



**Boyz II Men  
perform in  
NOTL  
page 15**

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

## MPP Wayne Gates wins another term

**Penny Coles  
The Local**

Wayne Gates says he woke up last Friday morning feeling pretty fortunate.

In Thursday's election, Doug Ford was given a second term as Premier, with his Progressive Conservative party receiving a majority vote, but the NDP incumbent was once again chosen by the people of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls and Fort Erie to represent them at Queen's Park for another four years.

And although it's early days yet, with Andrea Horwath, leader of the NDP, announcing her resignation following the election, Gates is already hearing from constituents who would like to see him head of the provincial party.

He says he's not only fortunate to be again representing his Niagara Falls riding, a job he has been passionate about since first elected in 2014, he is also lucky to continue to have the love and support of his wife Rita, who helped him throughout his campaign, and his kids and grandkids.

Although he feels bad about missing many of his grandkids' events since he first won a provincial by-election in February 2014, they have always understood, he says.

"On Thursday night, I had my family right beside me. I can't do what I do without their support and understanding. My wife

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## Service, parade celebrate centennial of cenotaph

**Mike Balsom  
The Local**

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.

"I'd like to extend a very

special and warm Niagara-on-the-Lake welcome to Her Honour Madame Dowdeswell," she said. "We are thrilled to have you join us today for this celebration."

Disero introduced historian Ron Dale next, who regaled the crowd gathered on a perfect Saturday morning with details of the military history of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and its relationship to the 100-year-old cenotaph.

"There were 10 town of Niagara-on-the-Lake deaths

during the (Great) War," Dale explained. "Almost immediately after the war, resident George Rand pushed for a unique memorial for the fallen. Leading citizens supported the idea and a soldier's memorial committee was formed."

A number of ideas were bounced about by three subsequent town councils, including a memorial hospital, high school, athletic park or a traditional statue. Eventually, a plebiscite was held and

the clock tower cenotaph idea won out.

It was returning soldiers from overseas who swung the vote.

"The clock tower got 316 votes, the hospital 237, a traditional monument 72, an athletic park four votes, and a high school three votes," outlined Dale. "Perhaps it was prophetic and they saw that eventually the high school and the hospital would both

**Continued on page 3**

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# Town crier proclaims Queen's Jubilee



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. (Penny Coles)

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Niagara-on-the Lake's Tom Pekar was one of thousands of town criers around the Commonwealth invited to announce a proclamation to the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee Thursday.

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.

"How apt that this should be the platinum anniversary of her accession, platinum that most noble of metals, more precious even than gold.

"And so it is in honour of this unique occasion that beacons will be lit this evening throughout the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man and the UK overseas territories and in all the capital cities of the Commonwealth.

"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 U.K. 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."

A photograph of the four members of the Brubeck Brothers Quartet. From left to right: a man with long hair, a man with a beard, a man with grey hair, and a man with glasses. They are all smiling and holding their instruments (bass, guitar, and drums).



JUNE 22, 2022

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# Jubilee celebration in Simcoe Park

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 Honourable 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 front-line 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,” marvelled 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 Canada’s 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 and the dignitaries moved on to the Prince of Wales for tea.



Royal Canadian Legion member Al Howse talks of the history of the cenotaph during the Queen Street service. Following the service, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell throw some dirt on a tree in Simcoe Park marking the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Below, the Lieutenant Governor chats with Town Crier Tom Pekar after the service and parade on Queen Street. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



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# We're in a better place, 'but pandemic isn't over'

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

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 com-

plete 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 eventuality 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."



Dr. Mustafa Hirji



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# Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Community Foundation

## 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 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

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

**Bryan Rose**

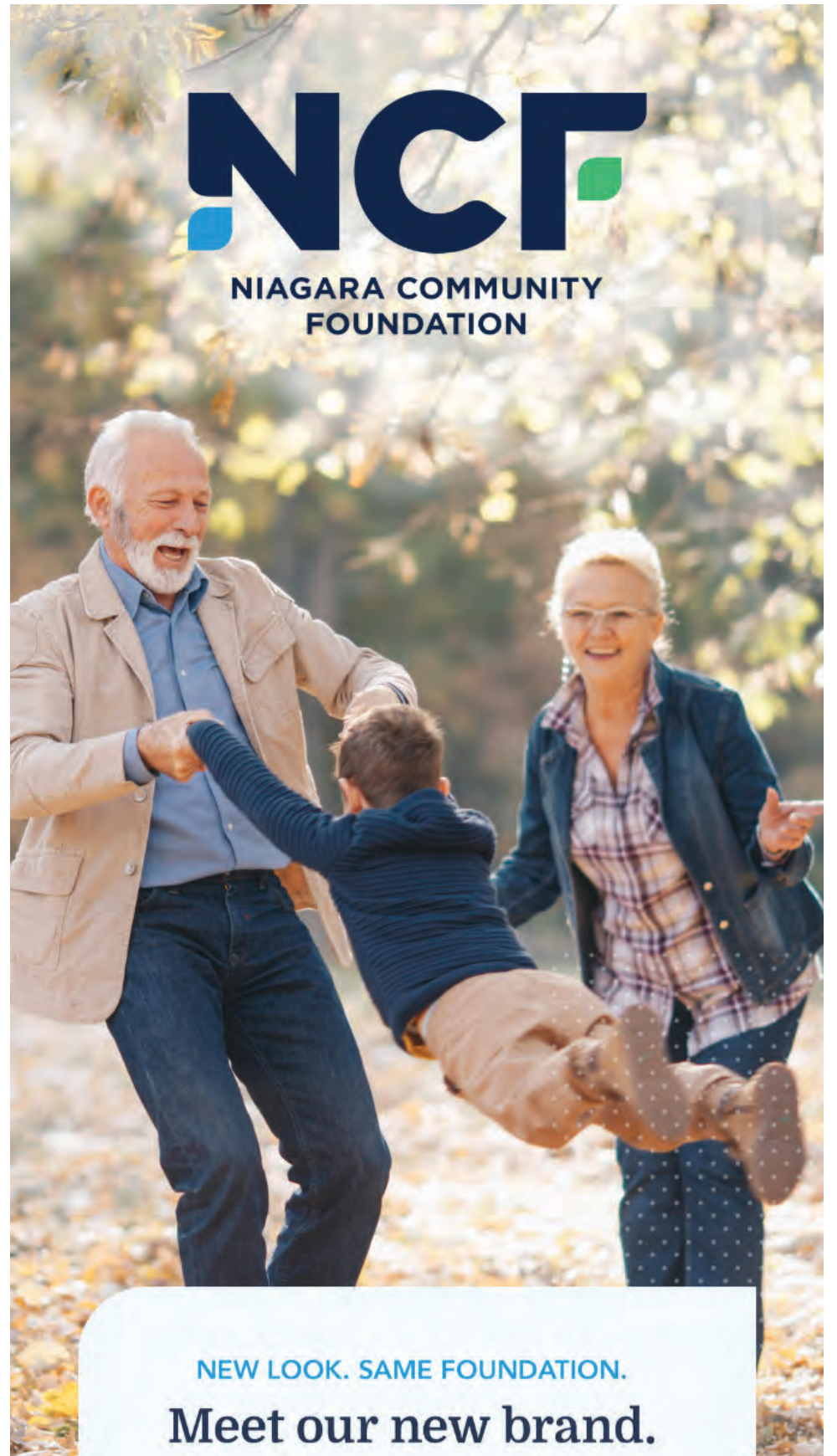
were able to see their assets at work. It was through this crisis, that NCF was able to reflect on who they were as an organization. They are Niagara's philanthropic

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.



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NOTL Fund Committee: (Top Left) Debi Pratt, Mario Ferrara, Nancy Bailey, Brianne Hawley, Michael Berlis (chair), Shawn Spiewak, Ann-Louise Branscombe, Wendy Cheropita, Patrick Darte



# EDITORIAL

## 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 lo-

cated, 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 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 number 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 avail-

able, 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 Newark 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

### View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local


Not exactly a movie, but what a splendid way HM Queen Elizabeth celebrated her Platinum Jubilee, taking tea

with Paddington Bear. Without question the best short video of her 70-year reign. To watch the video visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZ-RP70zMHgo>

*Donald Combe is a retired*

*English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet” exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.*





### Letters! We want letters!

If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to [penny@notllocal.com](mailto:penny@notllocal.com). Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won’t publish anonymous letters. And please stick to the issue at hand, rather than attacking those involved. The deadline is Monday at noon.

## Pressure province to lift Bill 124

Health care professionals, the hardest-hit sector in the province during the pandemic, woke up last Friday morning to the worst news possible.

Doug Ford, who had capped their salaries with Bill 124, which limits annual salary increases to one per cent for many parts of the public sector in the province, including nurses and other health care professionals, undermining them, disrespecting them, creating incredibly low morale for a sector that has been the most stressed during the last two years and more of the pandemic, and causing them, especially nurses, to leave their positions in droves.

It also does not bode well for the future of nursing — while the hospital and health care systems are in crisis

now due to staff shortages and more patients than capacity, with no end in sight.

Teachers too have been pushed, with severe staff shortages in some schools, and they are also suffering from stress and low morale, while trying to do their best for our children in difficult circumstances.

It’s up to the opposition to force the issue, and make sure Ford carries through on his withdrawal of Bill 124. The many hospitals across the province he has promised to build will be of no use to anybody if there are no nurses, no PSWs, no health professionals to staff them. Remember, every time you hear there are bed shortages causing surgery cancellations and back-ups, it’s not that there are too few actual beds, it’s because there are not enough nurses to

staff them. If an ambulance doesn’t arrive, it’s not a shortage of ambulances to blame, it’s the lack of paramedics.

Have any of you or a family member had an experience with post-surgery or wound care from Care Partners? All well-meaning health service providers trying to do their part in the care continuum, but simply not enough of them.

The pressure must be kept on Ford and each and every MPP to fix the crisis in health care, including long-term care. The pandemic may seem to be winding down, but it could return, and we’re told likely will this fall. The province of Ontario needs to be better prepared, with adequate staff in place to care for the sick.

**Penny Coles**  
The Local



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# 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 everyone is unique. We know that. We are all unique - when and where we were born, our physical features, 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 everyone 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 Commit-

tee 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 compassion and respect for one another 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?

- Are we thinking this way all the time?

Niagara-on-the-Lake has won travel awards for being friendly. We are kind and welcoming to visitors from

all over the world - people of varied locations, races, cultures, religions, and identities. Our visitors are diverse, and the kindness we show them is part of our Town's character and personality; it is our livelihood, and we are proud of that reputation.

It is equally important that we are kind to each other and appreciate that everyone living in Niagara-on-the-Lake is unique. Everyone born here or who has moved here has a specialness to them. We may not always agree with each other, but we owe it to one another to listen, show respect, and appreciate that everyone has a unique contribution to make to our community.

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 love this Town and all it has to offer.

## Local LETTERS

### Watch out for turtles

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.

After a few attempts and narrow misses, my husband and I were able to coax him into a large plastic bin which we carried 300 yards to the

wetlands, where we trust he will have a long and safe life.

**Shirley Madsen**  
NOTL



## Local VOICES:

### Sourdough journey turns out to be an easy one

**Joy Sanguedolce**  
Special to The Local

It all started innocently enough.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake chapter of the Buy Nothing Group - a Facebook community where neighbours give and take what they need/don't need - was looking for 1/4 litre containers. It drew my attention because I'm somewhat of a hoarder of litre containers, full, half, quarter, you name it, I've got it.

It was a long COVID winter, and takeout from said containers was a trusted companion. 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 no real interest in her starter.

As a co-owner of a culinary school in Toronto called *Le Dolci Culinary Classroom*, one of our most popular classes was sourdough. Bread-making of all sorts in fact sold out every time. We teach focaccia, challah, milk buns, hot cross buns and even have a class dedicated to bread braiding techniques. But our most popular by far was the two-day sourdough workshop taught by the guru and all-round great guy Chef Matthew Duffy (he has since moved on to become a teacher at Centennial College, and an internet sensation). Students basked in his knowledge, passion and scoring

techniques that elevated flour, water and salt to fine art.

But for me - two days to make bread! Plus the whole concept of keeping a starter fed and alive! I already had two kids and a business to keep alive - this was not for me. So sourdough remained a mystery. I knew I loved it and would always be a buyer and taste-tester after Matt's classes, but I wasn't prepared for the intellectual and time commitment of such an elusive wonder.

Until ... fast forward almost two years, a global pandemic, a move to NOTL and winding down my day-to-day operations of the culinary school to my lovely and talented sister Lisa, and up pops an innocent enough request for plastic containers.

While dropping them off around the corner to Janice, she asked again if I'd like some starter, and this time she promised the process was easy! Easy has nev-

er been a term associated with sourdough bread baking. Look it up - you'll never see those two things linked together. Yet here I stand today, sourdough loaf in hand and a community in NOTL that I've fallen in love with.

I'm baking at least one loaf a week and according to friends and family I might actually put out a pretty good product. Janice and her generous gift of time, starter and ongoing advice has likely nourished dozens of locals here in town. And by nourish, I mean heart, soul and stomach. We are her silent tribe, keeping the 12-year-old starter she inherited alive and ready to feed for another 12 years.

Thank you to Janice and this beautiful community of givers.

P.S. If you are ready to start your sourdough journey, I'd be happy to help you on your way. (Joy can be reached at joy@ledolci.com)



# 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.

But thanks to social media, when there are many break-ins throughout a neighbourhood, or even a large rural area, we realize what is happening, it becomes a big deal, and neighbours need to be warned.

Pre-pandemic, there was a community safety committee in town meeting regularly, and before that, a community policing committee. If there was a rash of robberies in a particular neighbourhood, members of those committees would use the local media to let

residents know.

On Tuesday, The Local received a phone call from a rural resident who had someone break into her garage. She lost some valuable items, and although it was annoying and very creepy, she said, she felt she'd had a wake-up call, that it could have been much worse. And from now on, she will lock all her doors.

The biggest issue for her, she said, is that she thought her neighbourhood was safe. She doesn't feel that way any more.

She at first thought it was an isolated incident, but soon realized from social media that others, also on rural roads and covering a large area, including Line 6, Queenston Road, and on

the Niagara River Parkway, were thinking the same way. There were mostly cars broken into, and one neighbour reported a farm worker's bike left outside had been stolen, so be warned - lock your car doors, and don't leave anything outside that is easily lifted. It may just be coffee money in your car, but you could also have left something of value, thinking it was safe.

Typically, people stealing from cars are in a hurry, and target those that are unlocked, so that's another lesson.

Police reports are being filed, hopefully there will be a few more patrol cars driving by, but it's still up to you to protect yourself. Lock it or risk losing it.

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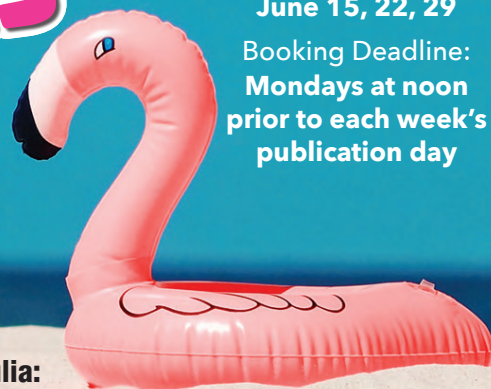
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# Chautauqua residents hoping for more planning controls

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Chautauqua residents see their neighbourhood already changing, and are hoping the town will take some measures to do a better job of controlling inevitable development in the area.

At the annual general meeting of the Chautauqua Residents Association recently, members discussed the importance of having their community recognized by the town as a distinct neighbourhood with the need for a secondary plan incorporated in the Official Plan, says CRA president Brian Crow.

Accordingly, the association has set up a planning guidelines committee to investigate the possibilities,

headed by architect and CRA member Victor Tarnoy.

Looking at how to stop new houses like one recent build “which seems to reach to the clouds,” says Crow, is just one of their concerns of the neighbourhood, that has also been dealing with parking, traffic and short-term rental issues, although working with the town has made significant improvements in parking and traffic.

Preserving the tree canopy is of utmost importance, he says, and is tied to the issue of building larger, taller houses, with foundations that could end up damaging roots and destroying trees. The tree bylaw intended to protect them doesn’t always seem able to do that.

“Without question,” he

says, “the association is concerned about the changes happening in Chautauqua. It’s one of the reasons we have a CRA.”

Three years ago, when public open houses and in-person deputations at council discussed planning issues in Chautauqua, a single lot on Circle Street in the neighbourhood garnered a lot of attention. The planning issue was two-fold — neighbours were concerned a request for a lot severance at 6 Circle Street and a proposed house on the new lot would endanger two huge silver maple trees more than 100 years old. There was also opposition to the height of the two-storey house, and a fear that would become the new norm for an area where houses

are only a storey and a half or single storey bungalows.

Much has happened since then. The lot was severed and is listed for sale, a two-storey house is still proposed to be built, as permitted under current zoning bylaws, and although there are restrictions in place intended to save the mature trees, residents are concerned the construction of the house might make that impossible.

Crow says the CRA doesn’t weigh in on specific new builds, but is concerned that what is proposed for 6A Circle Street is already occurring on other streets in the neighbourhood, with larger homes being built on small lots, and fears for the destruction of the neighbourhood if there is nothing in place to

prevent more of the same.

Chris Byart, the owner of the home at 6 Circle St., has an immediate concern and personal interest not only for the empty severed lot beside him, as does his neighbour on the other side of the lot, but also in the future of the historic neighbourhood.

When Byart bought his small house, one of the older, single-storey cottages, he heard from some of his new neighbours that they assumed he would be tearing it down and building a larger, million dollar house, similar to what is proposed beside him. That was not his plan. He is gradually updating and renovating the house, and has no interest in tearing it down — he says he’s not going anywhere, and neither is

his house.

“But the bylaws are so weak, there is nothing to be done to protect this from happening,” he says. “You can fill up a lot with the whole house.”

Chautauqua is a neighbourhood full of charm where many of the homes were originally cottages, some dating back to the 1800s. 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

## 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 timeline.

Town staff have recently discussed the issue with the Niagara Regional Native Centre and the Niagara-

on-the-Lake Museum, the Chautauqua Residents Association was told, 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, formed to deal with other issues related to the park.

“We got an email from Marnie (Cluckie, 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 of changing 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 the neighbourhood, likely about the same size as Ryerson Park on Niagara Boulevard, which includes a small strip of beach on Lake Ontario. The site of Ryerson Park has more historic significance, he says.

Chautauqua is a First Nations word, and would



Ryerson Park will have a new name eventually, but Lord Mayor Betty Disero wants all involved to take their time with discussions. (Photo supplied)

recognize their significance to the history of the area, as well as the history of the Chautauqua movement.

Before erosion destroyed most of the beach by the park, it offered recreational activities, including tennis courts, croquet, small boat rentals, and a wharf for larger boats bringing people from Toronto.

If the name Chautauqua is chosen — although the process is far from final, with more discussion planned amongst a larger group of people — the existing Chautauqua Park would then be given a new name, Crow says.

The town discussion to rename the park first surfaced following the discovery of potential graves of Indigenous children on the

properties of two residential schools, one in Kamloops, B.C., and another in Saskatchewan.

When councillors first mentioned the possibility of renaming of the park, Sarah Kaufman, NOTL Museum curator, said it was difficult to conclude the level of Egerton Ryerson’s involvement in residential schools, or to be certain that the park is named after him. At a June, 2021 meeting of the town’s inclusivity committee, members supported a town initiative to investigate the origins of Ryerson Park’s name.

Since then, says Lord Mayor Betty Disero, the town has moved very slowly, not wanting to be reactive, waiting for infor-

mation from other organizations and wanting to involve others in the discussion, including the museum, the Niagara Regional Native Centre, the CRA, and all residents of NOTL.

And they want to give people lots of time to think about the matter and for various organizations to discuss it amongst themselves.

“We’re just starting the process,” she says. “We talked to the museum, we added the Niagara Regional Native Centre, now we’ve added Chautauqua Residents Association, and we’ll keep going. We want everyone involved to take their time, and not be rushed. We don’t want to rush anybody or any discussion of any kind.”

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# Will talk to family before decision on leadership

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."

People don't like to talk about poverty, but it needs to be discussed. "It breaks

my heart to see seniors going to bed hungry, to see young children going to bed hungry, when profits are going up for the billionaires, including the Weston family, owners of Loblaw's. 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 is saying he will consider. The bill has capped increases for some provincial employees, such as nurses, paramedics and teachers, to one per cent, when inflation was at 6.8 per cent across the province in April.

"The opposition to that is not just 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 leaving their profession in droves, 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 advocating for what is important to his riding, and to the people of Ontario.



Wayne Gates celebrates his election night win at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Niagara Falls. (Lori Synes-Taraba)

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 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 44.11 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.



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# 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, based on the play *Angel Street*, written by Patrick Hamilton and sometimes performed under the title *Gaslight*. The psychological thriller centred on Paula, played by Ingrid Bergman, who is shut away from the outside world by her husband Gregory, played by Charles Boyer. Gregory begins a lengthy campaign to make his wife question her own sanity. The house features gaslights that periodically dim, which add to Paula's confusion and fear. They also stand as a symbol of Gregory's wicked campaign.

The term was used infrequently over the decades following the film's release, but became part of the vernacular in 2020 when American country band the (Dixie) Chicks released their album *Gaslighter*, featuring the song of the same name. In the wake of the #MeToo movement, gaslighting found new relevance as a way to



Julie Lumsden as Bella, Julia Course as Nancy, Kate Hennig as Elizabeth and André Morin as Jack on stage at the Royal George Theatre. (Photos by David Cooper)

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, direct-

ed by Kelli Fox. Wright and Jamieson have trimmed the cast down to four, eliminating the friendly, overbearing and suspicious Detective Rough and his fellow policemen from Hamilton's original script. Julie Lumsden and André Morin appear as Bella and Jack Manningham, the names

from the original Hamilton play. The other two characters are servants Elizabeth (Kate Hennig) and Nancy (Julia Course). *Gaslight* takes place entirely on an interior set, the Manningham sitting room, where Bella is an unwitting prisoner in her own home. Set and costume designer Judith Bowen's choice of the small, static setting, Gothic in decor, is key in establishing Bella's claustrophobia, which increases as the story progresses.

The play begins innocently enough. Bella calls upon Elizabeth to help set up tea service for the arrival of Jack. Mrs. Manningham seems bubbly, effervescent and happy for her husband's impending arrival, and Morin plays Jack in this scene with convincing charm. But quickly Jack shifts into his manipulative ways, driving the joy from Bella's heart. The Shaw audience reacts appropriately as Lumsden becomes deflat-

ed, a woman convinced that her 'hysterics' justify her husband's seeming concern for her well-being, 'for her own good.'

Jack points out missing portraits and jewels, making Bella believe that she is losing her mind. As well, the gaslights that hang from the ceiling and line a wall periodically 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 with his wife's mental state.

True to the Victorian London times in which the play is set, when women

were seeking suffrage and greater access to education, employment and property, Jack prescribes rest and isolation for his wife's recovery. There was a pervasive view in that era that women were susceptible to mental weakness, a view that was helped along by Freud's theories on mental health. Rest was the most common solution to hysteria long before Valium took its place.

By the end of Act 1, Bella, unable to trust in her own thoughts, is driven to suicidal thoughts by Jack's malicious campaign.

But in the second act, with the realization that every time she gets better, something happens to keep her down, Lumsden's Bella undergoes a transformation. As she puts the pieces together she realizes 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 reimaged Hamilton's original work as a story about Bella'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](http://shawfest.com).

## NOTICE

**TO:** The Owners of the property known as Part Lot 69 TP Plan 86 Niagara Parts 1 & 4, 30R-5404, t/w & s/t RO576594; t/w RO557430; s/t RO576595; s/t easement over Part Lot 69 TP Plan 86 being Parts 1 & 4, 30R-5404 for the benefit of Lot 69 TP Plan 86 being Parts 2 & 3 on 30R-5404 as in NR172154, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara (PIN 46399-0008LT) and/or the Personal Representative of his, her or their estates or his, her or their heirs at law, and/or RICHARD WILKINSON and MARION WILKINSON and/or the Personal Representative of his/her estate or his/her heirs at law.

**RE:** Part Lot 69 TP Plan 86, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Regional Municipality of Niagara (PIN 46399-0160LT) designated as Parts 1 and 2 on a draft Reference Plan, signed by Allan J. Heywood, O.L.S., on the 11th day of June, 2021;

The said Plan is attached to an application registered as Instrument NR585620 and is available for inspection at the Land Registry or the office of the Solicitor for the Applicant:

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**Solicitor for the Applicant:**  
**Sheldon Pettie**  
**Litowitz Pettie & Silver LLP**  
**100 Mural Street, Suite 200**  
**Richmond Hill, ON L4B 1J3**

**TAKE NOTICE THAT** Tammar Grinberg, herein referred to as the Applicant, has made application registered as No. NR585620 to be registered under the Land Titles Act as the owner in fee simple with an absolute title to the above described land.

**AND TAKE NOTICE THAT** any person claiming to have any title to or interest in the said land or any party thereof (other than an interest protected by registration) is required on or before July 11, 2022 (which is more than thirty days from the date this notice was published) to file a statement of objection, setting out the grounds for such objection, verified by affidavit, directed to the Land Registrar at the address of the solicitor for the Applicant. If no such statement of objection is filed on or before July 11, 2022, we shall proceed with the application and any interest you may claim in the subject property may be thereby extinguished and you may not be entitled to receive any further notice with respect to the proceedings.

Dated at Richmond Hill this 31st day of May, 2022  
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Telephone: 905.731.4999 x202



André Morin as Jack and Julie Lumsden as Bella in *Gaslight*. (Shaw Festival, 2022).



# 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 included a chicken dinner for players and spectators.

For more than 30 years, he told councillors, a group of dedicated and commit-

ted volunteers have reached out to support workers who come from the Caribbean (mainly Jamaica) to help neighbourhood farmers with farm needs. Each year the outreach program organizes four activities, including weekly Sunday Christian worship services in May and June, this year at Cornerstone Church on Hunter Road. Benevolent support is offered to workers who have experienced a death in their immediate families, he said, including help with funeral and transportation arrangements. A dominoes match between workers from NOTL and Vineland is also held each year, as well as the annual cricket match between the NOTL Clippers and the Vineland Lions.

The cricket match offers a chance for workers from throughout town to gather and cheer their favourite side, says Pritchard. "Many year-round residents also come over to try and figure out how cricket gets played," he said, and everyone is invited to stay for the presentation of trophies fol-

lowing the match, as well as a free meal of fried chicken, rice and peas, coleslaw, beverage and watermelon.

In past years, in addition to providing food, CWOP has purchased uniforms for both teams and a cricket mat, which is placed on the playing field, providing a uniform surface for play and reducing wear and tear on the grass. CWOP is also challenging Shaw Festival cricketers, or others interested, to a match.

Councillors supported relief of the field rental for Sunday, but said there is no discretionary funding available from the town this year. Lord Mayor Betty Disero said during the meeting there must be a fair number 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.



The NOTL Clippers relax after a cricket match at Memorial Park, while waiting for dinner to be served. (Photo supplied)



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One of Niagara-on-the-Lake's greatest natural resources is its artistic community. Looking back in history, there are many societies which missed valuing the enriched cultural environment they were living in. Think about Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh who was only understood and appreciated after he passed. It is important to note that the last van Gogh original visual artwork, "Labourer in a Field" from 1889, went for \$81 million at a New York sale in 2017. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, we are surrounded and living with the world's greatest visual artists, and to experience them and their insights we only have to travel to the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre on Ricardo Street. Display areas and art development programs greet every visitor. To incentivise a visit, anyone who comes to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Pumphouse Arts centre in June can enter a free draw for an exciting and fabulous original artwork by Niagara-on-the-Lake artist and award winning author, Sharon Frayne. So, love yourself deeply and bring joy to your life and have fun participating in a free original art draw sponsored by Peter Domarchuk Niagara-on-the-Lake Royal LePage, Wholehearted Real Estate

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# 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 berries 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 action 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 Ukesters 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)

# Writers Circle authors back with book sale



Authors from the Writers Circle attending the June 18 sale are (sitting) Eileen Campbell, Sharon Frayne, Patricia Papernick, and Paul Masson, with (standing) Terry Belleville and Kathryn Recourt. (Photo supplied)

## Sharon Frayne The Local

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 1930s); *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).

Kathryn Recourt, author of *Puppy Dog Blues*, the latest in a young children's three-book series, featuring *Sir Archibald*

*Droolsalot*.

Additionally, books of several Writers Circle authors unable to attend will be available:

- Marie Kelly, a contemporary Romance author, with *Fiancée for the Billionaire* and *Secretary for the Billionaire*
- People's History author Randy Klaassen shares memoirs of NOTL residents and other Canadian stories.
- Richard West offers three fantasy novels *Lightning People: Dis-*

*covered; Lightning People: Entangled; and The Hive Revealed*, and a collection of short stories based on Second World War experiences, *Recollections of War*.

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!

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# Neighbourhood needs a secondary plan

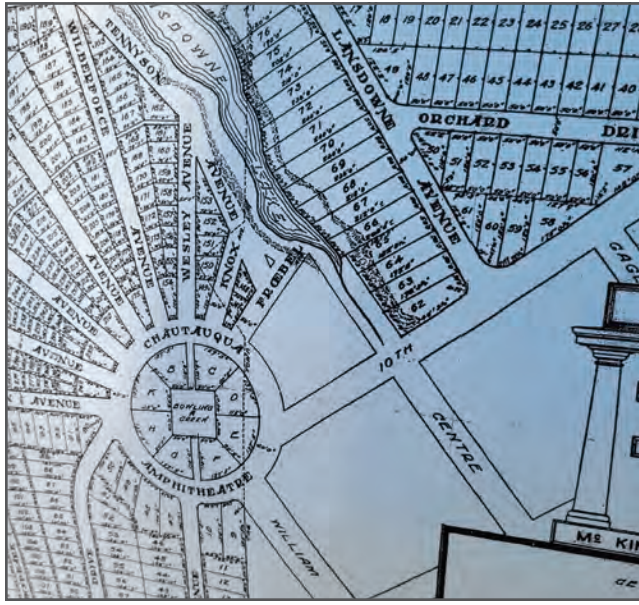
Continued from page 8

One neighbour on the other side of Circle Street came to council in 2019, saying then a plan was needed for Chautauqua to prevent inappropriate 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 concern. The retired high school principal and history teacher believes the historic nature of Chautauqua, as a site of War of 1812 battles, should be preserved, and buildings 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 window, and that of his neighbour's on the other side.

The current bylaw states that the foundation of the new house must be a minimum 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-



The map of Circle Street shows the pie-shaped lots that make up the centre lots are considerably smaller in the back.

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 oasis 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 removes 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 taken into consideration when considering the setback of the house foundation, but that doesn't appear to be the case.



Chris Byart points to a beautiful mature silver maple he fears will be destroyed during the construction of a house on a Circle Street lot. (Penny Coles)

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

As for height, width and setback requirements, the only way to change them for Chautauqua would be to change the zoning, at the request 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 election 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 Canada.

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

An email from the acting region's commissioner of planning to Disero says the

town's Official Plan will not be approved after the regional 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 different densities for different areas, that could benefit some NOTL neighbourhoods, including Chautauqua.

This will allow time for local consultation and a revised OP that can incorporate appropriate 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](https://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




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# Air search and rescue volunteers kept busy

**Randy Klaassen**  
Special to The Local

Spring has been a busy one for air search and rescue volunteers in Niagara.

A crew of Civil Air Search And Rescue Association (CASARA) Niagara members, based at Niagara District Airport, spent a week flying out of Sault Ste. Marie earlier this spring searching for a missing aircraft with two people on board. With not much time to rest in between, a crew was called upon to search for a missing kayaker on Lake Ontario, followed by a ground search for a rogue emergency locator transmitter (ELT) at a flight school in Toronto.

In those three callouts, the missing aircraft up north was located two weeks later, the fate of the missing kayaker is still unknown, and the ELT was located and deactivated. For the search and rescue volunteers, further details of searches are confidential to protect the privacy of those involved.

The professionally-trained local search and rescue volunteers are on call 24/7 to assist the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF), based at CFB Trenton for search and rescue calls, mainly across south central Ontario. At times the specially trained crews and equipment of Niagara are

called to assist in northern Ontario and Quebec.

Gord Tessier, the provincial air search and rescue research and development officer has been at the forefront of a number of projects that have made significant contributions to search and rescue in Canada. His private aircraft, C-FTES, a Cessna 337 Skymaster, has been equipped with high-definition cameras under the wings. The cameras take photos during flight, which are then scanned with special software to search for a target's colour. The location of a target of interest is then sent to RCAF for further investigation. While volunteer spotters search with their eyes, the cameras are an additional tool in the search for missing persons.

Local Terry Nord, the provincial operations director, is often the search coordinator for Niagara crews. His task, upon receiving a call from the RCAF, is to assemble volunteer crews with the specific skill sets required for a particular search. "CASARA Niagara is gifted in respect to volunteers who are either retired or whose employers are flexible, when a crew needs to respond within minutes," says Nord. "Of course, the essential support of crew members comes from their families, who often have family life disrupted when



Volunteer and writer Randy Klaassen, Gord Tessier and his private aircraft, a Cessna 337 Skymaster equipped with high-definition cameras under the wings, and Paul Eyles. (Photo supplied)

callouts are made."

Last season saw an unusually high number of searches on the lakes, for boaters, and swimmers. Volunteers train to search in coordination with Canadian Coast Guard and other marine-based search organizations in order to cover vast areas of open water.

In addition to flying fixed wing aircraft, as of May 1, CASARA Niagara is also certified to conduct searches with drones equipped with cameras. As part of his commitment to research and development, Tessier has obtained his

certification as a drone instructor to train others.

While all of us are happy for the warm weather, and the great outdoor activities that go with it, keep in mind basic safety precautions. Let others know where and what activities you are doing; plan ahead for the possibility of inclement weather; use appropriate safety measures like wearing a brightly coloured personal floatation device (PFD) on the water; and have fun.

For all the training by search and rescue volunteers, they really hope you don't need their assistance.

But if you do, they will be ready to respond. The organization is a registered charity, dependent on com-

munity support. Further information on CASARA Niagara, check the web site, <http://caresniagara.ca>



Niagara volunteer Stewart Harris' view from a search aircraft at 1,000 feet while spotting for a missing boater. (Randy Klaassen)

## Environment could stay on back burner after COVID



**Owen Bjorgan**  
Special to The Local

Like dry earth trying to absorb heavy rains, our human minds have struggled to absorb the onslaught of news over the past two-and-a-half years. A virus. Lockdowns. International conflict. War. Inflation. Elections. It can be gloomier than a darkened forest during a Niagara summer storm.

As we just endured a provincial election, one thing has become clear to me. At large, our current state of society is ravenously hungry for economic rebound and sustaining reliable income. We need to afford fuel to get to work, and we need work to pay for food and bills, so what priorities do we look to, and vote for?

When a substantial part of the population is finding it harder to make ends meet, do we realistically think people passionately caring about the Hwy 413 pro-

posed to slice through protected environmental areas? What about healing Four Mile Creek's water quality, or another woodlot and wetland destroyed along Glendale Avenue?

An economic crushing during COVID times, followed by a shockingly expensive life for Canadians, is not an ideal sequence. Absolutely, this conversation relates to the current health of the environment.

I really don't blame this large voting population's voiced concerns, but the mission to a more protected and respected natural heritage system just experienced another major roadblock, and it was created by the wallets of the people who vote.

What I observed and wrote about frequently during lockdowns was how the ecosystems of the world, including right here in Niagara-on-the-Lake, were largely ignored at a decision-making level. A statistical bump in logging operations and tree cuttings highlighted this theme in NOTL.

I hoped as 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 elevated 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 concrete where it was never intended, and put people into a state of self resiliency as living expenses soar like an eagle. When the momentum of these two factors takes off, I feel deep concern for how the environment will be brushed aside — again.

However, there are glimmers of slow-motion hope.

Niagara Region has done plenty lately to advocate for, and now implement, public transit options that previously didn't exist. There is a sluggish but noticeable shift in appetite towards electric vehicles, and we can see people literally taking garbage cleanups into their own hands here in NOTL. There has also been a spike of home-school groups and community organizations that have taken on a new-found love for nature, and

educating youth about it more than ever. One day, these youth will vote for politicians who protect our environment with higher enthusiasm.

Now I must ask, will these efforts and incentives be paled by a Conservative government which traditionally doesn't care much for the environment, regardless of viruses or inflation? 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. I do, however, feel an obligation to put the pressure on all of them with appropriate questioning.

As NOTL often exhibits right out in the open, time will tell if the environment will come back into the limelight as much as our economic desires. I'd like to think it is totally reasonable to focus on both in a calculated and realistic fashion, but maybe that's just me.

On that note, you can

catch me giving a talk at the NOTL Museum in person on Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. The title of the presentation is fitting with this article, and the times in general: NOTL's Waterfront — Worry and Wonder. I will be giving a visual, fresh take on our nationally-significant freshwater features, and how we can use wonder to change worry into hope for protecting them. The cost is \$10 to the museum for those who are interested.



NOTL and the region took a lot of environmental blows during COVID, and the possibility of new issues allowing this to happen continue to exist. (Owen Bjorgan)



# Boyz II Men a great concert of '90s hits

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

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 com-

munity — 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 favourites, 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 al-

ways 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*



Shawn Stockman and Wanya Morris, two of the Boyz, perform at White Oaks for Hotel Dieu Shaver fundraiser. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Maria Mavridis and her daughter Hope spent some time Sunday with Wanya Morris and his wife on the patio of Corks on Queen Street. (Photo supplied)



Maria Mavridis with Wanya Morris at White Oaks Saturday night. (Photo supplied)





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Q. Why did two 4s skip dinner?  
A. Because they already 8!

June 2022

Volume 2 • Issue 8

FIND THE SMILEY FACE HIDDEN ON THIS PAGE!

## 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!



Submitted by Isaac McCartan(5)



Submitted by Kaylen Anderson (12)

## WORD SEARCH

V H P I U V S Z J O Y F U L N  
I V V M C S M H D W T G E C A  
V H F L Q B U O Q A R V Q N J  
W N L X G N E N U R X Q G Z A  
Z D E S C M P A S M H W Q K K  
H A M J K D Z M L H J M O S B  
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W Z N F R I E N D S H N X I D  
I U A S H A P P Y E L K E L F  
M R D U F V S W M J Z N B E P  
M X E L L Y A Y A E P A J A X  
U F U P S Y P I C N I C F X X  
J K U R L N U Z W S N T U O B  
C D D X F E S C B W Q P X W U  
G N L Y J H K S H D L K V I P

SUNSHINE	BOAT	SMILE	FRIENDS	PICNIC
JOYFUL	LEMONADE	SWIM	WARM	HAPPY

## 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.
- 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 lockdowns?  
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



Grayson Kerr, 9

## The Birthday Campout

By Taleah Bucci, 12

On Tuesday, May 10, my best friend Ella came over to my house to celebrate my 12th birthday in the backyard. The party was camping themed.

We brought our dolls, Lilyanna and Alexa. Ella got to stay all afternoon. We played games, caught bugs in a jar, learned how to light a fire with a magnesium rod, and roasted marshmallows, which we ate with

brownie muffins. We also enjoyed many other delicious treats prepared by my dad throughout the day. It was a full camping experience right in my backyard.



### HOPE FOR THE PAGE AND SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this 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](mailto:joyousnotlkids@gmail.com) and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

### CHARITY

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](mailto:joyousnotlkids@gmail.com).



# LemonAID Day this Sunday — help send a kid to camp

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

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.



Kaitlyn and Jayden Polgrabia, the children behind the first donation to send a child to camp last year, will have their LemonAID stand on Victoria Street, between Queen and Prideaux Streets. (Photo supplied)

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 Moun-

tainview 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 Ditzio 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 on 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



Kaitlyn and Jayden making lemonade to help other children are the inspiration for LemonAID Day. (Photos supplied)

this summer."

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

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

"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/](https://facsniagara-foundation.org/mountainviewlemonaidday/)

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# Mental health expert, artist exhibits at Royal Henley

## Seniors at retirement community also display their works of art

**Penny Coles**  
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.

"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

Continued on page 19



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. (Photo submitted)

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# Coming of age continues as we learn, change

Continued from page 18

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 as-



*Youth Remains*, also to be shown at the Royal Henley, was inspired in part by the lyrics of *Les Pleasures Démodés* (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)

tronauts, 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

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.

*Coming of Age* will be at the Royal Henley on Ontario Street Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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# 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 sur-

face was installed.

Judi Allen explains the purpose of the open houses 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 Fillipis 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 getting the hang of how to bowl. And they were 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 newer member Wig Baldauf, like this reporter a retired DSBN teacher, as coach for the informal session.

Baldauf was congenial to a T. He began by explaining how the ball, or bowl, is biased to one side. When it is bowled it rolls 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 a 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 was 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."

Saczowski 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 Tuesday 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 notlbowl.ca.



Linda (in white) and Joe De Fillipis (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.



Wig Baldauf offers some tips to Tady Saczkowski.



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



# LocalSPORTS

## Preds draft more local players for coming season

Mike Balsom  
The Local

The Niagara Predators added a great deal of local content to their roster in 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.

"With me coming on board," says the Ajax native who works for a St. Catharines kitchen cabinet company, "I would like to have more local players, to help us establish the hockey team in the local market 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 nearby Hamilton. Of the players chosen by them in each of the draft's 12 rounds, 10 are from Ontario, one from British Columbia and one from the US.

As well, nine of the draftees are 18 years old or younger.

Ferlatte is serving as vice president for both GMHL teams owned by Robert Turnbull. That would be the St. George Ravens in addition to the Predators. His job required him to make selections for the two teams that compete against each other in the league's Northern division.

To prepare for the process, Ferlatte made sure he spoke to both coaches. Niagara's Kevin Taylor and the Ravens' Wade Clubb are both new to

their respective organizations for the upcoming 2022-2023 season

"I needed to see what kind of team they are hoping to build around," Ferlatte says. "It was a lot of consulting with both coaches to see what players they were looking for and doing the research off of that."

Ferlatte worked previously with the Niagara Whalers, the Port Colborne-based GMHL team that folded prior to the 2021-2022 season. Over three years with the Whalers he worked his way up from skills coach to president of the team.

In 2020-2021, Ferlatte left the Whalers to work as a consultant for the Predators in their last year in Toronto, and also became the director of hockey operations for the Ravens. He continued to consult for the Predators in their first year in Virgil, and took on the Ravens 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 I have lots 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," Ferlatte says of the Stouffville, Ontario-born Prestwich. "Our head coach Kevin Taylor actually scouted 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 Simcoe 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, especially 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 opportunities in the future for maybe NCAA options or down the professional path."

Knowing that the Predators took 19-year-old forward Tyler Gearing, another St. Catharines Falcon, in the sixth round, and that his former teammate Logan Baillie will be coming back to play for the Preds this year, adds to Wyers' excitement.

Wyers says he is working hard this summer to ensure he's in game shape whenever Taylor gathers the team together for its next summer skate.

"For the past couple of summers I've been doing some training camps with other teams," he explains. "I have a workout routine back home. I have a net in the backyard and I take shots every day. And I have a SuperDeker (stickhandling training system) downstairs too."

Also from Niagara is the Predators fourth round pick, 15-year-old David Nowak, a forward from the Fort Erie International Academy, and goaltenders Warren Krogman (18, round five) and Noah

Fortuna (21, round nine), both of Niagara Falls.

Richmond, BC's Matthew Jung, 19, was taken by the Predators in the third round. The forward netted 12 goals and nine assists in 44 games with the Fresno Monsters of the United States Premier Hockey League last season.

Rounding out the picks for Niagara were defenceman Caleb Labelle (17, round seven) of the North York Rangers U18 AAA team, forward Kyle Ferguson (16, round eight) of the Burlington Eagles AAA squad, Barrie's Mac Connelly (18, round 10), Nolan Winkler of Chicago (16, round 11, and Gavin Lippett (16, round 12) of the Hamilton Huskies AA team.

"Our goal with our program is to develop players," Ferlatte says of the Predators youth movement. "We want them to be better people both on and off the ice. Drafting younger players will help us establish more of a developmental culture and more of a household name in the Niagara area."

Ferlatte adds that returning players, such as speedy forward Reese Bisci of Niagara Falls, will help to ease the young draftees into the Predators system. In the meantime, the Predators will continue to recruit prospective 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 others including Wyers. Up next will be some on-ice sessions in mid-June, though dates have not been announced.



The Predators have drafted Nolan Wyers, a 16-year old player from St. Catharines. (Photo supplied)



## Teen's plans for ball hockey championship on hold

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake teen Cohen Alexander's hopes of playing for Junior Team Canada (JTC) in the World Ball Hockey Federation (WBHF) U14 championships in Bratislava later this month have been dashed.

Jamie Robillard of the On-

tario Ball Hockey Association says the world championships have been cancelled due to the situation in Ukraine. With Slovakia situated next to the southwest border of that country, it wasn't feasible for the tournament to proceed.

"To the best of my knowledge," Robillard tells The Local, "a conference call was held in ear-

ly April. A number of teams were starting to decide to pull out, and it became clear that it didn't make sense to hold the tournament. A consensus was reached to just cancel it altogether."

It's the third straight year the WBHF championships have been cancelled, the first two because of the pandemic. Robillard explains that the de-

cision affects men's and women's national teams from U14 through U22, as well as at the masters level, who were all planning to compete.

"The decision had to be made early enough," Robillard adds, "because of travel plans and such. At the beginning of the war, a lot of the action was on the western side of Ukraine, and many refugees had begun to move into Slovakia. In fact, a lot of the potential accommodations were beginning to be used to house refugees."

In addition, Robillard recalls that many parents of the younger JTC members were calling their coaches to express concerns about sending their children to play in the tournament.

The tournament has been rescheduled for next summer in the Czech Republic. Rob Alexander, Cohen's father, says JTC officials have promised his son that he will have a spot on the team for the 2023 tournament.

Robillard marvels at how life has changed for some of the

older ball hockey players who are still waiting to represent their country on the international stage.

"There is 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's 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 student 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 suited up for both the U16 and

U19 Ballhockey.com teams at the annual Walter Gretzky Street Hockey Charity Tournament 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 3 in the Slovakian capital.



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

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OBITUARY



**GALLAGHER, ANN EVELYN (NEE ASSHETON-SMITH)**—Passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 21, 2022, at the age of 93. Feisty, strong and very loving mother of Trish (Brent) and Fiona (the late Rick). Predeceased by her beloved husband Brian, her brother Roger and her sister Joan.

Ann lived in India, England, the Bahamas, Colorado, Montreal and Toronto before making Niagara-on-the-Lake her home in 1979. She was happiest working in her beautiful garden, taking painting lessons at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre or cooking up a storm 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](http://www.morganfuneral.com)



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Sudoku solution from  
June 1, 2022

7	5	1	6	3	8	9	2	4
2	6	8	5	9	4	7	3	1
9	3	4	1	2	7	6	5	8
3	2	9	8	7	6	4	1	5
5	4	6	9	1	2	8	7	3
1	8	7	3	4	5	2	6	9
6	1	2	4	5	9	3	8	7
8	9	3	7	6	1	5	4	2
4	7	5	2	8	3	1	9	6

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10 Flat-topped hill  
14 Misbehave  
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 lion  
29 Louse egg  
30 Washed out  
31 Watch --- step!  
33 Not odd  
35 Free  
36 Settlement  
37 Nudge repeatedly  
38 Aloof  
40 Conductive elements

43 Hoppy brew  
44 Conforms  
45 Blockhead  
47 Pirate’s plunder  
49 Mischievous  
50 Solitary  
51 “L” operator  
52 Unpleasant to look at  
54 Conjured up  
56 Attila, e.g.  
57 Aught  
58 Political top dog (Abbr.)  
59 Brief swim  
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 Coverts rotary motion into linear motion  
2 Appliance and electronics maker  
3 Bill dispenser  
4 Hollow gas globe  
5 Mar  
6 Unit of computer memory  
7 Regret  
8 Key with three sharps  
9 Pacific country  
10 Speed measure  
11 Seinfeld cohort --- Benes  
12 Clicked  
13 Valuable possession  
21 Prius maker  
23 Choice morsels  
25 Interest charge  
26 Two identical things  
27 Shoppe adjective  
28 Manage  
32 Be in debt  
34 Old kind of computer monitor  
36 Fighter ace  
37 Lower

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake

Local

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40 Provides input for an amp.  
41 Observe  
42 Levelheaded  
44 Cook in hot oil  
46 Central bank  
47 Artist’s workshop  
48 Diminishing  
49 Extremely  
50 Snap  
51 Map  
53 Enormous  
55 Kevlar garments  
58 Funeral woodpile  
60 Electronic helper just for you  
62 Border  
64 Old food label letters  
65 Carpet cleaner (Abbr.)  
96 Moose

PUZZLE ANSWERS

- 60 P D A, 62 Rim, 64 R D A, 65 Vac, 66 Elk.  
49 All too, 50 Lose it, 51 Chat, 53 Giant, 55 Vests, 58 Pyre,  
Mic, 41 Look, 42 Sane, 44 Fry, 46 Fed, 47 Studio, 48 Warning,  
Run, 32 Owe, 34 V G A, 36 Top gun, 37 Nether, 39 Mia, 40  
Asset, 21 Toyota, 23 Treats, 25 A P R, 26 Pair, 27 Olde, 28  
Rue, 8 A major, 9 Samoa, 10 M p h, 11 Elaine, 12 Sunk in, 13  
Down: 1 Cam, 2 R C A, 3 A T M, 4 Bubble, 5 Spoil, 6 Byte, 7  
67 Flind, 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 Oat, 47 Swag, 49 Arch, 50 Lone, 51 C T A, 52 Ugly, 54  
36 Town, 37 Nag, 38 Remote, 40 Metals, 43 I P A, 44 Fits,  
25 Apollo, 28 Roar, 29 Nit, 30 Pale, 31 Your, 33 Even, 35 Rid,  
Plus, 17 Mambo, 18 Team, 19 Hams, 20 Bite, 22 Jot, 24 Ike,  
Across: 1 Crabs, 6 Bras, 10 Mesa, 14 Act up, 15 Yuma, 16



# LocalSPORTS

## 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 de-

fensive 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 limit-

ed 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 sea-

son 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 offence and smothering 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!



#16 Brett Wilson  
Defence



#11 Nathan Wilson  
Defence



#75 Aaron Wilson  
Defence



#19 Kris Wilson  
Offense

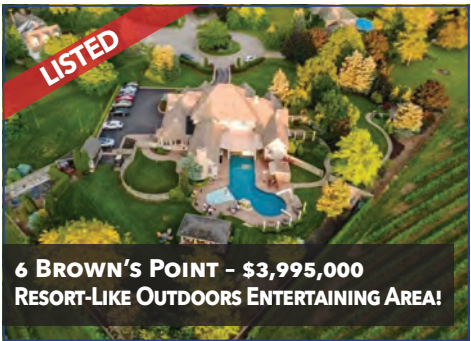
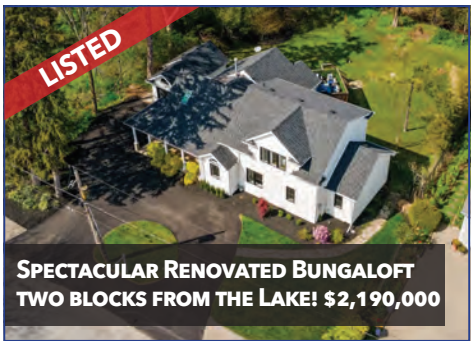
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