



**Hans Paul
enjoying
well-deserved
retirement**
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Carter Simpson and his family AnnLiz and Mike have only been in town a year. Carter is pretty pumped about being in the torch relay. He loves meeting and talking to people, and this will give him a great opportunity to do that. (Mike Balsom)

Carter Simpson is thrilled to carry torch

**Mike Balsom
The Local**

It's hard to come up with a better way to make a splash in a new community than taking centre stage as a torchbearer for the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.

Though he's only lived in Niagara-on-the-Lake since June, 2021, 28-year-old Carter Simpson is a perfect choice to represent the town as one of 13 to carry the Roly McLennan Canada Games Torch from Queenston Heights to the Meridian Credit Union Arena on Saturday, July 30.

The Special Olympics athlete won a silver medal in alpine skiing at the 2011 Provincial Winter Games, and captured multiple medals in track and field at the 2017 Provincial Summer

Games. Simpson was also the flagbearer for the opening ceremonies at the 2019 Provincial Winter Games, where he finished top 10 in all of his alpine skiing events.

"He loves anything sports," says his mother, AnnLiz Simpson, as she, her husband Mike Sweeny and Carter make the long drive back to NOTL from a vacation on Lake Superior. "He does swim team all year, track and field and golf right now in the summer, and alpine ski racing in the winter. And he wants to try basketball and powerlifting."

The family moved to NOTL from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., a change that had been somewhat planned but moved forward when the complications of

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B&B licence denial takes unexpected twist

**Penny Coles
The Local**

Owners of a Dorchester Street bed and breakfast now finally understand the details of why they were denied their licence to operate it.

They have discovered it was due to a complaint made by Dan Williams, Lord Mayor Betty Disero's husband. They share a side property line with Jennifer Elliott and Colin Telfer, who have two rooms in their home they

had been renting as a bed and breakfast, until their licence renewal was unexpectedly denied.

After four successful seasons with their B&B, they ran into trouble when their home required new inspections by a bylaw officer and a fire inspector for a 2020 licence renewal. When they reapplied, Elliott told The Local for an article that was published in June 2021, a bylaw officer came by and inspected the rooms, the facilities in their

home, and did a visual inspection of the outside of the home and garage, which was new. Elliott says she was given a verbal confirmation that the inspection had been successfully completed and no changes were required, with the exception of relocating smoke alarms and buying a new fire extinguisher, which they did.

But the couple never did get that licence, based on a complaint that had been made about their new garage

by a neighbour, although at the time the town would not divulge the name of the neighbour. Elliott was then told the garage needed to be inspected. She believed a neighbour had complained that they were living in their garage, even though the garage was unfinished, and divided into three bays, with a car in one, tools and a workbench in a second bay, and another section, also unfinished, that Jennifer called her 'she-shed.' It was furnished

with a used sofa with the stuffing coming out of it, and a second-hand pool table she thought the grandkids might use when they visit, she said.

"Everyone knows we don't live in our garage," Elliott said, adding she felt the complaint was malicious, and Telfer, a former police officer, said the bylaw officer had no legal reason to inspect their garage, so on principle, they said no to the inspection.

In the town's response to

the law suit, dated July 21, 2021, a member of staff confirms that they don't usually release the name of a person who makes a complaint to the town, to respect their privacy and prevent retaliation, but in this case, the individual who filed the complaint "has provided his consent to release his name."

Williams, the town's response said, had lodged the complaint after reading

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Candidates join incumbents in election race

Penny Coles
The Local

The list of council candidates now includes two long-time friends running together, on the same platform.

Maria Mavridis and Tim Balasiuk join incumbents Allan Bisback, Gary Burroughs and Sandra O'Connor in announcing they are running for council.

Mavridis and Balasiuk have known each other since their school days in town — both went to Niagara District Secondary School, although Balasiuk (when he's talking about paddle-boarding, he goes by Tim Bala) finished school at Ridley College.

They are the same age, 42. Balasiuk was born here, to a family that goes back several generations, and Mavridis moved to town at the age of 11, when her family bought a business on Queen Street. They both operate businesses in town, and they have the same perspective and priorities when it comes to issues.

Mavridis was the recipient of the 2021 Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Community Impact and Leadership Award, and Balasiuk won the NOTL Chamber of Commerce Peter Ling Entrepreneurship Spirit Award, and a Niagara 40 Under 40 Award.

Mavridis, who has a post-secondary degree in business marketing, lives in Virgil and has a daughter, Hope, who attends Crossroads Public School. Maria

has been on a number of boards and committees over the years, including Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Niagara Nursery School, Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, Niagara Jazz Festival, and has been a mentor on the Lord Mayor's Youth Advisory Council. She also owns and operates an organization that raises money for local charities, Anchor Niagara.

Tim lives in the Old Town, is married to Michelle Reynolds, and has a dog, Otis. He forgets to mention that he is the person in the viral video who chased away a coyote that was attacking a small dog, during the height of the urban coyote sightings.

Mavridis explains that a few years ago she and Balasiuk got into the habit of watching council meetings online and then discussing them, forming opinions on top issues and how they would handle them if they were on council.

Balasiuk says leading up to the 2018 election, both former Lord Mayor Pat Darte and current Lord Mayor Betty Disero approached him about running for council. He thought about it, but decided he didn't know enough about council and how it operates, so he has spent the last four years learning.

Both believe their knowledge of the history of the town, as residents and business people, have provided a solid background for them to serve on council and help to create the important balance between residents and tourism.

Their list of their top issues includes protecting neighbourhoods, completing the Tourism Management Strategy, completing the recreational master plan, providing integral services for all residents and businesses, preserving agricultural land for farming, and celebrating and supporting culture.

Balasiuk, grew up in the hospitality industry.

His great grandmother was a Kathleen Irene Gooderham Drope - of Gooderham and Worts, once the largest Canadian distiller of alcoholic beverages. The Drope family was initially from the Grimsby area, but came to Niagara-on-the-Lake, where his grandfather was the project manager of the historic Court House restoration in 1980, with the Niagara Foundation.

His grandfather died not long after the restoration was completed, and Drope Hall, upstairs at the Court House, was named after him.

Balasiuk worked at a number of local hotels, including the Pillar & Post, which was founded by his grandfather in the 1970s, who converted the former canning factory to a hotel, seeing the value of tourism to the community. "He always wanted to do things right," says Balasiuk, who says I think the reason I'm so interested in running for council is "I feel like I owe it to my family. If I have the opportunity to have a say in the future of NOTL, I feel obligated to play a part in it."



Maria Mavridis, the recipient of the 2021 Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Award, says the time is right to serve on council. (Photos supplied)



Tim Balasiuk, who in addition to teaching paddle-boarding also does an annual clean-up of the town's beaches, is ready to spend the next four years giving back to his community.

Balasiuk is the owner and operator of Paddle Niagara, which he founded 10 years ago, along with hosting Kids Camps, teaching kids about water safety on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario, while providing access to the water for locals and tourists.

He loves the town, and strongly feels a responsibility for preserving it, both in recognition of his family's role in its history and his desire to make it the best it can be for future generations.

"There has been a large influx of newcomers to NOTL and the Niagara Region, and I hear about other municipalities that have gotten lost in the wash. We have such a unique fabric in town. It's special, and it needs to be treated as special. The people who have grown up here had a hand in weaving the fabric of this town. I feel like my grandparents built the loom."

Newcomers have come to live in a town they love, and Balasiuk wants to not only maintain what it is they love about it, but to maintain the sense of community he knew growing up in it. "I want them to see the town the way I see

it, experience it the way I experienced it, when there was a level of respect for the community and for our neighbours. I want to maintain that small community and the respect we showed for all our neighbours. I don't want there to be a divide between people — there is no reason for it."

Mavridis too points to the history of the town, and her desire to step in and "help to make it the kind of town my daughter will still want to live in when she's my age." She points to the need for zoning that preserves neighbourhoods, to replace bylaws approved more than two decades ago, and allowed for development that was built in the last 10 years or more. She's also concerned about the Transportation Master Plan, recreational facilities, and all institutional properties such as the former Parliament Oak and hospital properties disappearing.

"The Glendale plan is a big deal for me. There's a lot of land to be developed and I want to be sure that 10 years down the road, my daughter will be able to buy a house."

She had been thinking about

running for council for a while, and then one day after watching a council meeting and talking about it she said, "I think it's time."

Mavridis is a busy woman with Anchor Niagara, and three family-owned businesses on Queen Street, and council is a big time commitment, "but it's important. It's worth it. I feel like I can make a difference. And I don't want the same issues to still be sitting around four years from now."

She's talked to her father, Bob Mavridis, about balancing council business with Queen Street businesses, plus fundraising and her family life, but she's used to being busy and getting things done. "It's second nature to me to be doing a lot. I think it's time, and I can do it. I don't like the divide between residents and businesses, and I think it's important for this generation to change it for the next. It wasn't like this in the past. Times are changing, and tourism is different."

There were issues that weren't addressed during COVID because there were more important things that needed to be done to get through the pandemic, says Mavridis. "It's time to implement what is needed and manage it. It's time to make sure there is something left for my daughter to take over. After 30 years on Queen Street, I feel like so much has changed, and so much has stayed the same. We've got to bring the whole community together. End of story."

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Simpson expected to race his way through relay

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COVID hit.

"Mike and I got married five years ago at Stratus Vineyard," Simpson says, "and we thought of moving to the area in a few years. When COVID hit, we realized we didn't want to be an eight or nine hour drive from my two other boys in Toronto, and Mike's daughter in Windsor."

Simpson, who sold her chiropractor's practice prior to the family's move here, says Carter was quite famous in Sault Ste. Marie. His athletic accomplishments often made newspaper headlines and garnered television coverage there. So the move to Niagara was quite a change for him.

The bonus for Carter is that he's now actually closer to the epicentre of more Special Olympics sports, allowing him more convenient access to pursue more of what he loves.

Though the torch relay can be seen as Carter's big debut in the community, AnnLiz says he's been in-

volved here since last June.

"He volunteers twice a week at Royal Oak School, helping with their fitness program run by Mr. Hill, and he also volunteers at Fritters-on-the-Lake," she explains. "He walks and runs almost every day. He knows a lot of people. He's a really social guy."

Simpson says Carter, who has Down Syndrome, is 'beyond excited' to carry the torch. His brothers and step-sister and their partners are coming to NOTL to join him on his run along Four Mile Creek Road between Line 9 and Line 8 next Saturday. Their participation, though, depends somewhat on whether or not Carter is willing to share the spotlight with them.

"It's a big, big milestone for him," Simpson says. "He's so thrilled. The torch is so heavy, and he's going to want to wave at everybody. He knows it's such an honour. When he was the flag bearer at the Provincial Winter Games, I think that superseded his events at the ski hill."

Simpson says her son loves the spotlight, and sometimes looks for the attention at some of the most inopportune times.

"He'll be racing down the mountain," she laughs, "and he'll stop to wave and say hello to the crowd. He's high energy, loves the crowd, and loves to be associated with anything like that. He was thrilled with the energy at (the torch's arrival ceremony in) Port Colborne."

Named after legendary Toronto Blue Jays outfielder Joe, Carter has also played football and competed alongside his younger brothers in all sports until they were teenagers. He has participated the past three years in the Great Canadian Running Challenge, completing 1,000 kilometres in 2020. Last year, he met his goal of 2,021 kilometres, and he's well on his way to this year's goal of 2,022-plus.

"We are all so proud of him," says AnnLiz. "He gives his all to everything he does. We can't help but get caught up in his enthusiasm."



Carter Simpson, active in many sports, including running, will be making a debut of sorts when he carries the torch for NOTL. (Photo supplied)

Couple looking for compensation from town

Continued from page 1

Elliott's Facebook post that said one of the garage bays "is/will be open concept living space." A screenshot of the post accompanied the complaint.

The town's response also says an inspection of the garage, which was refused, "was/is required to determine the merit of the complaint," as well as whether Elliott and Telfer were in compliance with the relevant bylaw, and that Elliott was advised in July 2020 the inspection was necessary for zoning issues. When a bylaw inspector went to the house to ask to inspect the garage, Telfer said a warrant was required, and that they were using the garage as a "man cave."

What followed was an eight-month series of emails and letters, said Elliott, including hiring a lawyer who wrote to the town on their behalf requesting their B&B licence be issued. Telfer and

Elliott continued to believe the town was being used by a disgruntled neighbour, not thinking it was Williams who had made the complaint. Last summer, in an effort to resolve the issue, Elliott said she wrote a letter to the lord mayor and town councillors asking them to intervene, but she received no response, and still no licence was granted.

When asked about the complaint by The Local last summer, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said she knew the garage was being built, and that after receiving Elliott's letter, believed there to be a problem between them and a neighbour.

It was then that Elliott and Telfer decided to seek answers and a monetary settlement through the court system, suing the town for damages.

Disero told The Local in June, 2021 that she and council members are told by the planning department not

to intervene for people with legal disputes. If they do, she said, in an effort to help, it could end up being a problem for the town should the issue go to court.

Elliott said she lost out on about \$20,000 in revenue from that first season when they were not given a licence, and since then, she has not reapplied. She said they have also spent more than \$40,000 on legal fees, which is why she is asking for damages. The court case has not been heard yet.

This week Elliott posted a letter addressed to Disero on social media saying Williams was the person who lodged the complaint.

Once the town knew about the issue, says Elliott, "the matter should have gone before council, and you (Disero) should have declared a conflict." Instead the town, after refusing to issue a B&B renewal because of the complaint, at first denied the complaint even existed, El-

liott said, by explaining it was just a matter of a necessary inspection. "This denial continued for many months," she said, until she learned there was a complaint, with Williams behind it.

Elliott says she decided to write the recent letter posted on social media, and send it to councillors and Disero, when she realized councillors had not been made aware of the situation or given a chance to discuss it.

"The town should have made a full disclosure, given me an apology, my B&B renewal, a couple of thousand dollars for our legal fees up to that point, and requested a full police investigation, which is still desperately required," says Elliott in her letter. "Since all this information is a matter of public record, I have chosen to make this letter public, hoping it may encourage you (Disero) to not ignore my concerns, as you did when this fiasco began."

Disero, in a statement

to The Local Tuesday, said "I have no details about a lawsuit."

"I take the oath of office very seriously and act in a professional manner in service to my community. I have never used my office of Lord Mayor for my personal advantage. And for me to comment on the substance of their allegations would be to do what I am accused of and what I completely deny doing. I am duty bound not to take advantage of information I have only because of my office of Lord Mayor to my personal advantage."

"I will give you my own straightforward answers – I have acted with integrity; I have not sought to influence town employees for my personal advantage; I have not acted in a way that would give rise to a conflict of interest, bad faith, or undue influence. I have certainly not acted in a way that is illegal or improper."

Williams told The Local

the complaint was not made anonymously — he signed it when he sent it to the town.

He said it was the Facebook post that made him decide to lodge the complaint and "that led me to believe they had an apartment" in the garage, and forward those comments to the town.

"I did it on my own," he said, when asked whether Disero knew he was making the complaint.

Disero did find out eventually from the town that he had filed the complaint, he said, and he did hear that Elliott and Telfer had followed up on it.

"I didn't really think it was a big deal," he said. He believed he had a legitimate complaint, that the garage was five feet from the property line, and has to be 20 feet if someone is living in it, "and it just got twisted up," he said. "It got blown out of proportion."

No charges were laid and none of the allegations have been proven in court.



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Gates loves his new job, but will consider leadership

Penny Coles
The Local

MPP Wayne Gates has some tough decisions ahead.

He told The Local Monday if asked, he will consider the NDP's leadership role.

His party needs someone at the helm with a strong voice, and someone who cares, he says. "I have a strong voice, and I care."

"Everywhere I go people are asking me, and encouraging me," he says, and if the time comes to make a decision, he will sit down and talk about it with his wife and family, and his staff.

The difficulty would be leaving his new portfolio within the NDP caucus, which makes him the party's leading voice on long-term care, homecare and retirement homes as the Official Opposition critic, and involves issues that are close to his heart

— issues that existed long before the pandemic came along. COVID highlighted how badly the system is broken, especially once the military marched into long-term care homes and wrote a report of the horrors they found inside, he says. He wants to see that system fixed, and has some solutions that could be implemented fairly quickly.

His riding of Niagara Falls, which includes Niagara-on-the-Lake, has one of the highest percentages of seniors in the province, and like everywhere else in the province, is severely understaffed in all areas of healthcare.

He says he wants to work with all parties to ensure seniors are treated with dignity and respect in long-term care, and for those who are able, that they are given what they need to stay home.

One of the first things he

would like to see changed quickly is for the current long-term care minister, Paul Calandra, to have that portfolio as a full-time, dedicated job. Calandra was also appointed Government House Leader, and Gates said he will ask him to talk to Premier Doug Ford about making the job of long-term care full-time.

Gates says he will use his voice to ensure the government can't ignore the needs of seniors, and will propose solutions.

"We'll work with them to fix it. We won't let them ignore it anymore. Our goal is to propose a system of seniors care that is driven by the need in our communities, not the profits of corporations," says Gates, who wants to see private long-term care homes eliminated. "Every dollar should toward the care of seniors, not for profit to shareholders."

"In my community," he continued, "we have thousands of seniors who need supports to stay in their homes as long as they can. Once they need care, they need to know the care will be there for them. We're going to make sure those supports are there when they need them here in Niagara, and across Ontario," said Gates.

Gates said his first priority is to see the repeal of Bill 124, which pegs nurses' and other healthcare workers' salary increases at one percent, with an inflation rate that will likely soon hit eight per cent. That

would be showing a sign of respect for healthcare workers, would raise their morale, and would encourage them to stay in their jobs, and it's something that could be done quickly.

It would be hard to leave that role to take on the party leadership, he says.

"I absolutely love my riding. I love the people of my riding."

Taking on the responsibility

of leadership would take a lot of energy, he says.

But Gates is known for his energy, and for a having a strong voice, and as he says, "that's what the province needs."

Cycling Santa surprised to be a torchbearer

Mike Balsom
The Local

Tim Taylor was quite surprised to receive an email informing him that he had been selected as a torchbearer for the Niagara-on-the-Lake leg of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games torch relay on July 30.

"Complete and utter surprise," he tells The Local. "I had no notion that anyone had even nominated me, until my daughter (Kate Fish) who is the principal at Crossroads admitted that she had some time ago submitted my name."

The man known locally as Cycling Santa started sweating a bit, wondering how he was going to run nearly a kilometre,

but relaxed as soon as he realized he could choose how he wanted to complete his segment. He will be walking his portion of the ceremonial trek.

Since June 25, the Roly McLenahan Canada Games torch has been making its way through each of Niagara's 12 municipalities. It began that day in Thorold, and will finish its journey on July 31 when it makes its way to the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines.

On June 17, all torchbearers were invited to Lock 8 Gateway Park in Port Colborne to watch the torch disembark from a Canada Steamship Lines boat to begin its Niagara stay.

"I didn't have any sense of the magnitude of it until then,"

Taylor says. "There were a lot of people there, and everybody was quite excited about it. Representing the community at a national event like this is really quite special."

Though Fish's application hinted that her father might wear his Santa suit for the relay if asked, don't expect to see Taylor decked out in red on the big day.

"I'm not allowed to," explains Taylor. "I asked if I could wear my Santa for Palliative Care biking shirt, or my Santa suit, and they (the host society) told me I have to wear what I'm given. I understand that. Things could get kind of crazy if everyone was allowed to do what they wanted."

Taylor says a number of people have promised to make the journey alongside him. As many as 17 fellow members of the NOTL Rotary Club have signed up to join him.

The retired father and grandfather of two worked in the hospitality industry before shifting to public relations. He worked for national companies such as Imperial Oil, Molson and the Ontario Power Authority, his job taking him across the country.

Taylor first became an NOTL resident when he moved here with his parents as a teenager. After years of living elsewhere, about 17 years ago the Ridley College and University of Toronto economics graduate moved back to the town to retire.

Over the past decade, Taylor has raised thousands of dollars for Niagara-on-the-Lake Palliative Care. Every December he dons the Santa suit and cycles to private parties, businesses and schools across NOTL to raise funds for the organization. The avid cyclist also participates in the Healing Cycle Foundation ride each year, and last September completed 1,000 kilometres for that organization.

During the COVID lockdowns, Taylor was able to shift to online visits as Santa, and tells The Local he was able to make appearances around the world as Saint Nicholas.

"I have a couple of attributes that sort of forced me into it," he laughs, "a long white beard and a big belly. I do it for the community, but I have so much fun doing it. At times it might be a little selfish, because I have so much fun. But it's certainly serendipitous that I can raise some money while I do it."

He may not be wearing red as he squires the torch through the 0.8 kilometre section along Four Mile Creek Road between Line 6 and Line 5, but the beard will be there, and so will Taylor's Santa spirit.



MPP Wayne Gates is taking on the role of improving long-term care homes, homecare and retirement homes. He'd like to see the end of for-profit long-term care and more homes like the regional Upper Canada Lodge. (Photo supplied)



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Tim Taylor, known for cycling for palliative care, will be carrying a torch for the Canada Summer Games relay. (Mike Balsom)



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Hans Paul no longer responsible for town facilities

The man who sharpened skates for many local kids has earned his retirement

Mike Balsom
The Local

He retired on May 31 after 36 years of working for the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, but Hans Pauls wasn't able to get to his cottage on Moon River in Bala, Ont. until just last week.

"It's been busy," he laughs, "but we're finally here for just a few days, and we'll be coming back with the whole family the first week of August."

That family includes his wife Christine, son Ryan and his partner Rachel, and daughter Kaitlyn, her husband Luke and their son, Carson. They'll be taking advantage of the great fishing (pickerel, pike and bass) and doing a bit of water skiing as well.

He may be smiling on the dock this week, but many locals will fondly recall seeing Pauls' smiling face at the arena, where he performed just about every task that needed to be done over almost three decades.

"Those years were some of the highlights of my career," he reflects. "We maintained one of the best arena facilities in the whole Niagara region, when it came to the ice and the cleanliness of our building. We really took pride in our facilities."

He tells The Local of the many positive comments about the arenas the town would get from out-of-town visitors who came for hockey tournaments.

It seemed that everyone who walked into the arenas knew who Hans Pauls was, and he was one to make sure he put forth an effort to get to know those visitors right back.

"I've seen so many kids grow up over the years," he says. "Even long after I left the arenas for the facilities supervisor job, they would recognize me from my days driving the Zamboni, or sharpening skates."

Pauls moved to NOTL with his parents and siblings in the 1970s. The graduate of Niagara District Secondary School has fond memories of playing

minor ball and soccer on the same NOTL fields for which he eventually became responsible.

He began his career with the town's parks and recreation department in 1986. His tenure was such that he experienced the opening of the Niagara pool and the community centre in 2000, as well as the construction of the Meridian Credit Union Arena which opened in 2003.

Over a decade ago Pauls replaced Ken Rive as facilities supervisor. Since then, he has overseen the construction of the Virgil splash pad and skatepark as well as the renovation of the community centre to house an expanded Niagara Nursery School.

Pauls credits the community as a whole for making all of those improvements possible.

"The fundraising that was done for the new arena," says Pauls, clearly in awe, "our community really, really came together. Same as for the new pool in 2000, fundraising was exceptional for that, too. That's why I really enjoyed working for the town, the community support for projects like those."

He continues, "the VBA (Virgil Business Association) has been huge in our community, with the amount of money they've raised over the years for our facilities and our community in general. Looking back, I can really recognize how much the community has given back."

As facilities supervisor, Pauls looked after 33 buildings, including the fire halls and the Court House, as well as the soccer fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts and the new pickleball courts.

Pauls gives a ton of credit to the staff who worked alongside him to keep things in tip-top shape. He mentions how much he learned working under Rive, and says his team of seven was crucial in the maintenance of the facilities.

"As management, you're

only as good as the people who work under you," he stresses. "And I think (manager of parks and recreation) Kevin Turcotte, (parks supervisor) J.B. Hopkins and (recreation supervisor) Dan Maksenuk are all great individuals, and are doing a great job."

He remembers his early days working the Virgil Stampede.

"In the 80s and 90s, the stampede always had horses," he laughs. "I remember they used to use the whole field. There were so many horses. At the end of the weekend the whole field was full of horse manure. You wouldn't believe how long it took us to clean that all up, with pitchforks, throwing it all into the back of a truck."

And he fondly recalls the old ice resurfer at the arena, long before the town purchased its first modern Zamboni.

"It used to throw the snow up, and you could actually catch it as you were operating it," he says. "I used to form it into snowballs and throw them at the fans. Back then you could do that. You couldn't do it today."

When asked what he won't miss about his job, the 59-year-old mentions the calls in the middle of the night when an alarm would go off.

"I was in charge of the monitoring of all of our buildings for security," explains Pauls. "My wife really doesn't miss that at all, those calls at 2 or 3 in the morning. I would go out there in the middle of the night only to find out a bird or something activated the alarm."

Some old habits die hard, though.

"We moved from Virgil to St. David's three years ago," laughs Pauls. "A week after retiring, I was driving into Virgil and I found myself automatically pulling into the arena. For 36 years going into that same driveway, it was just a natural thing to do. I said to myself, 'what am I doing? I don't need to come this way today.'"



It's 'all Hans on deck' as he finally gets time to relax at his cottage. (Christine Paul)

Ever the NOTL booster, Pauls joined the Kinsmen Club post-retirement and is looking forward to getting involved on the other side of the communi-

ty support equation.

He adds that retirement so far is bittersweet, but in a good way.

"I really, really enjoyed

working for the town. If it wasn't for the community, it wouldn't have been the job that it was. I got to meet so many different people."



10 THE PROMENADE

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EDITORIAL

Kids' sports beneficial in so many ways

The fact that our young swimmers are able to attend swim meets at their local pool after two years of no meets — and for St. Davids, a year without a pool — shows how far we have come following two years of pandemic restrictions.

We know that sport is good for kids, and that it's important for their development, and not just for physical fitness, as important as that is — experts say it has positive effects on their physical, cognitive, psychological and social health.

Parents know it teaches their kids social and other valuable skills, and life lessons they will carry with them. Competition adds another element. It gives them a chance to learn to win and lose graciously, to support their friends and teammates, and to respect others. And they

learn they can have fun while being active.

Exercise has been found to relieve stress, depression and anxiety, and can do so in kids of any age. We used to call it letting off steam, but we've learned it's much more than that, and it's as necessary for children as it is for adults.

Parents know activity helps children sleep better, as it does for all of us. Being active, experts say, can even lead to increased school performance.

Sport can help increase self-esteem and self-confidence in children — it seemed evident that the swimmers at Saturday's meet were feeling good about themselves. Those few who were disappointed in some of their performances were treated with compassion by their friends and the adults involved — more life lessons learned.

This summer seemed like an important return to pre-pandemic times with all minor sports, and we've seen kids on the soccer fields, we've watched them playing lacrosse and softball, and having fun with their friends.

There is much more going on than learning the rules of the game as we watch them kicking a ball down a field, running around a ball diamond or swimming lengths of a pool. These great days of summer make memories for the future, and will be passed on when these kids are parents and can't wait to sign their kids up for whatever sport they choose.

Some of those involved in minor sports have said they haven't got as many kids out this summer, and some sports and age groups are not offered because there aren't enough kids. It's a shame, be-

cause it's likely once they got started they'd love it, and it's probably more important for their social skills now than it was pre-pandemic.

But as the experts say, it has to be fun for them, and it has to be handled in a way

that they feel less stress, not more, and more self-confidence, not less.

Congratulations to all town staff and parent volunteers who made Saturday's swim meet possible, and to all the kids who participated.

And thank you to all volunteers who make sports opportunities available and fun for kids. It's such a memorable part of being a kid.

Penny Coles
The Local

Katsuras make wonderful, polite garden trees

Marla Percy
Special to The Local

Virginia's favourite trees in her garden are the two katsuras, or *cercidiphyllum japonicum*, which originated in China and Japan, but have long been a favourite in North America.

The trees can grow from 40 to 60 feet high and 35 to 60 feet wide. There are two forms, one a single-stemmed tree with a columnar shape when young, but widening to a shade tree when mature, or a multi-stemmed, which can become quite large but with some branch breaking.

The leaves are almost heart-shaped and come into bud with a pinkish glow, then turn mid to dark green in

summer.

Autumn leaves are a soft yellow with red tinges and they drop early in the fall. They like a sunny exposure but must be kept watered

when establishing their roots.

They make a wonderful garden tree and are polite enough to work well with perennials because they don't seem to dominate their space.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

In *Book of Love* (Prime, 2022), a failed, uptight English novelist achieves success in Mexico because his

translator injects passion into his dull story. The plot is predictable and although totally silly, the film has a lot of feel-good charm.

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.

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake
Local
The Trusted Voice of Our Community

P.O. Box 430, 1596 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, L0S 1T0

Editor:
Penny Coles
penny@notllocal.com
905-246-5878

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowell
composing@notllocal.com

Advertising Sales:
Karen Skeoch
karen@notllocal.com • 905-641-5335

Julia Coles
Regional Sales and Obituaries
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

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Garden of the week



The winners of this week's prize are Virginia and Jamie Mainprize, at 404 Simcoe Street. This is a mature garden which has been carefully planned to create a lovely streetscape. Anchored by a columnar oak, a redbud, and a katsura tree, a variety of perennials with a blend of forms and textures, weave around the trees. There is plenty of colour, but unusually this garden is all perennial, without the help of annuals. There is evidence of spring and fall flowers, so this is a serene garden for all seasons. To nominate a garden of the week, visit jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week (Photos supplied)

Local LETTERS: Reader takes issue with transportation master plan

The report begins with an affable goal; “to address existing challenges and support growth” (page 2). The next hundred pages pretend to know what “growth” means. But the authors never quite manage to connect growth with life. Life is beautiful; growth without life isn’t.

Take, for example, “the existing population pyramid” (page 7), which is an ugly phrase representing an unpleasant truth; in other words, the report points out that there are so many old people in Niagara-on-the-Lake that there is soon sure to be a fire sale of loosely regulated property! Especially since many children won’t be able to afford to own their family estates.

Not that the report doesn’t have its niceties. “The clear trend shown here is an ‘if you build it, they will come’ effect with regard to transit ridership” (page 20). I have to wonder what short

work W. P. Kinsella could make of this! Who better to expose the almost farcical rationalizing that is going on here?

“In terms of historical growth, the population of Niagara-on-the-Lake increased by 2,900 between 2006 and 2016, which represents a 1.8% annual growth rate; higher than all other municipalities within Niagara Region. With respect to forecasted growth, according to the Regional MCR the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is forecasted to undergo an increase in population by 2041, which would yield a population of around 26,580 (8,610 new residents over existing levels) and an annual growth of 1.6% per year” (page 46). Yes. If you build more houses your population tends to increase.

The orchard I can see from where I sit used to have trees planted further apart. I’d say

the population growth of that orchard is, over ten years (from one orchard to the next), an annual growth rate of at least 1.6%. Why, by 2041 the orchard will have grown into a terrible problem! Tractors will have to be half their size to cultivate! We’ll need tractor drones! We need to start spending millions on the necessary irrigation infrastructure! And where are all the future labourers going to live? Ah but, no. Eventually you put too many trees in an orchard and they mostly die.

And what report would be complete without some well-placed flattery? “Niagara-on-the-Lake is a modern town that elegantly balances its rural charm with urban vitality” (page 76). How could the authors get it more backwards? It should read, urban charm and rural vitality, right? Who is this report written to, or by?

The arable soil here is charming? Paving over it is vital?

“Some of the recommended improvement projects will have some inherent implementation challenges which will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, the widening of corridors such as Niagara Stone Road and Airport Road from two to four lanes. These corridors are limited in right of way and may require additional land via expropriation and be physically difficult to construct due to topography and the adjacent location of private lots” (page 142, my bold).

The report does lip service to The Greenbelt, which only assures developers that they have the Premier on their side while at the same time hemming in the activists.

“High-level cost estimates were developed for each of the

proposed improvements based on presumed unit costs, as summarized below:

- \$3.25M per linear kilometre to widen an existing arterial roadway from 2 to 4 lanes.
- \$1.625M per linear kilometre to widen an existing arterial roadway from 2 to 3 lanes.
- \$0.582M per linear kilometre to upgrade from local to collector roadway (keeping # of lanes the same).
- \$750K for construction of a one-lane roundabout
- \$3.5K per linear kilometre of signed bike route
- \$12K per linear kilometre of conventional bike lane
- \$254K per linear kilometre of protected bike lane
- \$380K per linear kilometre of two-way multiuse path
- \$150K for Class B EA Study
- \$275K for Class C EA Study

- \$15M for construction of approximately 750m of a flex street (cost is variable depending on design elements)

Improvements! What a deal! The voters of 2041 are totally on board.

You know, always be wary of people who profess they can learn from the future.

The opposition to paving the way to an uglier Niagara, myself included, according to this dispassionate and objective report, ascribe to the ‘do nothing’ approach. They actually call it that. Yeah; or what the voters of 2022 call accountability.

Jesse Lepp
NOTL

To read the town’s transportation master plan visit <https://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/TransportationMasterPlan>

Summer adventures camping across Canada

David Gilchrist
Special to The Local

We all have reacted to the Covid-19 pandemic in many ways. Travel opportunities have been much reduced and the present situation, as shown at airports, doesn’t show much immediate improvement.

Many Canadians are reconnecting with more simple ways of enjoying travel outdoors through camping experiences. We have done a fair amount of that over the years, with a pop-up camper trailer or tent, and wanted to continue. Today’s camping styles vary from the simple tent, camper vans, innovative home-built trailers and ranges of trailers in many lengths, right up to what I refer to as condos on wheels.

With an interest in the tiny house craze, my wife Claudia started to look into tiny trailers. There are many of these available today in many interesting configurations.

We had always admired the older Boler and Trillium trailers from back in the day. My wife learned, while visiting with her older brother in B.C., that a similar style trailer was being built nearby, and she and was instantly interested. Initially built in Enderby, the Armadillo Company has expanded to a



Claudia and David Gilchrist begin their adventure with a Backpack, a tiny trailer perfect for the two of them.

new facility in Armstrong, B.C. They produce two custom style trailers — the Armadillo and the Backpack model. The family producing these had actually bought the moulds that the Boler trailers had been produced with. With extensive upgrades and custom options, they offer a variety of styles within the two models. Due to disruptions to the supply chain from COVID, and fires and floods in B.C. which caused additional interruptions, our trailer delivery date was extended. When word came that it was in the final stages of production, we made our move to drive to B.C. On the way out, we travelled through

the U.S. and avoided the winter weather still being reported at that time in northern Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

We were quite excited to finally see our Backpack sitting outside the Armstrong, B.C. factory where it was built. We were warmly welcomed by Mike, given instructions on some of the features by his son, Carter, helped with our hitch set-up, and before we knew it we were driving off the lot, towing our ‘tiny’ trailer and set for some camping experiences on our way home to Ontario.

Our first major trip after picking up the new Backpack was to continue west from Ver-



Their first stop was in Fort Langley, then camping in Brae Island Regional Park, hiking and visiting Parks Canada’s fort. (Photos by David Gilchrist)

non to Fort Langley. This gave us the opportunity to visit with my wife’s brother and wife for several days. The day trip took us on some highways where the results of B.C. fires and floods were quite obvious as we travelled. Entire bridges, overpasses and sections of highway needed to be rebuilt and work was quite obvious in these areas. Also, along the highway was major pipeline construction. In several areas, trees were burned right down to the highway and it was obvious that the fires had ‘jumped’ the road and continued on the other side.

Fort Langley has a municipally-run campsite, Fort

Camping in Brae Island Regional Park just on the outskirts of the town itself. It provides comfortable sites if you happen to visit the area. I took the opportunity to walk one of the trails on the island and was able to view and photograph the lush forest growth typical to the area. It’s a pleasant walk that takes you along the bank of the Bedford Channel, ending at a tidal flat where the channel and the Fraser River meet.

The city itself is quite active, being much like Niagara-on-the-Lake and quite popular as a tourist destination. I was particularly interested in touring the Parks Canada site

of the old Fort Langley itself and had a great walkabout. This is touted as British Columbia’s birthplace, and was a fur trading post established by the Hudson Bay Company in the early 1800s. A tour of the fort allows for a great opportunity to learn about the operation of this fur post.

The interpretive staff were wonderful at explaining their ‘roles’ at each of the buildings. We certainly came away with a better understanding of the role it played in early colonial British Columbia.

Stay tuned for part two of Dave and Claudia’s trip across Canada.



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Get ready to have some fun!



As the St. Davids Lions Carnival begins, a small group of women have been busy making pies for St. Davids Queenston United Church, to sell at the carnival. It's a tradition that has gone on as long as the carnival, says Florence Jones, who has been making pies for about 20 years. They are all fresh, from scratch, and there is a selection of about 16 varieties of fruit and cream pies that will be sold by the slice over the four days, with about 300 to be made from Wednesday to Friday. Tuesday inlet McArthur, Marilyn Beatty and Jones were preparing the peach filling in preparation for Wednesday's pies. It was hot in the kitchen, but the women were laughing and talking while they worked. The carnival opens Wednesday at 4 p.m. (Penny Coles)



The 59th St. Davids Lions Carnival opens Wednesday at 4 p.m., with music, rides, a wine and beer tent, and lots of games. Lions club members have been hard at work preparing for the carnival, getting the food and drinks ready, putting up the stands and booths for the Grocery Wheel, the major raffle and other games. Head over to the York Road Lions Park for the event, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, July 20 to 22, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday, July 23, from noon to 11 p.m. (Photos by Bill Brouwer)





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6-7:30 pm The Bondivittas	6-7:30 pm Love Construction	6-7:30 pm Kyle Lamb	6-7:30 pm Jacob D'Souza	Saturday 2-4 pm
8-11 pm Turntable Rock	8-11 pm Clockwork	8-11 pm Vinyl Flux	8-11 pm Cottage Brew	

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Niagara Parks cutting down dead trees, replanting

Local Staff

Niagara Parks has identified about 30 dead oak trees in the Paradise Grove area on the north Niagara Parkway.

Paradise Grove is representative of a remnant black oak savannah, which is one of the rarest habitat types in

Ontario, says a recent press release from Niagara Parks.

The dead oak trees, located near the Parkway and the Niagara River Recreation Trail, pose a safety risk to visitors if left standing, the release says. "This is the only reason for their removal. As a result, the Niagara Parks forestry team will be removing

the identified trees beginning the week of July 25. Temporary disruptions to traffic, which will be signed, may be required on the Niagara Parkway during the felling operations."

Before removing the trees, the team will inspect them to ensure that there is no wildlife nesting in the impacted trees.

In addition, the trees will be harvested for their wood and re-purposed in the future for uses such as public park benches.

Through the Niagara Parks Foundation and its priority of tree planting on Niagara Parks property, Miller Waste Systems has donated \$10,000 to cover the cost of planting 150 new trees at Paradise Grove, representing a five-to-one replacement ratio.

"Our company is proud to support this tree planting initiative, which is in lock-

step with our organization's values," says Miller Waste Systems President Denis Goulet.

"Our staff live and work in this community and we appreciate the environmental stewardship of Niagara Parks to preserve and protect the natural features along the Niagara River corridor."

Niagara Parks will plant a variety of native tree species this fall, during cooler weather. The trees will range in size, of mostly oak, but also maple and sassafras, to ensure a diversity of tree species grow in

the future in this area. Before planting, staff will undertake testing to understand soil conditions including nutrient levels, salinity, compaction, and change in moisture levels. The planting will take place this fall during cooler weather.

A diverse forest canopy is resilient to future threats such as invasive species and a changing climate. For more information about this tree-planting initiative, visit the Foundation website: www.niagaraparksfoundation.com.

Andrew Niven named Chamber board chair

Local Staff

Andrew Niven, who has served on the board of directors of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce & Tourism NOTL, has been elected as the new board chair.

Niven replaces Paul MacIntyre, whose term was up and who will continue as an ex officio member and immediate past chair.

Niven brings vast experience to the position, says a chamber news release, including serving on the board for six years and previous committee chair roles of the Icewine Festival, Candlelight Stroll, Artistry by the Lake, and golf tournaments.

He says he's honoured to be voted on as the chair of the organization.

A resident of St. Davids, Niven is the director of marketing and hospitality at Konzelmann Estate Winery and is very involved in local organizations such as the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake and the town's customer and experience technology committee.

"It's an exciting time for the Chamber and Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake, as visitation returns to the town after a long couple of years. There is a feeling of optimism in our industry and with our new president and CEO Minerva Ward, and an engaged executive board, the future of business and tourism in Niagara-on-the-Lake looks more promising than ever," says Niven.

Niven, Betty Colaneri of Colaneri Estate Winery (vice-chair), and Tim Jennings of the Shaw Festival (treasurer) will serve on the executive

committee of the board.

The other members of the board include Kelly Exelby of the Prince of Wales Hotel and Moffat Inn, David Levesque of the NOTL Bed & Breakfast Association, Kim Hughes Gauld of the Queen Street Merchants Group, Eric Quesnel of 124 on Queen, Madison Vine of Andrew Peller Ltd, Dylan Hart of the Outlet Collection of Niagara, Kevin Neufeld of Beau Chapeau Hat Shop, and town representative Wendy Cheropita.

"Thank you to Paul MacIntyre for your tireless service to the chamber and business community and for providing guidance through our darkest days of the last two years of COVID," says Ward, "and welcome back to the Chamber's board of directors and for stepping up to the role of board chair, Andrew."

Fish and chips for a good cause



On Thursday, July 21, the weekly fish fry of Branch 124 of the Royal Canadian Legion on King Street will donate \$2 from each meal sold to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Alex Luhowy will be on hand to talk about how this money will be used. This fundraiser will be on top of \$250 already raised from a barbecue in June. (Karen Skeoch)



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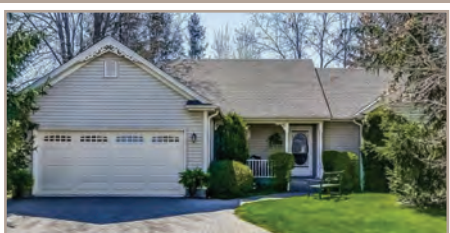
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\$1,120,000

MLS 40288937 • Christopher Bowron and Nicole Vanderperk



652 KING STREET
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MLS 40277410 • Viviane Elltoft and Jane Elltoft



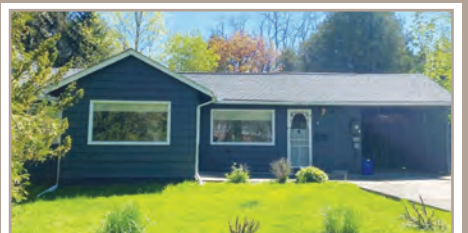
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Dan Turner carries torch with pride

Mike Balsom
The Local

“Just don’t drop it.” Those four words were repeating in the mind of Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Daniel Turner during the 2.75 kilometres of the Fort Erie leg of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games torch relay July 2. Turner, who was working at the time in that town’s economic development office, was the fifth of nine torchbearers that day. He ran the longest stretch of the Fort Erie leg, picking up the torch at Thunder Bay and Stonemill Roads and handing it off to Jack Lange- laan at the end of Nigh Road.

But he didn’t stop there. Like the Energizer Bunny, the avid runner kept going, completing the remaining 3.1 kilometres with the four torchbearers who followed him, winding up at the Fort Erie Leisureplex to celebrate the day. It was a day Turner will never forget. “I’m addicted to community spirit,” says the 27-year-old who ran for Lord Mayor in 2018. “I love being out there in these kinds of community events. I love all the excitement that goes on around me.” Turner was surprised to discover exactly how heavy the symbol of the games was. Even

an avid runner like Turner, who ran the Niagara Falls International Marathon in 2019, has to make adjustments to his stride. “It was a bit of a shock at first, much heavier than I thought,” he laughs. “It’s just under 10 pounds, and you know I bench press a lot more than that. But it was definitely a strain on the arms. You have to hold your arm out quite far.” “And I forgot exactly how hot a flaming torch would actually be,” adds Turner. “You have to hold it far enough away from your head that you don’t burn your hair off.” Perhaps that weight and heat were appropriate, as they may

have helped Turner to reflect on the symbolism the torch holds for the games themselves. “The flame is a great metaphor for the spirit of all the athletes involved,” he says. “When I was handed the torch, I was kind of excited for all the people who held it before me, and all those that will get to hold it after me. It’s a really cool symbol.” Turner was hired in Fort Erie in 2019 and says his experience working there made him feel like it was his second home. He has since moved on in his career to work for Niagara Region’s economic development office, under director George Spezza. While he was still work-



The torch is heavier and hotter than he expected, says torchbearer Dan Turner. (Nora Mathewson)

Niagara Lake -on-the-Lake EST. 1781

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO PASS AMENDING ZONING BY-LAW TO REMOVE HOLDING (H) SYMBOL

What: Notice of **Intention to Pass an Amending Zoning By-law to Remove Holding (H) Symbol** (under Section 36 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 as amended).

Regarding: File No: ZBA-12-2021
1579 Four Mile Creek Road, Niagara-on-the-Lake

The Zoning By-law amendment application proposes to remove the Holding (H) symbol that applies to the subject lands (see location map) through Zoning By-law 4316-09, as amended.

The current Village Commercial Holding (VC-H) Zone on the subject lands permits existing uses. The owner wishes to add a new restaurant use on the property and has completed a Site Plan Agreement for parking, driveways and front yard landscaping. The proposed restaurant use is permitted in the underlying Village Commercial (VC) Zone. Upon removal of the Holding (H) symbol, the subject lands may be used for the full range of permitted uses in the Village Commercial (VC) Zone.

The Council for the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake may pass the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment to remove the Holding (H) symbol from the subject lands no earlier than the **July 25, 2022** Council meeting. However, Council may consider the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment at a later meeting.

Under Section 36(3) of the *Planning Act*, only the applicant has appeal rights with respect to the removal of a Holding (H) symbol. There are no third-party rights to appeal the proposed Zoning By-law Amendment.

As permitted under Provincial legislation and the Town’s Procedural By-law, Council and Committee meetings are being conducted with electronic participation since in-person meetings are cancelled at this time.

If you wish to participate and make an oral presentation or ask questions at the Electronic Council meeting, you must register in advance with Victoria Steele, Acting Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or **905-468-3266**). On the date of the meeting, you will receive an email with instructions to connect to the meeting on your computer, tablet or telephone.

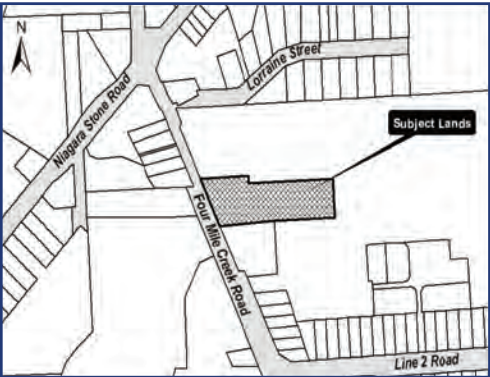
If you wish to view the Council meeting for information purposes, registration is not required. The meeting will be available for viewing at the following link:

<https://www.notl.com/council-government/mayor-council/meetings-agendas-minutes>

For more information:
Please contact Victoria Nikoltcheva, Planner II, at 905-468-3266 ext. 253 or via email at victoria.nikoltcheva@notl.com if you require additional information.

A copy of the application and supporting documents for the proposal may be obtained on the Town’s website, <https://www.notl.com/business-development/public-planning-notices> or at the Community and Development Services Department within Town Hall (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil, ON).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, July 20, 2022
Victoria Steele - Acting Town Clerk



ing in Fort Erie, though, he was involved in the planning for the torch’s stop in town. “I had a hand in helping to figure out what routes might work well for the relay,” he explains. “It was me who put forward the idea of going from Crystal Ridge to the Leisureplex. It made sense for me to apply to run there because I was a part of the process.” Turner adds that he would be happy to fill in for any of the remaining legs of the relay, especially the Niagara-on-the-Lake route which happens on Saturday, July 30. The torch also makes its way through Grimsby, Lincoln and St. Catharines between now and July 31. The opportunity to carry the torch has kindled his excitement for the games, which start with the opening ceremony at the Meridian Centre in St. Catharines on Aug. 6. “I’m hoping to attend that day,” he says. “A friend just told me he has an extra ticket so I might join him. I’m still looking into what athletic events I might be able to attend.” The graduate of Eden High School and holder of a degree in economics from Brock University says quite a few people have been asking him lately if he plans to throw his hat into the race for lord mayor again for the Oct. 24 municipal election. He captured 1,400 votes, 16.8 per cent of the ballots, for third place behind Betty Disero and Pat Darte in 2018. “Not a chance,” he tells The Local. “Where I’m at right now in my career I don’t think it’s the right time. We have a couple of good options running so I’m happy to tap out this time. We’ll see where the town is at and where I’m at in the future. But I’ll stay politically engaged and I’m happy to cast my vote.” In the meantime, he’s keeping his nose to the grindstone at the region, helping to attract new business to Niagara, and he plans on getting back to his “Dansaturner” podcasts, recorded at his parents’ East and West Line home. Perhaps his experience carrying the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games torch will make it into a future podcast segment. “This will probably be the only time the Canada Games are in Niagara in my lifetime,” says Turner. “I really wanted to be a part of it.”



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Rough Trade's Carole Pope to sing at Irish Harp

Mike Balsom
The Local

A bona fide music and cultural legend is appearing at the Irish Harp this Thursday, July 21.

Carole Pope of ground-breaking 1980s Toronto band Rough Trade performs an acoustic set, accompanied by guitarist Tim Welch, for the sold-out event. She promises a combination of songs from the band's six albums and material from her solo projects.

Pope's appearance may seem out of place with the usual musical fare on tap at the Irish Harp, but owner Jovie Joki is hoping that attitude will soon change.

"We've been expanding," says Joki, "bringing in some jazz, and working with the TD Niagara Jazz Festival. Now we're trying to get larger acts in, too. We were able to fit Carole in, and we have our eyes on some other bands as well."

She adds that Thursday's event also fits in with the Harp's move to expand its entertainment offerings to four nights a week, up from three.

"Because we don't have as much tourism going on," says Joki, "it's definitely a draw. We want people to know that we're the place to go if you want something to do, or something to see, whether it be trivia, comedy or music. That's been our focus."

Joki explains that she was approached by Herb Braley, a Niagara Falls-based financial advisor, who was looking for a local venue for the controversial performer. Joki jumped at the chance as she was a big fan of Rough Trade when they were releasing albums back in the 1980s.

Rough Trade was a songwriting collaboration between vocalist Pope and multi-instrumentalist Kevin Staples, which began as early as 1968 under another name. From the start the pair became known for pushing the boundaries with provocative lyrics, artful music videos and often outrageous stage antics.

Their second album, 1980's *Avoid Freud*, contained the single *High School Confidential*, a tale of lesbian lust that included language rarely heard on the radio at that time. The controversial track was the band's biggest hit, peaking at number 12 on the Canadian charts.

"We were working on a film called *Cruising* (starring Al Pacino)," Pope says on the line from her New York City home. "I actually wrote the song for (1970's

era New York City band) Mink DeVille to sing. They rejected it, so I decided to sing it."

Later Rough Trade songs featured titles such as *Blood Lust*, *Deca-Dance*, *Sexual Outlaw*, *All Touch* and *Crimes of Passion*.

Asked about her propensity to include explicit lyrics that often shone a light on what is now referred to as LGBTQ+ issues, she is very matter-of-fact about it.

"We were just writing original material for our audience," she said. "New wave, punk, cabaret, we did a little bit of everything up there. I've always been political and amused by people's sexuality. You write what you know."

Though she's released a number of singles since, her last collection of songs as a solo artist was an EP launched in 2015 called *Music for Lesbians*. It included a cover of the Lee Hazelwood-Nancy Sinatra chestnut *Some Velvet Morning*, as well as the originals *Vagina Wolf* and *Lesbians in the Forest*.

When it's suggested that those song titles, along with Rough Trade's work and her revealing 2000 autobiography *Anti-Diva*, make her something of a lesbian icon, she shakes that off.

"I just am," she says. "It's actually so much more political now than when we first started. Back then people were in the closet. There was no outlet, there were no clubs. We were just artists. It's more or less accepted today, but there will always be people uptight about their sexuality. It should be a non-issue. There are so many more important issues today than sexuality."

The conversation turns to some of those issues. Her Facebook profile is full of posts about the U.S. Supreme Court's overturning of the landmark *Roe vs. Wade* abortion ruling, and she talks at length on the phone about her anger.

"It's politically motivated," says Pope. "It's just ridiculous that it has come to this. So many women are going to suffer over this. It's horrific, it's like the 1950s all over again. I think it's going to get really, really bad before it gets better."

Besides touring and releasing new music, Pope has been working on a musical currently in development with Broadway director Robert McQueen. Set in the mid 1980s at the height of the AIDS crisis, it follows the true story of Pope's brother Howard, who was a guitarist and original member of the



Carole Pope (Photo supplied)

ACTUP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) movement. That organization fought to get AIDS drugs released to the people who needed them, and pushed for research and advocacy. Harold died of AIDS in 1996.

"He came to New York during that first horrible pandemic," Pope laments. "It's really intense to relive some of those moments. I know, though, that if he were here, he would absolutely love it. It's really a celebration of him."

"We started the process in 2015," Pope adds. "It takes years and years and years. We're going to be workshopping it in New York in October. It will include some Rough Trade music and some of my solo music."

Pope continues to release new music, though she doesn't see the need to put out a full album anymore in the streaming era. She manages her own career for the most part, has signed on to be a guest judge for season three of Canada's *Drag Race*, and is in the middle of writing her sequel to *Anti-Diva*, which picks up just after 9/11, shortly after her move to New York City.

She says she enjoys stripping down the Rough Trade songs, many of which stand up today as electro-pop masterpieces. And the unplugged setting give her a chance to ad-lib with the audience a bit more than she can with a full band.

The 80-plus tickets for Thursday sold out in a little over a week, which wasn't

at all a surprise for Joki.

"If you look at her acoustic stuff on-line, it's really, really good," she raves. "Most of the people we loved back in the 80s are in their 70s now, so it's

great to see them have a chance to keep playing."

St. Catharines folk-rock guitarist Ryan Thomas Smelle opens the evening at 7 p.m. Pope and Welch hit the stage closer to 9 p.m.

The following evening Pope and Welch do a similar show at Casa Mia in Niagara Falls. Her full band will return to Niagara for a concert at the Warehouse in St. Catharines on Aug. 12.






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Pickleball club members bring home gold

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake Pickleball Club members have been coming home with medals from recent tournaments, including four golds in two competitions.

While court time for pickleball players remains an issue amidst all the challenges following the legal decision to prohibit the sport on the outdoor Virgil courts, Tracy Booth, the new president of the NOTL Pickleball Club, says she is pleased members were able “to put their woes aside for a few days” at the recent National Pickleball Championships.

With more than 950 participants from across Canada gathering in Kingston, Ont., the championship is the largest pickleball event in Canada, says Booth. More than 20 club members competed over five days, facing fierce competition, and returning home with six medals across several categories.

Jerry Eitze was the men's singles gold medalist in his age and skill category, and also came home with two silver medals in mixed doubles, competing with Oriana Oszip in their skill category and in two different age groups.

John Hindle, past president of the club, says the national competition and the success of

local players is a great story for the club.

“We did enormously well for a club that is new to that level of competition,” he says.

Eitze “was amazing, inspirational to us all. And he's the most humble person, most personable man you'd ever want to meet.”

Thanks to Eitze and some of the other players, “we're winning national awards in this little town of 16,000 people, in this very supportive community.”

Jerry's wife Barb also competed at the nationals, but she doesn't compete with Jerry in doubles, or at the same skill level — he is a more advanced player than she is.

“He moved up so quickly,” Barb says. “I couldn't keep up with him.”

As Jerry is moving up a skill level after his recent wins, Barb jokes, “that gives the rest of us a chance at a medal.”

She explains that players are graded by skill, starting at 3.0, then moving up to 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5. And for each skill level, there are age categories.

Jerry, she says, turns 70 in August, “but he's a young 70, very active, and very determined. He spends a lot of time watching the pros. He wants to be the best he can be. He takes it

very seriously, but he's also very calm when he plays.”

Barb and Jerry started playing with a smaller club on Arthur Street in St. Catharines, until they heard about the new outdoor facility in NOTL about three years ago, and have played there since, finding it quite different. “It's a learning, growing club,” she says. We got some instruction, some lessons, and Jerry kept getting better and moving up. I'm still working on it.”

Although they don't play as a team in competitions, “I love playing against him. I play a really good game against him.”

Jerry and other competitive players in the NOTL club have benefited from their club pro, Adam Eatoch, who works with the advanced players, says Barb.

“If we want to get better, we go to Adam. He gives us the tools we need to get better.” And as players get better, they look for other players, at other clubs, with the same skill level, which also helps them improve.

Barb says lack of court time is hampering those who want to play every day to improve their skill level. “We can't move forward as fast we'd like to without the court time.”

Jerry explains he played hockey for 45 years, and when he

stopped, he needed something else to do, and turned to pickleball.

“I thought I would give it a try, and got Barb involved, and we both really enjoyed it,” he says. “I think it's a great way to get exercise. It's such a shame — we just got past COVID, everyone wants to play, and the courts are closed.”

He met Oszip at another tournament, and they decided to compete in the doubles competition, winning gold. That led to the recent partnership in Kingston, and two silvers. Oszip doesn't live nearby or play in NOTL, so they don't practice together, but will likely team up for tournaments again.

Jerry says he has benefited from the opportunity to play with others “who were really gracious, letting me play with them. The people we've met through pickleball have been so nice, so accommodating, it's been a really good experience for both of us.”

And he is really appreciative of town staff for everything they've done to find venues for club members to play, including the Centennial Arena.

“I've played in the Haig Bowl (in St. Catharines), and Virgil is much nicer. We're enjoying that for sure. We're really thankful for all that NOTL had done for the pickleball community. They're doing the best they can do.”

As for what to expect or hope for in the future, Jerry says, at his age, never knowing what's around the corner, he takes things “one day at a time.” He is just happy to wake up every day and look forward to playing, getting exercise, and enjoying himself while he does it.

How does it feel to be a national level gold medal winner?

“I feel very fortunate, very blessed to be able to play. Winning a medal is just a bonus.”

Jerry wasn't the only pickleball club member to won gold.

Booth says club members also did not come home empty-handed from the 2022 North York Cup, held Saturday.

Club member Kris Guerrieri, along with his partner Mario Grenier won gold in men's doubles skill 3.0 (all ages), club members Scott Lapointe and Dwayne Yeager won gold in men's doubles skill 4.0 (all ages), “and our very own club professional, Adam Eatoch, along with his partner Mark Cleminson played well into the night, capturing gold in the men's doubles skill open.

Coming up for players wanting to get into competitions is the Tecumseh Pickleball Tournament in Windsor, Ont. A new sports complex boasts 10 new courts, built at a cost of \$750,000, after the local club grew to 400 members in five years, and will host the competition.

The NOTL players are looking at the tournament as a social event, says Hindle, one of the players planning to compete, and an opportunity to “play our hearts out, have some fun, and see how we do in competition. This is a new trend for our club, to be a little more competitive. But we're not going to go crazy. We just want to have some fun.”

Booth says as the club has grown, it has also become more competitive. With four levels of play offered, from beginners up

to competitive and advanced, players are improving, entering tournaments and finding they are successful. For many of the group going to Tecumseh, she says, it will be their first tournament.

Locally, other municipalities such as Fenwick and Grimsby are also opening outdoor facilities, with dedicated, customized pickleball courts. “Pickleball is everywhere,” she says.

Booth, a competitive player at the 4.0 level — the next level is 4.5, or pro — plays at the community centre, at the arena, and at other courts around the region.

“Every outlet has a pocket of advanced players,” she says, and by going further afield, she is able to play with those who can challenge each other.

“Wouldn't it be great to have an amazing outdoor facility here in NOTL,” she adds, “and to have tournaments here. There is definitely an appetite in the rest of the province to come to NOTL to play.”

The NOTL Pickleball Club has more than 250 members and continues to grow, welcoming new members on a regular basis, says Booth. Information about the club can be found on their website at notlpickleball.ca.

Medals at the National Pickleball Champions — 31 events, some events played twice in different age groups, for seven medals, with skills level and age category:

Gold: Jerry Eitze

mens singles 3.5 65+

Silver: Jackie Collins &

Kelli McRoberts 3.5 40-49

Silver: Jerry Eitze &

Oriana Oszip 3.5 65-69

Silver: Jerry & Oriana Oszip

3.5 65+

Bronze: Ron Pychel &

Vera (Weiran) Zhang 3.0 50+

Bronze: Kris Guerrieri & Mario

Grenier, 3.5, 19-49

Bronze: Elaine Somerville &

Linda Kowamoto 4.0+ 60-79



Club members Scott Lapointe and Dwayne Yeager won gold in men's doubles skill 4.0 (all ages) in North York. (Photos supplied)



Jackie Collins and Kelli Roberts (left) won silver in the 3.5 skill level for their age group at the national championships.



Club member Kris Guerrieri, along with his partner Mario Grenier, won gold in men's doubles skill 3.0 (all ages) at the North York competition.



Jerry Eitze (centre) won the gold in the men's 3.5 singles, age 65 and up, at the National Pickleball Championships in Kingston, Ont.



Kris Guerrieri and Mario Grenier (right) brought home a bronze from Kingston.



Club professional, Adam Eatoch, with his partner Mark Cleminson, played well into the night, capturing gold in the men's doubles skill open in North York.



Jerry Eitze (left) and Oriana Oszip won two silvers in the doubles 3.5 skill level in two different age divisions at the nationals in Kingston.



Ron Pychel & Vera (Weiran) Zhang (right) won national bronze in the mixed doubles in their skill level and age group.

NOTL swimmers excited for their first competition

Penny Coles
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake youngsters had their first experience as a team in the Memorial Park Pool Saturday, competing against swimmers from Pelham and Dunnville.

“The opportunity to swim is great for the kids,” says Rebecca Saylor, the town’s aquatics director, who, with her sister Rachel, was managing the scores of the meet, and organizing ribbons for the winners.

“This is the first meet in three years, and for most of them it’s their first swim meet.”

Rachel and Rebecca grew up learning to swim at Memorial Pool, then teaching others to swim, competing on the swim team and then helping to organize meets for the last 15 years.

Their grandmother was Vi Mills, whose legacy was teaching hundreds of children to swim, and to love the sport. When she died in 2020, Rachel spoke of “the extraordinary ripple effect” Vi’s life had in the community, evidenced in the local swim team that continues today, with Rebecca and Rachel still involved. “We have



NOTL swimmers Loretta Cater, Kacey Hill, Naomi Weaver, Sienna DeSouza and Carmelina Peca enter the pool. (Penny Coles)

to attribute this to our grandmother,” says Rachel.

The sisters agree that while they might not have had any choice, they loved their involvement in the sport growing up, both the swimming and the social aspect, which is still an important component of the sport today.

While some may go on to compete all year round, the summer swim teams and meets “give the kids an opportunity to compete in a relaxed, fun environment,” says Rebecca.

“It’s great to see the kids cheering on their team, clapping and shouting from the side of the pool for the other

swimmers.”

Also behind the success of the team are the coaches and the parents who help out.

The team had two staff members coaching, and several parent volunteers timing, helping to marshal the swimmers, and looking after the kids between swims.

“We weren’t even going to have a swim team this summer,” says parent volunteer Adriana Vizzari, who explained the email that went out to parents said there would be no meets, just practices. But then, between the staff and volunteers, the town decided it could work, and agreed to four meets

plus the final regional competition at the end of the season at the Lincoln pool.

Typically the regional meeting is indoors at Brock University, but between a lack of staff and the Canada Summer Games overlapping, Brock couldn’t do it this

Continued on page 15

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Introduction to competition a good experience

Continued from page 14

year, explains Vizzari.

There are about 40 members of the NOTL Eels, with kids from both the Memorial and St. Davids pools dividing their four-day-a-week practices between the two pools.

About 25 of them took part in the meet, says Vizzari — some swimmers may have signed up for other sports, not knowing there would be competitions on Saturday.

Although it's an introduction to competition, says Vizzari, it's not very competitive

at this level — it really is just intended to be fun, and for about 75 per cent of them, it was their first experience taking part in the swim meet as a team.

"People don't think of swimming as a team sport, but that's the best part of it. The kids were so excited for the other swimmers, encouraging them other swimmers, and cheering them along," she says. "And they were so proud of themselves. Some of them were just grateful they were able to make it to the end of their races."

The Eels came in first

place as a team, she says, and did well in their individual races, "but most important was they had a good time."

Several parents said their kids had never had an opportunity to compete in any sport — they were new to the concept of racing. "That's the reality after two years of a pandemic," Vizzari says.

What the kids enjoy most of all is the socializing, and although they enjoyed the races, she added, "the swim meets are not super competitive, they're not intimidating, and they are very inclusive."



Micheal Kamatovic, Valarie Bonadie and Loretta Cater cheer on relay swimmers, while parent volunteer Adriana Vizzari helps marshal swimmers. (Penny Coles)



Some of the NOTL Eels cheer on their teammates who are in the water. (Penny Coles)



A quick group photo of some of the swimmers as the meet was wrapping up. (Adriana Vizzari)

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Announcements



Summer flower baskets are up! Their “tails” are a good way to gauge how much summer we have left. When they hit the ground it is just about time for school to start! Thank you Saxon R. for this great photo of one of the town’s baskets!

Family-Friendly July project courtesy of The Niagara Pumphouse

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Interview with Ilias

- Q.** What’s that certain something that makes you special?

A. My soccer skills. I have played all my life. Soccer is just so fun, it’s such an adrenaline rush.

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

A. My favourite thing about NOTL is that I know everyone. I am so close to everyone and shops. I also know some of the shop owners.

Q. What are your plans for the summer?

A. World domination. Just kidding. Playing outside, playing in the treehouse, camping, swimming, visiting with my cousins, maybe going to Greece.

Q. How would you change the world if you could?

A. I would give everyone a medicine that could heal them instantly because I’m good and definitely don’t want world domination.
- Q.** Now that COVID restrictions have been lifted, what do you like to do to make up for lost time?

A. I like to go out, see people, have sleepovers, eat at restaurants. My favourite part about the restrictions being lifted is not wearing a mask.

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. I want to be a businessman. I enjoy watching my family run theirs and I already have a few ideas for my own.

Q. What is your favourite book?

A. The *Percy Jackson* series. The series has a nice mix of fantasy and it relates to the mythology of my heritage.

Q. What do you do to help others?

A. I help people when they are hurt and comfort them when they are sad. Soon, when I am a lifeguard in a few years, I will save people

from drowning. Also, my family fosters children. We’ve just had babies so far, we love them each so much. I like to help my mom with the babies.

- Q.** What is a fun family tradition you have at home?

A. For Greek Easter we decorate an epitaph which is like Christ’s burial tomb (what they laid him on). Then, after that, we feast! It’s my favourite because, after the sad parts, it is so fun!



Ilias Dritsacos, 11

Book Review

By: Sammy D., 7

I am going to review the animated series *Jurassic World Camp Cretaceous*. There are some parts with violence but it is still okay for little kids to watch. The scariest part is when Darius almost got eaten by an Indominus Rex. Ben is my favorite character because he is super nice. I would recommend *Jurassic World* to anybody that likes dinosaurs.



RIDDLE

What 2 things
can you never eat
for breakfast?

dinner
Lunch and
Answer:

Artist’s Corner

Submitted by: Lily, 5



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.

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 and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.

LocalSPORTS

Two chequered flags and a charity event for Friesen



Stewart Friesen celebrates a win with his team at the Fonda Speedway Sunday. (Photos supplied)

Mike Balsom The Local

This weekend's break from the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series meant Niagara-on-the-Lake native Stewart Friesen could turn his at-

tention to the stock car circuit as well as his charity work.

And what a weekend it was, as Friesen captured two chequered flags and raised \$30,000 for the Crossroads Centre for Children in Schenectady,

New York.

"The school deals with all sorts of kids on the autism spectrum," explains Friesen from his home base in Sprakers, New York. "That school was very important to us in our life with Parker. It was a great

day Sunday, we had a band, a dunk tank, some bounce houses for the kids and a great chicken barbecue to go with it."

His Halmar truck team-mate Todd Bodine and his wife Janet joined Friesen, his wife Jessica and his fa-

ther Jamie at Fonda Speedway for the event. Bodine, a NASCAR mainstay, even raced a modified on the dirt track, something that is a bit out of the ordinary for him.

"He grew up racing pavement modifieds in the southern tier of New York," says Friesen. "But he moved south pretty early in his career to pursue his NASCAR deal. He knows Fonda, but he had never been there before. It was great to have him here."

Friesen captured first place Sunday, with Jessica finishing fourth. That win followed another chequered flag he won the previous evening at Utica-Rome Speedway in a

non-stop 30-lap event. That victory was his 61st at Utica-Rome.

The break from the truck series meant less travelling for Stewart and his Halmar-Friesen team.

"It's been pretty crazy," he says with a sigh. "We went eight weeks straight, 10 out of 12 the past three months. It was a nice breath of fresh air to have that break."

This Saturday he's back behind the wheel of his number 52 Toyota truck at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pennsylvania. And next week the Truck Series playoff begins in Indianapolis. Friesen is currently fourth in the points standings for the series.



Stewart Friesen waves the chequered flag after his 61st win at Utica-Rome Speedway.



At a fundraising charity event for children Sunday Stewart Friesen takes his place in the dunk tank.

LocalSPORTS

Preds looking for billets for hockey players

Mike Balsom
The Local

As the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) gets closer to its opening face-off, the season is beginning to shape up for the Niagara Predators.

Preparing to begin their second season playing out of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Meridian Credit Union Arena, the team has been holding skating sessions at the Gale Centre in Niagara Falls every second Wednesday evening

and each Sunday afternoon.

"We've had between 12 to 15 skaters out for most sessions, and goalies too," team owner Robert Turnbull tells The Local. "I'm really pleased with the returning players from last year, and the new ones we've signed. I've seen a lot of skill, a lot of speed."

Turnbull says that new head coach Kevin Taylor and returning assistant coach Connor Shipton are working really well together, too.

"We should have a fair-

ly strong team," he adds. "And I don't think we'll go through what happened last year."

Turnbull is clearly hoping for a year with more stability behind the bench and in the front office. After only a handful of regular season games last year, head coach Andrew Whalen resigned for personal reasons. Then in December, general manager Johan Eriksson left to take a job with a European hockey agency. Turnbull assumed both roles through the end of the

2021-2022 campaign.

The team is planning to hold a prospect camp in late August or early September, with the team's main camp to follow a week after that.

In the meantime, the Predators are hoping to recruit a few billet families in Niagara to play host to some of the out-of-town players

Turnbull says there are at least four players on his

list right now who need accommodation. He's also in talks with a couple of players from Europe, including a goaltender he is on the verge of signing and another skater from Ukraine who is hoping to play in Niagara.

"They need to provide the players with their own accommodations, including internet, because some of them are taking online courses," Turnbull

explains. "They are expected to help with the chores, to do what's asked by the family. They often become part of the family"

He adds that each billet family is paid \$550 a month, and receives season tickets for the team's home games in Virgil.

Interested families are encouraged to contact Turnbull at 416-705-9949 or via email turnbullr54@gmail.com.

Lightning Strikes Twice at Queenston Golf Club



Last Tuesday, July 12, at Queenston Golf Club, two local golfers playing in the same foursome beat incredible odds to each score a hole-in-one. Stephen Zettel (right) used his 26-degree hybrid to hole the 157-yard 5th hole. Three holes later, Tom Auld used his 9 wood to ace the 159-yard 8th hole. Bill Hall and Don Davidson both witnessed this amazing feat. Zettel's ace was his third career and second at Queenston, while Auld celebrated his first career hole-in-one. Both golfers play at Queenston every Tuesday afternoon as part of the St. Catharines Curling Club group. Golf Digest suggests the odds of two amateur golfers in the same group of four making holes-in-one at any point during the round is listed at 1.3 million to one. (Photo supplied)

Ice Dogs raising funds for minor hockey

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara Ice Dogs are coming to Niagara-on-the-Lake's Meridian Credit Union Arena for a game that will raise funds for the NOTL Minor Hockey Association.

Club president Pete Flynn explains that though the team from just down the road in St. Catharines will be playing Erie, it's the Otters who will be the home team for the Saturday, September 9 game.

Former Ice Dogs general manager Dave Brown, who lives in Virgil, is Erie's vice president of operations and general manager. Flynn explains that since Brown took the Otters' GM role in 2015, he's indicated that he has wanted to do something like this to support minor hockey in the town.

"He reached out to me and said their exhibition schedule included a home-and-home with the Ice Dogs," Flynn tells The Local. "He thought it would be better to do their home game in Niagara-on-the-Lake instead of having the Ice Dogs cross the border and deal with

all that stuff."

The Otters will visit the Ice Dogs at St. Catharine's Meridian Centre on Sunday, September 10.

Flynn says that ticket prices and other arrangements have not yet been finalised, and he expects to have more details by

the end of this week. The NOTL Minor Hockey Association, though, stands to benefit financially from the arrangement.

"It's an exciting opportunity," Flynn adds. "We hope that this becomes something that we can do each and every year."



Virgil resident Dave Brown of the Erie Otters (Photo supplied)

LocalWORSHIP

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OBITUARY



DIETSCH, GAIL PATRICIA (BOWMAN) —Went to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 14, 2022 surrounded by love. Our world lost one of the best. Family was the very center of her life.

Gail was born in Hamilton, Ontario, the eldest of three children. Her father was in the army and they moved around some, but in her teens, they moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake where Gail met the love of her life, Mike. Most of Gail's younger years were spent making memories with their six children.

For 27 years Gail drove school bus. She loved seeing and talking with all of the children. For many years, Gail also sold Avon. It was her way of spending time with her friends...or perhaps escaping a wee bit from the chaotic schedule at home and the busy schedule of being a politician's wife and chauffeuring kids.

Gail had a passion for gardening. She loved spending time outside in the beautiful gardens she created. She also enjoyed cross stitch, painting and decorating. There was no decorating project that she would not tackle, including taking down walls. Tell her she wouldn't be able to do it and you threw down the challenge.

After Mike passed away, Gail was lost for many years until she met Bill Sauer. Mom was extremely blessed to have found love again.

She will be deeply missed by her children Pat (Ken), Linda (David), Michael (Maureen), Paul (Natasha), Jody (Alick), and Matthew (Kristen), as well as her grandchildren Bram, Melissa, Sean, Andrew, Bayley, Tiffany, Ashley, Erik, Michael, Liam, Kaleb, Justin, Tyler, Austin, Nolan, Leah, Nadra, Alwayne, Malcolm, Taya, Shaishauna, Tatiana, Isaiah, Gabby, Lyssa, Dylan and Colton. She had 22 great grandchildren with one on the way. She will be dearly missed by her sister Louise Danieluk.

We lost a special one with Gail, she saw the good in all and especially the underdog.

Gail was resting at Morgan Funeral Home, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake, where her family received friends on Monday, July 18th from 2-4 & 6-8 pm. Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Vincent de Paul Church, 73 Picton Street, NOTL on Tuesday morning, July 19th at 10:30 am. Cremation followed. For those who wish, memorial donations may be made to Out of the Cold or the Canadian Cancer Society. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



SUDOKU ANSWER

Sudoku solution from
July 13, 2022

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

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CROSSWORD

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

- Across:**
- 1 Unorthodox religion
 - 5 Whip
 - 10 Fashion and lifestyle magazine
 - 14 "Houston, we've had a problem ..."
 - 15 To pray, to Ovid
 - 16 Israeli prime minister, 1969 - 1974
 - 17 Test or boob?
 - 18 Giver
 - 19 "Terrible" leader
 - 20 Chop Springsteen into pieces for many retailers
 - 23 Fly ball trajectories
 - 24 Hate
 - 25 --- Smith, Empress of the Blues
 - 28 Compel
 - 30 Boiling mad
 - 31 Harmless simpleton
 - 32 Janes, who could be anyone

- 36 Comedian's date
- 37 Spreads into a battle line
- 40 Winter bug
- 41 Suddenly lose it
- 43 Filth
- 44 "--- Body?" (Dorothy L Sayers)
- 46 Pass into disuse
- 48 Topes
- 49 Don't take chances
- 52 Ipanema stroller?
- 53 Kind of field
- 59 Egyptian opera
- 60 In plain sight
- 61 Indifferent
- 62 Nicholas was the last
- 63 Lead character in "First Blood"
- 64 "The Rite of Spring" composer --- Stravinsky
- 65 Personal set of cards
- 66 Single-masted sailboat
- 67 "And Then There Were ---" (Agatha Christie)

- Down:**
- 1 Budgetary reductions
 - 2 "I refuse!"
 - 3 Gray wolf
 - 4 "--- is a foreign country ..." (L P Hartley, "The Go-Between")
 - 5 Dress top
 - 6 Smooths
 - 7 Summoned the servants
 - 8 Foam clog
 - 9 Tendency of like to beget like
 - 10 Gave off
 - 11 Pre-lunch reception
 - 12 All Cretans, according to Epimenides
 - 13 Physicist --- Mach
 - 21 Asked nosy questions
 - 22 Middle of wine vat is a dry area
 - 25 Major Leagues
 - 26 The Emerald Isle
 - 27 Narrative of heroic exploits

SUDOKU

- 28 Fellini's "La --- Vita"
- 29 Castle
- 31 PCs' "brains"
- 33 Baum's Land ---
- 34 Otherwise
- 35 Goes to law
- 38 Maximilian and Charlemagne
- 39 Avowed
- 42 Poster
- 45 --- one: golfers' dreams
- 47 Astern
- 48 Circus center
- 49 Strand
- 50 Professor Henry's protégé
- 51 Portable chair
- 52 Star who wanted to be let alone
- 54 Elliptical
- 55 Reminder
- 56 Fast-food option
- 57 "The Heat ---" (Glenn Frey)
- 58 Crux

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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

49 Beach, 50 Eliza, 51 Sedan, 52 Garbo, 54 Oval, 55 Memo, 56 To go, 57 Is on, 58 Core.
Us, 33 Of Oz, 34 Else, 35 Sues, 38 Emperors, 39 Sworn, 42 Placard, 45 Holes in, 47 Aft, 48 Big top,
11 Levee, 12 Liars, 13 Ernst, 21 Fried, 22 Nev, 25 Bigs, 26 Eth, 27 Saga, 28 Dole, 29 Rook, 31 C P
Down: 1 Cuts, 2 Uh-uh, 3 Lobo, 4 The past, 5 Bodice, 6 Irons, 7 Rang, 8 Croc, 9 Haredity, 10 Emitted,
Alda, 60 Over, 61 So-so, 62 Czar, 63 Rambo, 64 Igor, 65 Hand, 66 Sloop, 67 None.
Flu, 41 Snap, 43 Muck, 44 Whose, 46 Lapse, 48 Boozes, 49 Be safe, 52 Girl, 53 Electromagnetic, 59
centers, 23 Arcs, 24 Detest, 25 Bessie, 28 Drive, 30 Irate, 31 Coot, 32 Does, 36 Gig, 37 Deploys, 40

LocalSPORTS

Thunderhawks ‘last game in town’ as season wraps up

Andy Boldt
Special to The Local

With the St. Catharines Jr. B and Jr. A teams both losing their respective playoff rounds this weekend, the U22 Thunderhawks are now the last game in town for those interested in watching a local box lacrosse game.

The Jr. A Athletics had three Thunderhawks alumni playing for them this season, Michael Wilson, Reid Lowe and Nathan Fehr were all defensive specialists for the Athletics. This seasons sees Wilson and Lowe finish their junior careers with the A's, as Fehr, initially playing for the B's, was called up half way through the season to become a regular with the A's. The A's lost the three out of five series against the Whitby Warriors in the first round of the Ontario Junior Lacrosse League playoffs.

The Jr. B Athletics were playing the Elora Mohawks in the second round of the league playoffs after defeating their first match-up with the Guelph Regals.



#6 Ethan Williams
Offense

The Jr B's had one full time Thunderhawks Alumni, Jaden Patterson, earning the second leading scoring position with the Athletics, along with four U22 Thunderhawks who regularly played up to fill the Athletics roster.

Trent Hunter, the Thunderhawks' assistant captain, and Christian Blaylock were regulars at the defensive door for the Athletics during their playoff run. Jack Parker and Liam Dietsch also had regular showings with the B's at the



#32 Jack Parker
Offense

offensive door, becoming the sixth and ninth leading scorers respectively during the Athletics playoff run. Ethan Williams, Hunter Ostromecki and Jordan Wiens were other Thunderhawks who played a role in the Athletics regu-

lar season roster, all getting a taste of what could be a spot for the Athletics in the 2023 roster. All the U22 Thunderhawks can be seen one last time at the MCU arena as they participate in the Conradi U22 Tournament.

The Conradi has been the largest U22 tournament in the province for a few decades and has often been referred to as the real provincial championship of U22. The tournament attracts 16 teams — most tournaments only have four teams — from all over Ontario. This year sees the top six teams in the province participating. It also is held during a weekend, allowing most players to attend the tournament, unlike the provincial championships which are held mid-week, often difficult for players to get time off, in some cases from their full-time jobs.

The U22 Thunderhawks can be seen July 22 at 7p.m. as they take on Owen Sound, July 23 at 9 a.m. vs Kawartha lakes, 2 p.m. vs Sudbury and 10 p.m. vs a yet to be determined opponent. Winning this late semi final game will give them the opportunity to compete in the 'A' championship, Sunday 24 at 2:30 p.m.

Come watch before they're gone! Go Thunderhawks!

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