historic nature of Chautauqua, as a site of War of 1812 battles, should be pre- served, and buildlings limited to smaller homes such as exist in the neighbourhood today.

He emphasizes the pie- shaped nature of the lot makes it look considerably larger from the front, but once the setbacks from the property line are calculated, there isn’t much room for the home, which will be less than 10 feet from his kitchen win- dow, and that of his neigh- bour’s on the other side.

The current bylaw states that the foundation of the new house must be a min- imum of 4 feet from the property line of each of the houses. On his neighbour’s side, it will entirely block the view from her kitchen win- dow — she will see nothing but a wall — and it will block 90 per cent of the view from his brand-new window of his renovated kitchen.

Byart has created an os- sis in the small space behind his house. The 28-foot house proposed for the severed lot will block out his sunlight, and instead of a quiet, private paradise in his backyard, he will lose all his privacy.

He has been assured by the town planning director that the two trees on the front of the lot will be protected, and anyone who harms or re- moves a tree without a permit would be fined by the town.

The arborist who has looked at the trees has called for a fence around them during construction, and is part of the future building permit.

The two mature trees straddle the line between town and private property, and the setback of the house, according to site-specific zoning, is 22 feet from the property line, the planning director said in an email to Byart.

He was hoping the size of the tree canopy would be tak- en into consideration when considering the setback of the house foundation, but that doesn’t appear to be the case.

He fears the large roots of the one tree in particular will be damaged, and spell the end of the other.

As for height, width and setback requirements, the only way to change them for Chautauqua would be to change the zoning, at the re- quest of council, and going through the public process as set out under the planning act, he was told by town staff.

He says he would like to see Chautauqua residents take up the need for special zoning in some form, such as a secondary plan, as an elec- tion issue. He hopes for some restrictions in place before it’s too late to preserve the streetscape on Circle Street, and to save the charming, unique historic neighbourhood, the only one like it in all of Can- ada.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero has visited 6A Circle St., and agrees the photo of the pro- posed house looks large for the lot. She says the town is planning to look at zoning for all neighbourhoods through- out NOTL for zoning amend- ments if necessary, and could include a secondary plan for Chautauqua.

An email from the act- ing region’s commissioner of planning to Disero says the region’s Official Plan will not be approved after the region- al OP is approved, and that all municipal OPs are expected to be approved during next term of municipal councils — NOTL is the only one of 12 municipal councils that has sent their OP to the region.

The region has also given the town approval to look at dif- ferent densities for different areas, that could benefit some NOTL neighbourhoods, in- cluding Chautauqua.

This will allow time for lo- cal consultation and a revised OP that can incorporate ap- propriate changes for specific areas of NOTL, Disero said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program
Various locations throughout the Niagara region
Commencing Spring 2022 - weekdays

Motorists and the general public are hereby advised that Niagara Region’s Annual Strengthening and Resurfacing Program has commenced. For updates on this project please visit niagararegion.ca/roads. This project is required to increase the lifespan of the road sections by improving the structural integrity.

The proposed work includes:
- Replacing selected cross culverts
- Milling off the top course of asphalt or doing a cold in place strategy of the road section
- Repairing cracks in the base course asphalt and replacing concrete curbs that are in poor condition
- Paving new top course asphalt, line marking and adding granular to shoulders
- Please expect traffic delays and that daily road closures and detours as identified will be required for paving operations during construction.
- The contractors’ anticipated hours of operation from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., weather permitting.
- Businesses and residents will have access during the closure but may be directed to take an alternate route to get to their destination.
- Emergency services will also have access if required.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to Niagara Region Dispatch at 905-984-3690 or Melissa Tomascik, C.E.T., Project Manager Transportation Engineering, at 905-980-6000 ext. 3189.

Your co-operation and patience during this period of inconvenience is appreciated.

Bruce Zvaniga
Commissioner of Public Works (Interim)
Niagara Region
Environment could stay on back burner after COVID

Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Like dry earth trying to absorb heavy rains, our hu-

man minds have struggled to absorb the onslaught of

disasters over the past two-and-a-half years. A virus.


Isn't it obvious that we need to focus on both in a calcu-

lative way — economic recovery and the environment.

What about healing Four Winds?

We need to aggressively put

elevated protection of natu-

ral areas in Canada. The

cost is high, but the ben-

efits are immense.

What I observed and wrote about frequent-

ly during lockdowns was how the ecosystems of the

world, including right here in

Niagara, were largely ignored at a decision-making level.

A statistical bump in logging operations and tree cuttings

highlighted this theme for me.

I hope that the COVID picture finally cleared up

and became a less pertinent

issue, that we could not only

focus on economic recovery, but also the continued and
devoted protection of natural
areas. In an indisputable sense, economy needs the
environment, and vice versa.

I feel like the cultural and

economic state of affairs is going to aggressively put

our backs against the wall,

where we have never before had

the need for economic and environmental protection.

I am not against the PC party, in fact, I mistrust all the parties equally when it comes to the
environment, or just about anything. One day, these youth will vote for politicians who protect the environment with higher
enthusiasm.

Now I must ask, will these efforts and incentives be

paled by a Conservative gov-

ernment which traditionally
doesn't care much for the

environment, regardless of

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environment, or just about anything. One day, these youth will vote for politicians who protect the environment with higher
enthusiasm.
Boyz II Men a great concert of ‘90s hits

Maria Mavridis, a busy businesswoman and mother, continues to raise money through her not-for-profit Anchor Niagara, with one of her most ambitious events to date, a Boyz II Men concert at White Oaks Resort and Spa, held Saturday – White Oaks is another of her partnerships, and often a venue for her events.

The concert was a successful fundraiser for the Hotel Dieu Shaver Rehabilitation Centre, with the total amount of money raised to be announced later this week — and it was a great evening for all who attended, said Mavridis.

The two Boyz who were there had a blast, telling her they had never felt such high energy from a crowd.

Added to the great audience, they met some of her friends helping out, including Tim Bala and Paul Harper, and told her they loved the feel of performing in a small community — everyone seemed so happy to be there.

“They said they felt the heart,” says Mavridis. “This was a special concert for her — Boyz II Men has always been one of her favourite artists, and it was a dream of hers to see them, but she was never able to get tickets. Saturday night was her chance, and not only did they perform, they hung out with her during part of the day Saturday and again on Sunday.”

“They are great guys, and when you’re talking to them, they’re real. They were so interested, asking lots of questions, and they loved what they learned about the town,” she said.

They have one song in particular that has special meaning for Mavridis. A Song for Mama — about a mother who was a guiding force for her children, and always there for them — was played during Maria’s mother’s funeral, after she lost her battle to breast cancer, and Maria says it will always remind her of her mother’s importance, family life.

Unfortunately, they didn’t play that song, and explained why.

Only two of the three remaining original members of the band that saw its biggest chart successes in the ‘90s were able to make it to White Oaks, Shawn Stockman, and Wanya Morris. The third member, Nathan Morris was not allowed across the border into Canada.

Nathan, they explained, lost his mother to COVID, and that song became too emotional for all of them. They’ve decided never to perform it again.

Shawn and Wanya on their own delivered a great performance of their hits, as well as some interesting cover versions of Eric Clapton, the Beatles and Journey songs.

About 600 tickets were sold for the Anchor Niagara event.

With files from Mike Balsom
Actual Kid-Friendly News

June 2022 Volume 2 • Issue 8

Announcements

Summer soccer has officially begun in Niagara-on-the-Lake! Saturday, May 28, was a perfect day for a soccer tournament! The Virgil fields were full of JOYOUS faces, excited about the season ahead! Thank you to all the volunteers who made it happen.

Contest Winners!

Contestants were asked to depict what summer in Niagara-on-the-Lake meant to them. If you were new to town and have not spent a summer here yet, you were asked to depict what you are looking forward to most about spending summer here in NOTL.

I couldn’t pick just one, so the WINNERS of the art contest are Kaylen Anderson (12) and Isaac Mccartan (5)!

Both Kaylen and Isaac are newcomers to town and drew pictures showing them playing at the Virgil splash pad. Kaylen and Isaac please contact joyousnotlkids@gmail.com (same email used to submit your drawings) to collect your prizes!

Q. What is your favourite thing about Niagara-on-the-Lake?
A. There is a lot of history here. I like that there’s a lot of old historical buildings and I enjoy looking at them while we drive around.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?
A. I want to be an actor. I’m pretty good at staying on character. I’ve wanted to be an actor since I was a little kid.

Q. What is your favourite book?
A. Awful Auntie by David Walliams. It’s like a true crime book from the olden days. We read it in class.

Q. What do you do to help others?
A. I would make more homeless shelters. I’d also make more charities.

Q. What is a fun family tradition you have at home?
A. Usually every Friday we go to the movies. My favourite movie is Titanic.

Q. What’s that certain something that makes you special?
A. My acting. I’m really good.

Q. How did you keep yourself busy during Covid lockdown?
A. I made bracelets, watched movies, and went for walks.

Q. How would you change the world if you could?
A. I would make littering illegal.

Q. What is your ideal day in Niagara-on-the-Lake?
A. I’d wake up in a really nice hotel here then go to breakfast. After breakfast I’d go to the park and go for a walk, down to the beach. Then I’d go for lunch at Budapest Bakeshop then go to an ice cream shop then have dinner at The Sandtrap.

### WORD SEARCH


### HOPE FOR THE PAGE AND SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for the page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

### CHARYST

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.

### Interview with Grayson

**Q. What is your favourite thing about Niagara-on-the-Lake?**

**A.** There is a lot of history here. I like that there’s a lot of old historical buildings and I enjoy looking at them while we drive around.

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**WORD SEARCH**

- Sunshine
- Boat
- Smile
- Friends
- Picnic
- Happy
- Joyful
- Lemonade
- Swim
- Warm
- Hope for the page and submission info

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**CHARYST**

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com.
LemonAID Day this Sunday — help send a kid to camp

This Sunday, June 12, Mountainview LemonAID Day will take place across Niagara, with a goal of creating summer smiles by sending children to camp this summer.

What started a few years ago as a single lemonade stand in Niagara-on-the-Lake, with Jayden and Kaitlyn Polgrabia setting up a lemonade stand in their front yard to raise enough money to send a child to summer camp, has been taken on by Mountainview Building Group and the FACS Niagara Foundation to create a region-wide event incorporating more stands, and an even bigger goal.

The goal is to have 100 LemonAID teams set up stands across Niagara, in every municipality. All proceeds from donations will go directly towards FACS Niagara to send kids to summer camp.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, says Brittany Ditizio of FACS, there are eight official LemonAID stands, one on Garrison Village Drive, and others near the intersections of Johnson and Gate Streets, Charlotte and John Streets, Line 2 and Niagara Stone Road, Four Mile Creek and York Road, Queen and Victoria Streets, Penner Street and Niagara Stone Road, and York Road near Four Mile Creek Road.

Summer camps give great, lifelong memories while helping kids build social skills and self-confidence,” says Caroline Polgrabia, president of the FACS Niagara Foundation Board. “We have a big goal this year, but we know we can reach it. We’re excited to create many big smiles this summer.”

Her children, Jayden and Kaitlyn, will have their LemonAID stand again this year.

Registration for Mountainview LemonAID Day is still open, says Ditizio.

“We’ve just been advising people that we’ll accept registrations until the stands run out, and as of now we have 12 stands left,” she said Tuesday.

Teams will be provided with the essential supplies needed to run the stand, including lemonade concentrate, pitchers, cups, directional signs, instructions, T-shirts and hats, and a re-usable stand to be assembled on a four to six foot table. All teams are encouraged to make their stands unique, from choosing a team name to decorating the stand itself.

Kids are encouraged to team up with their friends and family and register for their own LemonAID stand or join an existing team.

Thanks to generous community sponsors, 100% of donations raised at every stand will be used to send vulnerable kids to camp this summer.

To learn more about Mountainview LemonAID Day, and to register or join a team, visit the FACS Niagara Foundation website - facsniagara-foundation.org/mountainviewlemonaidday/
Mental health expert, artist exhibits at Royal Henley
Seniors at retirement community also display their works of art

Ron Clavier will show his oil canvas Cherry Wood Barbecue, of a family friend and master chef who believed his great barbecue was the result of his exclusive use of cherry wood, gathered from a forest near the family cottage north of Montreal. Time and life went on, and his son, now in his 70s, has kept all of his dad’s traditional rituals, using only cherry wood. Holding on to family rituals is important, Clavier says.

Continued on page 19

Ron Clavier
The Local
Dr. Ron Clavier has gone from a career as a brain scientist, to a clinical psychologist specializing in teenage mental health, to a full-time artist with a passion for helping others.

Dr. Ron Clavier has gone from a career as a brain scientist, to a clinical psychologist specializing in teenage mental health, to a full-time artist with a passion for helping others. "It is hard not to notice how science and art are our very best tools for understanding the world we live in," he says, and his latest endeavour combines his medical background and expertise and his love of art to work with seniors.

To that end, he has organized his first art exhibit at a retirement community, with a small group of seniors adding their art to his.

This Saturday and Sunday, his Coming of Age exhibit will be on display at the Royal Henley Retirement Community in St. Catharines, with 50 per cent of all proceeds from the sale of the artwork going to Community Care of St. Catharines. As Clavier points out, the main beneficiaries of the art show will be seniors who are not nearly as fortunate as those living at the Royal Henley, with Community Care helping people who cannot be sure of a meal or a place to sleep on any given day.

Clavier says he’s very excited about this exhibit, which “goes beyond the art. It’s part of an initiative for senior emotional wellness.”

And he hopes it will not be a “one-off,” but the first of many. While Royal Henley heard about him through a friend and invited him to organize this exhibit, he would like to do something similar with long-term care homes in NOTL and across the region, he says.

Clavier explains his interest in mental illness began when he was young. His mother was one of 10 children, and the only one who was healthy — all nine of her siblings, and many of their children, Clavier’s cousins, were mentally ill, he said. He witnessed them being bullied, left out of society, and coping with their illness while having a barrage of insults hurled at them. He decided at an early age he wanted to help and understand people with mental illness, and started on the path to becoming a neuroscientist.

A distinguished career in medical faculties in major North American medical schools followed, "but I started to have a yen to deal with people directly," he says, which led him to clinical work, specializing in teen mental wellness. He was often invited to speak to students in schools, and grew his private practice at the same time, becoming known as “the guy who wrote the book on teenage psychology.”

That was 40 years ago, says Clavier, now 74, who moved to NOTL about a decade ago. As well as Penny Coles
The Local
continued

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Coming of age continues as we learn, change

Turning full-time to his painting, he also began helping organizations such as the Lord Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council, in their annual pre-COVID teen mental wellness conferences, talking to them about changes in their bodies and their brains at that age, and coming to terms with “living in a more complex world, a better world, but different.”

His teaching isn’t restricted to teens — he talks about the phrase, “changing your mind” as learning, and says learning never ends, regardless of age. Learning is a mechanism that keeps us safe, and at the same time feels good, giving us a “jolt of brain reward, that makes us want to continue learning.”

The title of the upcoming art exhibit, Coming of Age, refers to ongoing learning, he says. “It has to do with getting older, although we usually apply that to young people,” who are nearing adulthood, being able to do things they couldn’t do previously. But we can learn and take on new activities at every stage of our lives, he explains, including when we’re retired and have more time to learn something new, to contribute, “to change our minds, to come to a better understanding of the world, and to understand ourselves and what is going on around us.”

He tells a story of about 35 years ago, when he had the opportunity to sit down for a chat with astronaut Marc Garneau. When Clavier said he had always wanted to be an astronaut, Garneau said it wasn’t too late, that the space program was looking for astronauts, that he could still apply, and age didn’t matter. He did apply, and got through some of the first cuts, but didn’t make it to the end. “It never happened, I didn’t get to go to space, but I applied. The point is I tried something new. Don’t assume something is too hard. And don’t kick yourself saying ‘I should have…’ Life, as poet Robert Frost says, is a road, so make sure you get on that road and get where you want to be, learning along the way.

Coming of age, he continues, “happens to everybody of every age, when they’re learning new things, when they know something today they didn’t know yesterday.”

Last December, he began meeting with a group of people at Royal Henley who had some interest in art — they could be professionals, amateurs, or learning something completely new — and began working with some of them toward this exhibit. Some will have their work in the show this weekend.

Clavier refers to life as a journey of learning, his goal, to leave the world a little better, and he works at that in many ways, teaching, helping others, and also giving — he is known locally for donating his paintings for causes that are important, and many Niagara organizations have benefited from his donations that are sold during fundraisers.

He believes in “having causes that doesn’t end until life does,” and “all we can do is live our lives the best we can, work hard and make the world a little better. You don’t have to be famous, you don’t have to make a huge mark, you just have to make a contribution.”

The day will come for all of us when we feel like ‘we’ve run a marathon and the race is behind us, and it was tough, but we finished. We contributed something, left behind some great memories, maybe some family, something that defines a good life lived, he says. That’s his goal, to leave the world a little better, and he works at that in many ways, teaching, helping others, and also giving — he is known locally for donating his paintings for causes that are important, and many Niagara organizations have benefited from his donations that are sold during fundraisers.

He believes in “having enough,” and if you want more, if you get greedy, you never feel you have enough, he says. He feels fortunate to be retired in NOTL, to have a beautiful home and a good life, and he has enough, leaving him able to help others.

Clavier will have 19 of his oil paintings at the show this weekend, including one called Youth Remains. The wording on the painting, in French, is taken from a song by legendary singer Charles Aznavour, translating to times change, youth remains.

Clavier will have 19 of his oil paintings at the show this weekend, including one called Youth Remains.

Youth Remains, also to be shown at the Royal Henley, was inspired in part by the lyrics of Les Pleasures Démodes (Old-Fashioned Pleasures) by Charles Aznavour. In the song, a man reminds his wife that although they are getting older, they can still retain the dreams they had when they were young. (Photo submitted)

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**THE NOTL Good**

June 8, 2022

19
Steve Goldberger and local musicians have new venue

Mike Balsam
The Local

This Sunday afternoon the Old Winos play their first gig in a summer series that will see that group and the Niagara Rhythm Section (NRS) each play at Camp Catacact in Niagara Falls once a month. Though band leader Steve Goldberger is happy to get back to the stage with his best friends, he is also lamenting the end of an era at the Old Winery Restaurant in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“It’s disappointing,” Goldberg says from his Old Town studio. “I really feel Rob (Glatt) would have us back if he could manage it. He just told me it doesn’t look like they’ll be able to do any live music this year.”

Glatt, co-owner with his wife Monique of the Old Winery, broke the news to Goldberger of their decision last month.

“At the present time it is impossible,” Glatt confirms. “It may happen again in the future, but it’s just not feasible right now. It’s partly staffing issues, and partly that it’s tough to make money with live entertainment.”

It’s always challenging to turn a sizable profit with live music, but Glatt and Goldberger had worked together since 2012 to maintain the popular Friday and Saturday residency of both collectives at the Niagara Stone Road venue.

“When COVID hit we shut down the business,” explains Glatt. “And then we had to tighten up to keep it going. We went through a couple of rough years. Business is not bouncing back completely. It’s like starting all over. We’ve just gone back to our roots of running a good restaurant.”

In recent months, Goldberger has arranged a few smaller duo gigs across the region with guitarists Andrew Albridge, Mike Lynch and Andy Griffiths, and booked his larger ensembles, including the Gentle Spirits and the Niagara Reefer Band, for some future special performances. But Goldberger and friends will miss the residency they long held at the Old Winery.

“We love that place,” the bassist says. “We feel comfortable, and they treated us well. At the same time, it’s exciting to try out a new home.”

Goldberger is approaching the six Sunday afternoon sessions (plus one Saturday evening album release show) at the Queen Street, Niagara Falls venue as a litmus test of sorts.

“We want to do well,” he says, “and it’s a bit intimidating. But it all depends on if we get people out to the shows. I know musically we are going to be great, but we’re a bit worried that people aren’t going to come.”

It’s suggested to Goldberger that over a period of almost 20 years of playing in NOTL, that he has to build up a following that will translate intobums in the seats at Camp Catacact.

“Yeah, people have come from all over to see us,” he admits, “and many of them have been from Niagara Falls. They should be happy that we’re in their ‘hood. And I’m hoping that the Sunday afternoon slot works better for people, rather than having to come late at night. Especially for our older demographic. And maybe we’ll attract some of the younger generation, too.”

Camp Catacact has become a centrepiece of a hip Queen Street scene in the Honeymoon City. It has a unique, kitschy atmosphere and features table tennis, crokinole and pinball machines for an authentic retro feel. Recent weeks have seen the venue hosting comedy nights, rock and roll meets and a number of shows featuring local musicians.

With a time slot of 2:30 to 5 p.m., the NRS and Old Winos incarnations of Goldberger’s acts, along with special guests, should be able to draw a decent Sunday afternoon crowd. Some of those special guests have become familiar with the venue, too.

“That’s one of the reasons I asked Laurel and Hulley (local duo Laurel Minnes and Taylor Hulley) to be our first guests. They’ve played here many times and they have their own audience. It will be a good melding together of two generational bands.”

The Old Winos will also play Sunday, July 17 with Australian native and Hamilton resident Chris Altmann, a multi-instrumentalist and member of St. Catharines country artist Tim Hicks’ band. They’ll be back on Aug. 7 with multiple Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) Guitar Player of the Year award-winner Wendell Ferguson.

“The boys won that award so many times that they retired him and put him in the hall of fame,” laughs Goldberger. “They got sick of winning it every year, he’s that good. And he’s so funny. On stage he’ll have a song list and a joke list.”

The Niagara Rhythm Section also has three gigs coming up at Camp Catacact. June 26 will see them collaborating with legendary guitarist Paul Martin, a former member of premier Rolling Stones cover band the Blushing Brides. Goldberger is still working on nailing down a guest for the July 24 NRS show, while Ridgeway-based blues guitarist, singer and songwriter Spencer Mackenzie, just 22 years old and fresh off the release of his new album Preach to My Soul, will sit in.

There’s also an Aug. 6 evening performance by Goldberger’s Gentle Spirits to celebrate the release earlier this year of their album All Roads Lead to You. Ticket prices for all six shows are $10 each and can be purchased in advance through evenbrite.ca.

Goldberger is hoping that all goes well for both the bands and Camp Catacact’s management this summer, leading to an extension of their residency into the winter. But he still holds out hope for a return to his NOTL home.

And Glatt doesn’t rule that return out.

“We’re going to slowly add more events and opportunities as time goes on,” Glatt says. “We want to have live music again, but it may not be every week. Steve and I will talk about it in the future.”

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Local duo Taylor Hulley and Laurel Minnes will appear on stage with Steve Goldberger in Niagara Falls. (Photo supplied)

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Local duo Taylor Hulley and Laurel Minnes will appear on stage with Steve Goldberger in Niagara Falls. (Photo supplied)
Learn about lawn bowling from club members

Mike Balsom
The Local

The focus at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club is on the social aspect more than the competitive elements of a game that has been played in England since the 13th century.

That was particularly evident at last weekend's afternoon open house, the first of two, when members were on hand to introduce newcomers to the sport before retiring to the NOTL Community Centre for refreshments.

The 64-member club is the oldest in Canada, having been established in 1877. For 133 years the club played on grass, first on the grounds of the Queen's Royal Niagara Hotel, where Queen's Royal Park is now situated. In 1922, the club moved to a green at the corner of Regent and Johnson Streets, now the site of the Voices of Freedom Park.

The club's current home behind the Community Centre was opened in 2011. There, a regulation-sized green with an artificial surface was installed.

Judy Allen explains the purpose of the open house is to attract some new members. "We haven't had a meet-and-greet or an open house for several years, of course, due to COVID," Allen says. "It's a fun afternoon. We hope that people will try the game and like it. If they do, we'll set them up with coaching sessions further down the road."

Local residents Linda and Joe De Fillips decided to give the game a try Saturday. They were receiving some instruction from club members Carol and Doug Williams.

"I met Carol while I was dog-walking and she invited me," Linda explained. "We used to play bocce ball, so it's the same sort of thing, though the equipment is quite different. And you're not in a park with hills." The couple was clearly enjoying themselves at the same time. "I think we're going to join," Linda said. "We moved here about four years ago, and Joe is going to retire soon. We'd like to get involved in some social activities."

"And the backdrop is lovely," added Joe.

This reporter decided to take a lesson himself. Club president Paul McHoul assigned new member Wig Baldauf, like this reporter a retired DSBN teacher, as coach for the informal session.

Baldauf was congenial to the Tower. He began by explaining how the ball, or bowl, is used to a side when it is bowed or rolled straight, if it is released correctly, of course. When it begins to lose velocity, it starts listing to either the right or left, depending on where the heavier side was upon release.

Like bocce, the goal is to have your bowl stop as close to the 'jack' as possible. That's how points are earned in the game. Typically, bowls last eight ends, similar to curling.

Though the game seems simple, it all begins with holding and releasing the bowl the right way.

"It's recommended that you put all your fingers underneath, explained Baldauf. "You need to leave a gap and not let it sit on your palm. The trick is to use a smooth motion, as with any sport. You want to get down low for your release."

The former physical education teacher guided his green student to the mat, which he explained can be set anywhere short of the hog line, marked by, you guessed it, a cartoonish hog at the side of the green. One foot must be on the mat during release.

The first few bowls went okay, and it was amazing to see how the bias of the club set of bowls worked in action. As this rookie got used to the weight of the bowls, attempts were made to approach the jack from either side of the green.

"That was impressive," said an encouraging Baldauf following a particularly accurate bowl. "You're natural, because you can get down low and there is no bounce."

Baldauf also worked with Tady Saczkowski, who was relieved to finally get out to try the game when the club was able to reopen following the pandemic. Saczkowski is a long-time president of the Welland Tennis Club and is known for his many years of promoting that sport in St. Catharines.

In addition, he has become a Niagara tennis historian of sorts. His research into the history of that game overlapped with him discovering the rich history of lawn bowling in NOTL.

"Finding the original pictures of the club, I started to get interested," Saczkowski told The Local. "My wife Nancy and I are going to sign up today. This way you keep going. Otherwise you're going to sit at home and watch Netflix all day!"

Saczkowski was handed a membership application, as McHoul explained the intake process for new members.

"We offer people usually three lessons, and we don't ask for any money until you've gone through those lessons," said McHoul. "We want people to join after they've had the lessons and feel comfortable with the sport."

McHoul and Baldauf explained how the Saturday jitney games work, as well. Members show up those days and place their tags on the table. Teams are set up based on a random sorting of the tags. Baldauf claimed that he could go weeks without playing either with or against his wife Jean on the weekend.

It's a unique way of making social connections amongst the club members.

The club meets on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons until June 26. On July 4, the Monday sessions move to the evening and the Wednesday gatherings shift to the mornings in an attempt to assuage the summer heat. There are also the 4-3-2-1 events on Tuesdays, evenings, and the Pairs League Friday nights.

The NOTL Lawn Bowling Club will hold another open house this Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to come out and try the game. It's a lot of fun and membership prices are reasonable. For information visit notlbowls.ca.

Reporter Mike Balsom shows some style as he learns about lawn bowling. (Wig Baldauf)

Wig Baldauf offers some tips to Tady Saczkowski.

Linda (in white) and Joe De Fillips (in ball cap) receive an introduction to lawn bowling from members Carol and Doug Williams. (Photos by Mike Balsom)

Joe Bradley and Rose Connolly have some fun at the open house.
Sports

Preds draft more local players for coming season

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara Predators added a great deal of local content to their team roster with the recent Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) draft.

New vice-president Andrew Ferlatte says fans of the team that plays out of Virgil’s Meridian Credit Union Arena will see a younger squad with fewer European skaters and more locals than in the Predators inaugural Niagara season.

“We are on board,” says the Ajax native who works as a St. Catharines kindergartner. “I would like to have more local players, to help us establish the hockey culture and be a bit faster rather than having them predominantly from overseas or the United States.”

Five of the Predators draft picks hail from the Niagara region, with a sixth from near-by Hamilton. Some of the players chosen by them in each of the draft’s 12 rounds, 10 are from Ontario, one from British Columbia, two from Alberta, and one from U.S.

As well, nine of the draft-ees are 18 years or older. Ferlatte is serving as vice president for both GMHL teams owned by Robert Turn-bull. That would be the St. George Ravens in addition to the Predators. His job required him to make selections to the Predators in their first year in Virgil, and took on the role general manager role last year as well.

“I did a lot of work behind the scenes for the Predators last year,” Ferlatte says. “It helps that I’m local. I played my junior hockey in Niagara and have a lot of connections here. Because I’m a local, it definitely helps in establishing what we want to do here.”

The Predators were number 20 on the draft board and went with 17-year-old Connor Prestwich of the U18 Whitby Wildcats AAA team.

“Connor is a big-bodied, two-way forward who can play a complete game,” Fer- latte says of the Stouffville, Ontario-born Prestwich. “Our head coach Kevin Taylor ac- knowledged him at a tournament and said he was a big game-changer on the ice.”

Second round pick Nolan Wyers was the first Niagara region player chosen by the Predators. The 16-year-old Grade 10 student at Governor superstitious Secondary School is excited about moving from the St. Catharines Falcons U16 AA team to the junior A level.

“It’s a really huge step, espe- cially at a young age like mine, to get the development and the experience in with the older guys,” the centre from St. Catharines tells The Local. “I think it will take my game to the next level, and give me some opportuni- ties in the future for maybe NCAA options or down the professional path.”

Knowing that the Preda- tors took 19-year-old forward TylerGear from the Onte- riors system. In the meantime, the Predators will continue to recruit promising players born between 2001 and 2006 to try out for the team.

Gearing and a few others from the draft have already signed their contracts to play in Niagara, while the team is awaiting final details on oth- ers including Wyers. Up next will be some on-a-case basis mid-June, though dates have not been announced.

Teen’s plans for ball hockey championship on hold

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake teen Cohen Alexander hopes to play for Junior Canada (JTC) in the World Ball Hock- ey Federation (WBHF) U14 championships in Brantlavia lat- er this month have been dashed.

Cohen Alexander has been promised the opportunity to compete with Team Canada in 2023.

“I am a one woman who was selected for the team in 2019,” explains Robillard. “She got pregnant and had to give up her spot for 2020. When it was cancelled, and she had had the baby, she asked if she could get her spot back for 2021. Then that got cancelled, she got pregnant again, and had to give up her spot for this year. But she said she isn’t stopping at two kids and wants to come back in 2023.”

At 14 years old now, Cohen won’t be at such a momentous point in his life when next year’s tournament is played.

In the meantime, the Crossroads Public School stu- dent has returned to his team that plays out of the BallHockey.com facility in St. Catharines, where Cohen has made a name for himself by playing with older teammates.

Last weekend, Cohen suit- ed up for both the U16 and U19 Ballhockey.com teams at the annual Walter Gretzky Street Hockey Charity Tour- nament held in Brantford. The two squads went undefeated through 13 games over two days, taking home double gold for their efforts.

The WBHF championships had originally been scheduled for June 27 to July 5 in the Slo- vakian capital.
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

Sudoku solution from June 1, 2022

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45
46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54
55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63
64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

Across:
1. Grouches
6. Female supporters
10. Flat topped hill
14. Mobbehare
15. Arizona city on the Colorado
16. In addition
17. Latin American dance
18. Side
19. --- Christian Andersen
20. Sharp flavor
22. Note hastily
24. 34th President
25. Moonshot program
28. Sound of a kon
30. Louise egg
32. Washed out
33. Watch --- step!
37. Nudge repeatedly
38. Aload
40. Conductive elements
43. Hoppy brew
44. Confords
45. Blockhead
47. Pirate’s plunder
49. Miscellaneous
50. Solitary
51. “L” operator
52. Unpleasant to look at
54. Conjured up
56. Attika, e.g.
57. Aught
58. Political top dog (Abbr.)
59. Brief sworn
61. It’s worth ---!
63. Start playing tennis
67. Skin
68. Film genre
69. Flowing and ebbing
70. Roman wear
71. Large and scholarly book
72. Heap

Down:
1. Covets rotary motion into linear motion
2. Appliance and electronics maker
3. Bill dispenser
4. Hollow gas globule
5. Mar
6. Unit of computer memory
7. Regret
8. Key with three sharps
9. Pacific country
10. Speed measure
11. Sentient cohort --- Bees
12. Clicked
13. Valuable possession
21. Plus maker
23. Choice morsels
25. Interest charge
26. Two identical things
27. Shoppe adjective
28. Manage
30. Be in debt
34. Old food label letters
35. Artist’
40. Provides input for an amp.
41. Observe
42. Levitated
44. Cook-in-the-oven
45. Central bank
47. Artist’s workshop
48. Diminishing
49. All too
50. Lose it
51. Chart
53. Giant
55. Vests
57. Memorable
58. Pres
59. A dip
61. A try
62. Rim
64. RDA
65. Vac
66. Elk
67. Rind
68. Noir
69. Tidal
70. Toga
71. Tome
72. Stack.

Down:
36. Town
37. Nag
38. Remote
40. Metals
43. IPA
44. Fits
45. Oaf
47. Swag
49. Arch
50. Lone
51. CTA
52. Ugly
54. Mic
41. Look
42. Sane
44. Fry
46. Fed
47. Studio
48. Waning
58. Pyre
55. Vests
53. Giant
51. Chart
50. Lose it
49. All too
48. Waning
47. Studio
46. Fed
45. Arch
44. Swag
42. Sane
41. Look
40. Fits
38. Remote
36. Metals
34. IGA
37. Nether
39. Mia
40. Fits
38. Remote
36. Metals
34. IPA
32. Top gun
37. Nether
39. Mia
40. IPA

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Congratulations!!
To our fun-loving parents,
Arnie & Linda!!!
Celebrating their
50th Wedding Anniversary!
Let today be amazing, filled
with love, laughter and Wine!!
Wishing you much love
Harry & Jolene, Brad & Vanessa,
Brittany & Matt, Olivia & Devon,
Faith & Liana.
I love you.

P.S. A very special thanks
Ann's cooking,
Happiness making,
Wine and laughs provided
March 1979. She was happiest
in her kitchen making preserves
for many Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum
fundraising events.
At Ann’s request private cremation
has taken place and there will be no
visitation or service.
Ann’s family would like to thank Irene Young
for her loving friendship and support
while Ann was at home. Dr. Francois Viviers
for his good-natured and outstanding care
over many years and the staff at Niagara Gardens
Senior Living for their amazing kindness
and compassion.
If you wish to honour Ann’s memory
with a donation, please consider
the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust,
one of Africa’s oldest
wildlife charities that
rescues and rehabilitates orphaned infant elephants.
Memories, photos and condolences
may be shared
at www.morganfuneral.com

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1 Cam, 2 RCA, 3 ATM, 4 Bubble, 5 Spoil, 6 Byte, 7
66 Rind, 68 Noir, 69 Tidal, 70 Toga, 71 Tome, 72 Stack.
Evoked, 56 Hun, 57 Nil, 58 Pres, 59 A dip, 61 A try, 63 Serve,
45 Oaf, 47 Swag, 49 Arch, 50 Lone, 54 Mic, 41 Look, 42 Sane, 44 Fry, 46 Fed, 47 Studio, 48 Waning,
60 PDA, 62 Rim, 64 RDA, 65 Vac, 66 Elk.
Four Wilson Thunderhawks, no relation

Andy Boldt
Special to The Local

With the U22 team traversing four age groups, there is a greater opportunity to draw from a larger pool of players. When opponents look at the U22 Thunderhawks roster, they might think “That’s a big family!” Or “I feel sorry for the parents!” but really, the four Wilsons on the team are not related.

Three of the Thunderhawk Wilsons are defenders, and one is an offensive player, all having their own unique personalities.

The two younger Wilsons, Aaron and Kris, are both originally from Niagara Falls, but have played for the Thunderhawks their whole careers. Aaron is a defensive player who uses his size to control his opponents and limit their opportunities in the defensive zone. Kris, also a large body, has the offensive skills to not only put the ball in the net, but set heavy picks for his teammates, allowing them the space to tally some points for the team.

Nathan Wilson, a 6’2” inch body, has unfortunately been sidelined for the first part of the season from a badly sprained ankle. This however, hasn’t stopped him from limited participation in team practices, learning team concepts and remaining a welcome addition to the defensive core.

Finally, Brett Wilson, smaller than his teammates, provides speed and aggression that can’t be matched. Brett is often the player providing that big hit which makes observers squeamish, opponents wince and teammates cheer. He is in his last season of eligibility, and is hoping this season will get him a second provincial championship on his lacrosse resume.

The weekend of June 3 saw the Wilsons compete in the John McCauley tournament in Brampton. The Thunderhawks went undefeated during the round robin games and met a strong opponent, Cambridge Highlanders, in the finals. Although the Cambridge team was physically larger, the tenacious play by the Thunderhawks offense and smooth play by the defence limited the Highlanders to only one goal, while tallying 11 for the gold.

All the Wilsons can be seen June 28 at 8 p.m. in the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil when they take on a league opponent, the Hamilton Bengals. Go Thunderhawks!