



**Don Goodwin  
to be inducted  
in Games Hall  
of Honour**  
**page 18**

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Lord Mayor Betty Disero finished her Queenston Heights leg of the relay, but wanted to run with Carter Simpson, a young man new to NOTL she called “an inspiration.” (Derek Bottomley)



## Torch relay finished, ‘let the games begin’

**Penny Coles  
The Local**

After several years spent preparing for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, events and competitions are set to begin this Saturday at 19 venues around Niagara, featuring 19 different sports.

The delay for a year by the pandemic, said Wade Stayzer as he spoke at a pep rally Saturday morning at Queenston Heights, “has made us even more eager to see the return to sport for so many of our youth, and to help bring Canadians back together for what promises to be a spectacular celebration.”

Stayzer was speaking to a small crowd gathered in front of the amphitheatre as they waited for the torch to be lit and the Niagara-on-the-Lake portion of the torch relay to begin.

The board member of the Canada Summer Games also represents the main sponsor, Meridian Credit Union. He is their chief people and culture

officer and senior vice-president of business banking, and on Saturday, the torchbearer for the final leg of the relay.

Those assembled for the rally included torchbearers, their families and friends, and many Rotarians from across Niagara who were volunteering for the relay and other events and competitions.

The games, running from Aug. 6 to Aug. 21, will include “an inaugural rugby sevens competition, the return of lacrosse after a 37-year absence from the games, and the first-ever women’s lacrosse competition in the history of the Canada Games,” said Stayzer.

He listed athletes Andre De Grasse, Sidney Crosby, Katarina Roxon and Haley Wickenheiser, who have participated in Summer Games, “one of the only multi-sport competitions in the world that features events for able-bodied athletes as well as athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities.”

**Continued on page 8**

## Games’ 13 For 13 offers entertainment, activities

**Penny Coles  
The Local**

It’s just a week away and the event being planned in Simcoe Park to celebrate the Niagara Canada Summer Games 13 For 13 Cultural Festival has seemed a bit of a mystery to residents.

Coun. Gary Burroughs pressed town staff at last week’s council meeting for some information about what to expect at the party in the park, so residents could make plans to attend.

It’s happening next

Wednesday, Aug. 10, hosted by the town. Each municipality was given a date to team up with one of Canada’s 13 provinces and territories, and NOTL is partnering with British Columbia to showcase its unique cultural heritage.

The town is still looking for vendors, particularly food vendors, town CAO Marnie Cluckie says, as well as wine, beer, spirit and produce vendors.

The town also needs volunteers, she says.

The coordinating lead on organizing the event is the

town’s customer service and communications staff, who also look after community engagement, Cluckie says, and are working with people from the Summer Games

She is promising the event will offer entertainment, games, and various activities.

Cluckie provided further details Monday of what to expect at the festival, which runs from 2 to 10 p.m. next Wednesday.

The event’s programming will be staggered, she says, and will include a farmers’ market, children’s programming, culi-

nary vendors, and art and local programming.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library and Shaw Festival are demonstrating a live storybook reading on stage at the bandshell during the day, says Cluckie, and the NOTL Museum will have the Tiny Museum at the park, and will hold “a traditional tennis game.”

The Niagara Pump House Arts Centre is hosting an art show with kids, and Fort George will be demonstrating an 1812 encampment and musket-firing show.

Said the Whale, a Juno award-winning Vancouver-based indie rock band, has been lined as the featured performer to end the evening.

A special occasion permit has been issued for the day to allow alcohol and food and other activities in Simcoe Park, calling the event a cultural festival that “promotes the Niagara-on-the-Lake community, agriculture, businesses, NOTL/Indigenous/Francophone heritage, and key messaging of our partner province British Columbia.”

The town has received a

contribution of \$15,000 to go toward helping to promote B.C. unique cultural heritage.

To learn more about the Niagara 2022 Summer Games 13 For 13 Cultural Festival and to apply to be a local market vendor, beer/wine/spirit vendor, culinary vendor or volunteer at the festival, please visit <https://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events>.

For immediate alerts, follow the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on Facebook, Twitter

**Continued on page 9**









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# Town to consider revisions to transportation master plan

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The 30-day time for feedback on the town's transportation master plan closed Tuesday, and the legislated requirement for public consultation has been satisfied.

The plan has been three years in the making, CAO Marnie Cluckie told councillors last week, during a brief discussion about whether the time for consultation and consideration of comments should be extended.

While July is not considered the best time for public consultation, with many people away, Cluckie said the town had received a good response. "We've had significantly more

feedback than we'd typically expect."

She explained the town tried to make it a "more robust" feedback, advertising the process in local newspapers, "to ensure feedback is integrated, because public consultation is so important if you're going to have a successful document."

The transportation master plan study was initiated in March 2020, "intended to serve as a long-range strategic plan for Niagara-on-the-Lake to identify transportation infrastructure requirements that address existing challenges and opportunities, support growth and recommend policies to guide transportation and land-use decisions."

The study, the town's website summary says, "identified

the town's transportation needs and opportunities through the year 2031 and recommended multi-modal operational, design, and transportation policies for the town. Recommendations from the TMP will enhance connectivity between transportation modes to move people sustainably, efficiently, and safely while reducing reliance upon any single mode of transportation."

The TMP study was brought to the April 25, 2022, council meeting, received, and the 30-day consultation process approved.

The town's consultant and project team will consolidate, review, and analyze the feedback before implementing changes as needed into the

TMP.

The results of the review process will be presented to council before the TMP is finalized.

The extent of the comments received during the public consultation period will determine when the final draft of the TMP will come to council.

The final draft was expected to be presented to councillors for review in August, although there was some suggestion by interim operations director Kevin Turcotte last week that could be delayed.

"Council, it's your plan. You can make changes as you see fit," Turcotte said at the July 27 council meeting.

He said staff had not decided at that point whether the

discussion would be held as a workshop or a presentation. Although staff is still working toward an August date, he said, "depending on how much feedback we get, it might get extended into September" if more time is needed to digest information from the consultation process and "bring forward a fulsome plan for council's consideration."

Cluckie told councillors the feedback will be looked at in terms of themes, "and you'll see a revised document of the TMP that identifies what has changed."

There will also be a summary of the feedback received from the transportation advisory committee, which will be integrated into the final report,

she said.

The presentation of the final draft by the consultant will also include the history of the plan as it developed, "because when it takes three years it can be difficult to remember. It will chart that out and talk about the key pieces and what has changed from the last iterations."

While "we hope to get this done by year end," Cluckie said, "we do want to get it right more than we want to get it done. We want to make sure this is a good master plan document that will guide us for many years. That requires going slow to go fast later."

She added that she thinks staff can balance those two things "and still achieve its objectives."

## If plan incorporates changes, 'what will be left?'

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Ron Simkus, the dock area resident and retired engineer who has encouraged residents to pay attention to the recommendations proposed in the transportation master plan, says he believes the town has received a strong response.

The opportunity for commenting closed Monday, and a draft final plan is expected to be before councillors later this month.

Simkus says given what residents have said about the plan, CAO Marnie Cluckie has a challenge ahead of her.

Although he presented a long list of comments, he did not call for the plan to be scrapped altogether, but others have, finding little in its proposals worth keeping.

In her comments to the town, Gracia Janes, representing the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, which works to protect natural and built heritage, agreed with the transportation

master plan's declaration that it is "imperative that the preservation of the character of neighbourhoods and the Old Town Heritage District, be a priority."

But its recommendations don't reflect that.

"We strongly disagree however, with its claim that the current proposed multi-modal transportation master plan should be paramount in future decision-making. And we firmly believe the TMP study should be set aside and reworked by staff and council."

She has several concerns: that widening Niagara Stone Road will take farmland out of production, while not relieving traffic congestion; that the redesign of Queen Street will negatively impact businesses and the residents of surrounding streets; that opening Ball Street is contrary to former studies and goes against the public desire to keep it as a quiet, calming green space; that widening Charlotte Street into a collector road will add undue traffic to the historic neighbourhood, a portion of which has the potential to be part of a future Cultural Landscape Heritage District; the suggestion of sidewalks in the rural area does not respect the farm community; and the conversion of cul-de-sacs to through-streets will reduce green space, and allow more and faster traffic.

She urges the town "to continue on with appropriate environmentally and historically sensitive traffic improvements as you update the town's 2019 official plan, complete a Dock Area Secondary Plan that protects, as promised, this quiet, green, natural waterfront area from tourist overload; and continue working to achieve the creation and protection of landscape Heritage Districts, and/

or, the possible expansion of the Queen-Picton Heritage District to include much of the National Heritage District and the Queen Street West and John Street East heritage homes."

Whether this plan will be scrapped, or how much it is reworked, will be Cluckie's call, says Simkus.

The recent attempt to solicit public response to the plan was too late, he adds. While the process began three years ago, and there has been public engagement, it wasn't until this last draft was recently released that the public was made aware of the details of the plan.

"There was no kind of clear message at the beginning of the process as to what the basics of the plan would be," he says.

Simkus recalls a virtual open house in July 2021 called specifically to discuss the plan. He and his wife Irene were the only ones to join the meeting — most of the time was spent with councillors speaking amongst themselves.

In August 2021 he submitted comments saying he "strongly objected" to the plan, comments which were ignored — he was told his objections were "too detailed for the scope of the plan."

That was before anyone oth-

er than staff, councillors and the transportation committee had seen the level of detail in this last draft.

Simkus says he has heard from many people who have made comments during this round of public consultation. "Very few people are happy with it," he says, "and they will be watching what happens next. Everyone is going to be acutely aware of what process the town follows."

The CAO, he says, has "a huge challenge on her hands" putting the feedback together and developing themes so staff will get consistent messages.

In hindsight, Simkus says, "this project was launched almost on the eve of COVID," while the town's emergency control committee was focused elsewhere. When the open house was held in 2021, people were distracted by talk of the next wave. "There wasn't any real debate. At that point the town should have said this plan could be put on the back burner. It didn't have to be done at this time."

In contrast, he calls the current round of public comments "a tidal wave."

"If you address all our key points, what kind of skeleton will you be left with?"



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# Next step for Negro Burial Ground: research

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

James Russell continues to work on unearthing the names of those interred in the Negro Burial Ground, but these days, his efforts are directed at research.

Meanwhile, he waits for approval to move forward with an archeological dig to excavate what are thought to be 19 gravestones that lie beneath the grass on the site of the Baptist meeting house, which was erected in 1831.

The deepest of the stones, says Russell, are about one and a half feet beneath the turf.

Russell met with town staff last week to discuss the next step of his project to put names to those buried in the Mississauga Street cemetery.

As the owner of the cemetery where 28 early Black settlers, as yet mostly unnamed, are thought to be buried, the town has to approve any work that goes forward, as does the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), the administrative authority designated to enforce provincial burial regulations.

Russell is hoping the town and BAO will agree to the first step of what is being considered a three-stage project to be undertaken by ARA, the professional archeology company recommended by the BAO. The first stage is research, before any digging can occur, explains Russell.

If it is estimated to cost less than \$5,000, which Russell expects it will, the town should be able to move forward without going out to tender for the

work, and the first stage of the project will go to council for approval.

The entire project, which would include the research, the archeological dig and a conservation plan, is estimated at about \$60,000.

ARA describes the first stage as “comprehensive background research into the property,” accomplished through an examination of the archaeology, history, geography, and current land conditions in the vicinity of the cemetery. In addition to looking at other archaeological digs nearby, the background study includes archival sources such as historical publications and records, academic and archaeological publications, topographic maps, satellite imagery, historical maps and atlases, and the Ontario Archaeological Sites database.

The results of ARA’s background research will form its recommendations — either that no further work be done in the area if it has no archaeological potential, or a stage 2 assessment be carried out.

The next stage, if recommended, includes hand excavation in the location of each headstone, which will be extracted and retained for laboratory analysis and conditions assessment.

Following analysis, a recommendation will be made as to the cultural heritage value or interest of any identified sites. Further work may be recommended. If any burial features, such as grave shafts or coffin stains, are encountered, they must be fully documented and

mapped.

The third stage, a conservation plan, will address best practices for the conservation of the headstones. Before headstones are removed, a temporary storage plan will outline methods to limit deterioration to the headstones, including where they will be temporarily stored and how they will be cared for in the short-term, the ARA report says.

An assessment of each headstone will be recorded to show the type and degree of deterioration of each stone, and will be used to determine appropriate strategies to ensure preservation.

The assessment will be visual; no invasive methods will be used. The conservation plan will recommend restoration and conservation measures to ensure their preservation, the ARA report says.

Although agreeing to the first stage doesn’t guarantee the work will proceed to excavation, Russell is hopeful it will, and says the work of ARA, if approved by council, will likely begin in the spring.

“I’ve always felt the Negro Burial Ground fell into this condition through benign neglect,” he says. Referencing the history of the slavery locally, in what was Upper Canada, Russell says it’s important to note the act passed in Upper Canada in 1793 only restricted slavery, gradually ending it by making it illegal to bring enslaved people into Upper Canada, and declaring children born to enslaved people would be freed, but it did not free enslaved people directly.



James Russell and his wife Marilyn flagged graves in the Negro Burial Ground according to what was recorded by ground-penetrating radar. They will be back in the fall for a month, and will bring new flags to replace them. (File photo)

It wasn’t until 1834 that slavery was abolished in Canada.

“Although many folks came to Niagara to escape slavery, when they got here, Canadians still owned slaves, and slavery had existed in the Niagara area for decades.”

He believes the forces at play now are positive, “and I expect this project to move forward,” he says.

In the meantime, he is carrying on with his research, hoping there may be some people, descendants of those buried in the cemetery, who might come forward with information.

He is currently trying to track down Winifred Wesley, a descendant of John Wesley, whose stone is one that is above-ground and is readable. The stone is from 1893, and John was the last one to be buried in the cemetery, he says.

Winifred, the great-granddaughter of John, at one time worked for Greaves Jam, and lived in what is now a cottage rental on Victoria Street. Russell has discovered she moved from NOTL to Nova Scotia, and from there has disappeared.

He’s still plugging away through Ontario archives, stored at York University, he says, to see what else he can discover. “We are making progress. It’s slower than I would have liked, but that’s my nature.”

A Toronto filmmaker, Russell says he is accustomed to directing cinematography, not dealing with this level bureaucracy, but is grateful for the support and enthusiasm of those who have talked to him about the project.

One of the project supporters is George Webber, a resident of NOTL and a member of the town’s equity, diversity and inclusion committee.

Weber is enthusiastic about the project, and has offered to be the local face for fundraising to pay for the work.

He says he knows enough people who are interested in helping out that he doesn’t expect it will be a problem raising the first \$5,000 privately, once the town approves it, and if the next two stages are also a go, he hopes to raise the money needed to fund them as well.

For the moment, he said, the project “is moving forward slowly and carefully. There is a process, and we have to follow the process.”

The fundraising part of it will come, but not until council, and the BAO, give their approval.



## Kids buzz with excitement over bees

It was a BEE-utiful day to celebrate World Nature Conservation Day last Thursday at BY’s Honey Farm, when children from a local Montessori school took part in a Dive into the Hive workshop presented by Coco & Clay for kids, learning the life cycle of bees, and identification of the Queen, worker and drone bees. Ed Unger allowed the kids to get up close to a honey comb, while Chelsea Schmidt looked after them at the honey tasting station. Email cocoandclayforkids@gmail.com, to sign up for the next Dive into the Hive workshops. BY’s Apitherapy Clinic is holding a grand opening this Friday Aug. 5, at noon, with a ribbon-cutting at 2 p.m. The event will have craft vendors, music, food and drinks, winery booths, special speakers, and honey-tasting. At 10 a.m. on Saturday Aug. 6, doctors and apitherapists will have hands-on learning apitherapy workshops. (Photos supplied)



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# Everybody thought-provoking, also highly entertaining

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

What happens when your number comes up in the lottery of life? What do you say when standing face-to-face with death? How do you feel about the life you have lived to that point? Where do you go when it's all over, and how do you get there? Is it true you can't take it with you?

Playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *Everybody*, an adaptation of the 15th century morality play *Everyman*, asks these deep questions and many more over 90 minutes of thought-provoking entertainment at Shaw Festival's Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre.

It's a brilliantly creative production, helmed by director László Bérczes, that uses the black-box theatre space to its full advantage.

The audience surrounds the sparse set, with just the tree of life and less than a handful of small props at its centre. Actors sit incognito next to theatre-goers, awaiting their cue to reveal themselves as part of the production. It has the effect of making the audience part of the play, connecting them to the characters and more deeply experiencing what each is going through.

The play begins with the audience addressed by an usher. In fact, it's Deborah Hay as Usher, dressed in the same garb as those who led theatre-goers to their seats. She explains what is to come, speaking of Buddhism, Catholicism and Christianity and how none

of those religions can lay true claim to having solved the mystery of death.

Though the play is called *Everybody*, there are six characters listed in the program as portraying Somebody. That's because early in the proceedings an actual lottery is held to determine which of those actors will portray the title character. Patrick Galligan, Julie Lumsden, Michael Man, Kiera Sangster, Travis Seetoo and Donna Soares have all memorized 14 different roles in the play. That works out to about 120 different ways the play could possibly be performed this summer.

The lottery, of course, represents the randomness of death. No one knows when their number will be called. It also becomes part of the entertainment, as a volunteer member of the audience is invited onto the set to help make that random decision. At the performance attended by The Local, a volunteer named Stephanie hammed it up as she randomly assigned roles to the actors.

Sangster drew the role of Everybody, meaning her character would be the one facing Death, played with much glee by Shaw veteran Sharry Flett. Sangster's Everybody is tasked with making a presentation to God, also portrayed by Deborah Hay, as a bit of a bumbling fool with a toy voice-changing microphone and a selfie ring-light halo. Here, God is a bit reminiscent of the Wizard of Oz behind the curtain.

The other five actors, then, take on allegorical roles as personified qualities. These include Friendship, Family, Kinship and Stuff. Everybody doesn't want to make her presentation to God alone. If she has to face Death, she would like someone to come with her. Can she convince one of those archetypes to come with her?

Some of those five actors take on multiple allegorical characters as the play progresses. The audience also meets Strength, Beauty, Mind and Senses, setting up some of the most hilarious one-liners of the play related to what everyone knows happens to those qualities as time marches on.

Time itself becomes a character, as do Love, Understanding and Evil, as Everybody comes closer to the point of reckoning.

The cast is purposely diverse in both age, gender and racial and ethnic identities, to ensure the audience realizes Everybody could indeed be anybody. It's one of the demands that Jacobs-Jenkins, who also wrote the popular *Octavio* from Shaw's 2017 season, calls for.

The action occurs in all corners of the theatre, all around the generic scenery meant to portray no particular time in history or geographical location.

There are some nods to modern times, however, in the moments when the theatre goes totally dark until the actors' faces are revealed via the light of their cell phones.

The theatre-in-the-round seating means each audience member gets a unique slant on everything. This surely has to be one of the details that Jacobs-Jenkins and director Bérczes have arranged purposely to have each theatre-goer reflect internally on their



Sharry Flett is Death and Kiera Sangster is Everybody, on stage in the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre. (David Cooper)



Deborah Hay plays God in *Everybody*. (David Cooper)

own life while watching Everybody deal with hers.

It's impossible to leave the theatre without thinking about your own loves, sins, deeds and decisions,

and how you will be judged when the time comes. You might be pondering how much you really needed to buy all that stuff you have collected, or how loved

you are by your friends or family. You might glance at your reflection in the lobby and realize how much time has passed and perhaps how your beauty might have faded.

And you might think about how you've lived your life thus far, and what you might want to change in the time you have left.

Yes, it all sounds deep, but it really does make for a highly entertaining, immersive and at times roaringly funny experience. And *Everybody* is truly an experience, far beyond just mere entertainment.



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# Building community in Jamaica one block at a time



Jerrold Johnson and Dale Merrill use strong, eco-friendly blocks to build affordable housing in their Montego Bay, Jamaica warehouse. (Photo supplied)

**Jane Andres**  
Special to The Local

Dale Merrill's life has taken an adventurous turn in recent years, one he likely never could have imagined. He has been a design and build contractor for 40 years, building luxury homes in the U.S. and Canada. Along with his wife France, and two daughters, Amelie and Angelique, he has lived in our neighbourhood for about half of those years. Some locals fondly refer to our end of Four Mile Creek Road as little Jamaica, since there are about 100 men from the Caribbean who live and work in our neighbourhood for six to 12 months of the year. Dale's relationship with Jamaica has gone much deeper than the occasional wha waan (what's going on?) with his neighbours, and has taken community-building to a new level. Recently we reminisced about a casual visit three years ago when he popped over with his pickup truck, and I noticed an unusual-looking concrete block in his back seat. "Pick it up" he suggested. I laughed it off. I wasn't going to throw my back out

in the middle of gardening season. He convinced me to try and I was astonished I could lift it so easily. Dale enthusiastically explained to me that the building block was known as ICF, a type of insulated concrete form. He relayed the story of how he had met his future business partner, Jerrold Johnson, when Johnson moved to Toronto from Jamaica in 2011. Jerrold was well-respected in the banking industry as well as the director of the Jamaica National Building Society in Toronto. Over the next few years, Dale completed renovations at their corporate offices. Ongoing conversations with Johnson grew into a desire to use their skills and business experience in a deeper, meaningful way. The topic of the housing crisis in the Caribbean often came up in their conversations, and together they set upon a quest to find some way to assist with Jamaica's affordable housing gaps. "After a summer road trip to New Brunswick with my mother and my daughter Amelie, I was saddened to see that every home I had ever lived in as child had been demolished, victim to the harsh eastern climate. It was an odd feeling to have no generational homestead to visit, and it gave me an interesting point of perspective," Dale said. He heard news of people losing their homes to hurricanes in Jamaica, so had a real sense of empathy for them. He began researching alternative building methods that were more climate- and disaster-resistant. Jerrold and Dale consulted with Aaron Eames, a U.S. contractor who developed and patented a building block made of lightweight aerated concrete. E-Z Block ticked all the boxes. It had the ability to withstand the punishing force of hurricanes and provide greater insulation from the heat, both necessary considerations when dealing with the growing effects of climate change. It was energy-efficient and straightforward to install. E-Z block is also an eco-friendly building product that uses two-thirds less concrete than poured-in-place builds, and one-third less concrete than a regular concrete block, thus making it more affordable. The two men joined forces

Continued on page 12

## 13<sup>th</sup> FESTIVAL

Visit Canada without leaving Niagara



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Simcoe Park: Picton Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
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- ✓ Kids Programming
- ✓ Performance by Said The Whale



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### So delicious!



Husband and wife team Sang-Il Lee and Ji-Hu Hyeon have opened Soko Bakery Cafe at 358 Mary Street, just behind the Sandtrap Pub and Grill. Open Wednesdays to Mondays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., they offer a wide selection of both sweet and savoury treats, as well as gluten-free, lactose-free and plant-based options, all made Korean-style. A must-try is the sausage bread, and the roll cakes are a delicious dessert option. (Mike Balsom)

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# EDITORIAL

## Emancipation Day has special meaning in NOTL

This statement was released by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Monday: “Today, we acknowledge the painful history of slavery in Canada. We also celebrate the strength of Black communities, who fought – and continue to fight – for justice and equality. Together, let’s keep building a more inclusive Canada.”

Aug. 1 is now designated Emancipation Day across Canada. It is intended to be a day to “celebrate, educate, and reflect on what freedom means.”

The date commemorates the anniversary of Britain’s Parliament abolishing slavery in the British Empire in 1834.

We all know the story of the Act Against Slavery that was passed right here in this town in 1793.

It happened on a hot August day, when a session of the Parliament of Upper Canada under Governor James Graves Simcoe was moved outdoors, to take place under the shade of a large oak tree. That’s the part of our history we like to remember.

Seldom mentioned is that when indentured servants fled to the Niagara area from the U.S. seeking freedom — we all love the story about the Underground Railroad that crossed the river to a safe

haven on this side — there were slave owners in town, some of them members of that 1793 Parliament, who were unwilling to give up their slaves. Their protests resulted in a compromised legislation, granted the first law of its kind, and a step toward emancipation, but not until Britain passed its act in 1834 were those enslaved in Niagara set free.

We celebrate our Black history in Niagara. We know the story of Chloe Cooley, who was enslaved by an United Empire Loyalist living in Queenston, and in 1793, violently transported across the Niagara River to be sold in New York State. Her resistance was witnessed and reported to Simcoe, which led to the legislation passed a few months later in Upper Canada.

We know about freedom seeker Solomon Moseby, who in 1837, stole a horse to escape slavery, settled in Niagara, and then was arrested when his enslaver arrived from the U.S. with an arrest warrant and extradition papers.

More than 200 Black protesters gathered outside the jail to prevent his removal, and two local Black men were killed. Moseby fortunately was able to escape, and

although he fled to Britain, he later returned to live in Niagara.

If we check out the NOTL Museum website, there is lots we can learn about the early days in Niagara, which became home to Black Loyalists who earned their freedom through service to the Crown.

We discover that Richard Pierpoint was one of those who enlisted in Butler’s Rangers during the American Revolution. After the war, he was granted land in Niagara and became a well-known and respected Black community leader.

Later, fearing an American victory during the War of 1812 would mean a return to slavery, Pierpoint petitioned the government to raise a corps of Black men to fight.

The Coloured Corps contributed to the British victory at Queenston Heights, but when, in 1794, Pierpoint and other Black residents of Upper Canada asked that they be able to settle near each other in a community of their own, they were turned down. However, as they began acquiring property near one another, they were able to establish the community they were seeking.

By the 1830s, around the time the Baptist church was

established on what is now Mississagua Street, the Black population in town had grown.

Thanks to NOTL Museum archives, we can put names to some of those early settlers. William Riley, who fled his enslavement, built a house in what was called the “coloured village.” His daughter Mary Ann opened an upholstery business in town. Daniel Waters, a descendant of a freedom seeker, owned and operated a large livery stable on Regent Street. His brother John ran for and was elected Niagara’s first Black town councillor of an all-white ward; he was re-elected three times. Businessman Louis Ross owned a building on Queen Street and rented another for his barber-shop. Winnifred Wesley, who worked as a general servant and laundress, owned multiple properties in town.

These are names we know, of people we can learn about, who are an important part of the history of this town. It seems possible, even likely, that their names might be on

some of the tombstones buried in the Mississagua Street cemetery. We don’t know that now, but maybe one day we will.

There have been calls for a formal federal apology for Canada’s history of slavery, which existed here in town, and to the intergenerational harm we know it caused.

Maybe by next Aug. 1, that apology will have been offered across the country, and in our hearts to those who helped settle this town, lived and died here, and were buried in a cemetery that was then neglected to the extent that their headstones sunk into the ground.

Also in the year ahead, we may learn the names of those interred in the Negro Burial Ground, whose graves and monuments have been overlooked and disrespected for generations.

Any attention paid to it, from the stories we’ve heard, was by kids who lived nearby playing in it, or gravestones stolen to be used for other purposes, such as hearth stones.

We may one day be able to apologize to those buried in the cemetery by name, for the abuse of their ancestors, and our country’s harm to them and future generations.

And also for having waited until a very determined man from Toronto, James Russell, discovered the cemetery on a visit to Niagara-on-the-Lake and decided to right a wrong of not so long ago, to improve the condition of their final resting place and to learn their names.

Our Prime Minister asked that we keep building a more inclusive Canada, and this community makes efforts to do that.

But we can always do more, and right in front of us is the opportunity to support the project to put names and histories to those now anonymously lying below the turf of a small piece of property many have passed by so often they have been invisible to us, hopefully not for much longer.

Penny Coles  
The Local

### Local LETTERS

#### Old Town transportation recommendations

As residents of Old Town for over 23 years, we are familiar with many of the issues addressed in the transportation master plan (TMP) for this area. Our comments are therefore restricted to this area.

We live on one of the cul-de-sacs designated for future extension; something we have known about and accepted since purchasing our building lot. However we fail to see how these extensions will contribute to easing traffic flow. Locals are already familiar with side routes to avoid traffic. Regardless of the suggested changes, visitors will always stick to major di-

rect routes to the main tourist areas around Queen Street.

Our street connects to Charlotte Street, which has already been discovered by visitors, and is experiencing speeding (most often by locals) and significantly increased traffic. Designating it a collector will most likely make the situation considerably worse for all users, but especially for pedestrians, dog-walkers, cyclists and even tourists who are more frequently accessing the two portions of the Heritage Trail that connect at Charlotte. We are 100 per cent in agreement with sentiments expressed in The NOTL Local by Penny

Coles, July 27th issue.

Niagara-on-the-Lake has a reputation as one of Canada’s most historic and beautiful towns. Simply re-directing traffic rather than trying to reduce it through outer area parking served by shuttles, makes the town less attractive to residents and tourists alike.

Please find more creative ways to alleviate vehicular problems; ones that will retain the quality of life that has attracted new residents and continues to attract tourists.

Sandra Lawrence and  
Chuck Jackson  
NOTL



### View from the couch

Donald Combe  
Special to The Local

I watched *Made in America* (Prime, 1993) wondering why, and then I realized it was the presence and compelling

style of Whoopi Goldberg and Will Smith that carry this totally absurd tale. I have to admit to being entertained, and that is enough.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves

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

### Letters! We want letters!

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

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

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# COMMENT

## Local LETTERS

### Reader agrees transportation master plan flawed

I can't claim to have read every word of the 2022 Niagara-on-the-Lake Transportation Master Plan, but what I did read was concerning.

As a runner, cyclist and walker, I typically choose low-traffic, picturesque and historic streets to go down when I'm out for my morning exercise. One of those streets is Charlotte Street, especially the stretch between Pafford and John Streets. The historic dry stone wall of the former Rand estate, along with the trees and the houses that line this quiet residential street make it a favourite place to begin my day. And from the number of people I see walking dogs, cycling and strolling down it, even early in the morning, many others share this view.

Turning Charlotte Street into a collector road makes absolutely no sense, nor does joining Niagara Street to King Street, particularly when the plan also suggests that King Street between Pafford and John could be downgraded to become a local road, rather than being maintained as a collector road.

Did the people who developed the plan for the town give any thought to the number of pedestrians, cyclists and dog-walkers who use Charlotte Street, or cross over it every day to access the Heritage Trail? Did they

consider the historic aspect of the street, and how much of its wonderful look and feel will almost certainly be lost if Charlotte is widened and the traffic volume on it increases significantly?

Did they stop to consider the actual reasons why traffic has increased to such an extent on Charlotte, Pafford and Rye Streets? Could it be that the GPS navigation systems that so many people rely on these days are directing drivers onto these routes?

Did the plan developers consider that the way to resolve the issue of increased traffic on Rye and Pafford Streets may be as simple as adding speed-bumps, stop signs or better directional signs? Or reducing the speed limit to 30 or 40 km/hr, as Mississauga has done in many of its residential neighbourhoods?

I don't know what the plan developers were thinking of when they proposed doubling Niagara Stone Road. Bringing more and more vehicles into an already congested Old Town core makes absolutely no sense. But I do know that I will be angry if the solution proposed down the road to create parking for the expected volume of traffic is to turn the former hospital site into a multi-level parking lot. If the town is truly interested in preserving the things that make NOTL

such a popular tourist destination, we have to stop doing things that kill the charm and historic nature of our community. If we are truly interested in looking to the future, we should be looking at park and rides, ideally located at public transportation hubs to provide economies of scale, along with a shuttle system to transport people to the wineries, Old Town, and all parts of our community including our shared-use trail network. Let's put charging stations at those park and rides too.

As for Queen Street, the flex street approach that has been proposed in the TMP strikes me as bordering on foolhardy. It's an accident – or more likely many of them – waiting to happen. Let's get rid of the outdoor restaurant patios that have taken away so much of the charm of the street, and make Queen a pedestrian-only zone, possibly with a slow-speed bike lane on one side of it.

We can do all these things and more to help preserve the things that make our town so special, and a place that thousands of tourists want to visit. But it will take a bit of forward thinking, as well as a lot more focus on balancing the needs of residents with the need for sustainable tourism.

**Terry Davis**  
NOTL

## Local LETTERS

### Don't rush approval of transportation master plan

I'd like to offer some feedback on the town's transportation master plan. My first thought is that there should be more time for public input.

At the last council meeting, the CAO offered that the plan had been three years in the making, and that therefore a further extension for input is not necessary. Indeed it has been three years in the making for the town and staff etc. but the public has not been kept abreast of interim developments and it is only now, through local news sources that we, the residents, are being made aware of the TMP, an extremely lengthy and complicated plan with many facets to consider. I would respectfully suggest and support the concern expressed by at least one councillor that there should be more time allowed for input from the residents once they have had a chance to truly assimilate the implications of this very complex and intricate plan.

My greatest concern is the recommendation for Queen Street as a flex street (open or closed to traffic at various times) and the implications thereof. In short, I think that the suggestions for Queen Street would create chaos: for pedestrian, commercial, and vehicular traffic (including bicycles.) I grew up in a village of 850 people in Ontario - one of many such villages and towns in Central and Southern Ontario. The use of the median by delivery vehicles is iconic and necessary. It is necessary because of the way these villages and towns were estab-

lished, laid out and developed. Deliveries of goods and fuel were almost always made from the street.

Delivery vehicles in the median are, to a small town, signs of commerce, signs of business being transacted, signs of activity and hope, reassuring signs of life — real life, not theme park life. And we are fortunate in NOTL to have enough room in the median to accommodate delivery vehicles while still allowing pedestrian traffic, vehicular traffic and even caleche traffic — another of the special signatures of NOTL. There are virtually no alternative avenues of approach for deliveries to businesses on Queen Street; providing those avenues would necessitate tearing down much of the Infrastructure and residential housing surrounding Queen Street.

I am most struck by the incongruities presented by the TMP. It recommends removing curbs and converting "Queen Street into a flex street, with a single grade or surface shared by people using all modes of travel at slow speeds," as well as a "protected bike lane." This would result in visitors and residents moving in all directions over the streetscape with bicycles trying to weave their way through — as well as scooters, wheelchairs, walkers, town garbage trucks, floral maintenance trucks either watering plants or re-planting to keep our reputation as the most beautiful town — let alone emergency vehicles accessing the area.

I can't see how this would serve to provide greater safety for the public. By the way, it would also mean no revenue from parking on Queen Street.

The report also suggests that parking spaces and vehicular traffic would be shunted more and more into the surrounding residential blocks. There has already been much in the way of unhappy commentary from those neighbouring residents because of traffic concerns; I'm pretty sure that the future response would be deafening. Indeed, there are also very troubling suggestions as to which streets would be access routes into town.

One very salient point in the report is the following:

All-way stop signs should not be implemented under the following conditions:

- Solely as a speed control device
- Solely to deter through-traffic in a residential area.

This speaks pointedly to the two unnecessary stop signs that have been added to the intersection of Queen/Niagara Boulevard at the foot of Mississauga Street. Those stop signs and the bump-out should be removed.

There may be some good ideas here, but there are so many issues that need to be challenged in this plan. Please, let your councillors and town staff know how you feel about the transportation plan.

**Peter Millard**  
NOTL

## Local LETTERS

### How the town could approach e-scooters

E-scooters are a nice option for getting around, but since they are a relatively new means of transport we don't really know where they should belong — on the sidewalk or on the road? Now we are considering how we integrate them into NOTL, if at all. NOTL is a town where most people enjoy a quieter way of life than, for instance, Toronto, but it's also a tourist destination that is becoming increasingly more popular. Residents and tourists have to co-exist without one ruining the experience of the other.

I think most people expect it to be that way. It's a nice balance. At the moment we are all here for pretty much the same reasons, the natural beauty of the area, the impeccable landscaping, the history, the theatre, the vineyards and wineries, etc. We all want to be able to continue to enjoy it.

So where do e-scooters fit into the picture? For locals they might make getting around a bit easier, and probably wouldn't be over-used on local streets. But are they safe on the street? Do they replace walking or cycling?

Bicycles are illegal on side walks if the rider is over 14 because they are dangerous to pedestrians. Why should e-scooters be allowed there then?

What about for tourists? Shared trails such as along the Niagara River Parkway become more problematic for walkers and cyclists as the vehicular traffic on them increases. If the path is to be shared, then a balance has to be maintained. Presently the balance is not maintained on the weekends. Many locals don't even use the path

on the weekends and on busy tourist weeks in the summer because it's too crowded with out-of-towners and vehicles, including e-bikes transporting inexperienced cyclists on rented bicycles and often slightly intoxicated winery tourists. It's too easy to have a collision.

So now do we add to that e-scooters? Then there would be more winery tours using e-scooters. There would also be e-scooter rentals, making it even easier to avoid the exercise of walking or biking and so

easy to take a ride up and down the parkway for a quick look around, with a resulting further increase in traffic on the existing trails.

Then where do the locals go if their main exercise path is no longer safe to use? I think that the solution is that, if we legalize e-scooters on the parkway, we have to combine that with creating more safe bike paths. There are lots of roads where they are needed, Lakeshore Road for one. We cannot legalize e-scooters and increase the traffic further on

existing paths without increasing the safe cycling and walking options for everyone, and keeping the balance intact. So, just as Toronto continues to add more and more safe bike paths as it grows, so should NOTL to absorb the increased traffic.

The cost to increase the bike paths around NOTL should be born by everyone, including the businesses that benefit from the continued increase in tourism.

**Jackie Bonic**  
NOTL



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# Torch Relay a day to create memories

Continued from page 1

Saturday's relay through NOTL meant the Roly McLenahan Torch was nearing the end of its path, completing its passage through Niagara's 12 local area municipalities. It represented an opportunity for each municipality "to showcase community pride as Niagara prepares for the arrival of the next generation of Canadian

athletes," said Stayzer. Lord Mayor Betty Disero lit the torch on the stage of the amphitheatre, before heading out on the first leg of the relay with her "posse," across the park to meet George Webber, waiting to take the torch from her. It was a short walk, she said, but like most who took a turn carrying the torch, said it was heavy, and a bit of a strain on the shoulders as she held it up

in front of her. At each handover, a bus accompanying the relay dropped off those whose leg was about to begin, and picked up those who were finished, eventually to end up outside the Meridian Credit Union Arena, where photographers, food trucks and music awaited them. "The traffic jam we created along the way was a good one," said Disero, congratulating "the torchbearers, your posesses, all the Rotary volunteers, and everyone who came out today." She had especially high praise for Carter Simpson of NOTL, one of the torchbearers, whom she accompanied along his leg of the relay. "He ran the whole way," she said. "I was so impressed. He's an inspiration to us all." "Next week," she added, "let the games begin."



Rotarian volunteers gather at the starting point for the relay with torchbearers Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Carter Simpson. (Penny Coles)



Lord Mayor Betty Disero lights the torch in the amphitheatre at Queenston Heights Park. (Penny Coles)



Lord Mayor Betty Disero starts off from Queenston Heights Park with her "posse." (Penny Coles)



At the first hand-over, Lord Mayor Betty Disero meets up with George Webber. (Penny Coles)



Peter Fenwick finishes his leg of the relay and hands off the torch to Jane Martin. (Dale Cogswell)



Emily Seibel, finishing her run, gives the torch to Julian Caverley. (Derek Bottomley)



Julian Caverley hands over the torch to Carter Simpson. (Dale Cogswell)



Tim Taylor, finishing his leg, gives the torch to Linda Chang. (Dale Cogswell)



John Easton, who came from Brockville to take part in the relay, hands the torch to Wade Stayzer of the last leg. (Dale Cogswell)



Wade Sayzer ends the relay outside the Meridian Credit Union Arena in the Virgil Sports Park. (Penny Coles)



# Cultural festival 'one-of-a-kind event'



The Strong Water Singers sang songs of The Longest Walk, comparing it to the journey of the torch and torchbearers, and Home, where they would be returning. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Shelly, the gender-neutral name for the official mascot of the Summer Games, was chosen by local students in 2021. The turtle was chosen because it is significant to Niagara and has been a historic symbol to many Indigenous Peoples in the region. Shelly was at the Virgil Sports Park Saturday to greet torchbearers, family and friends at the end of the relay, including Lord Mayor Betty Disero.



Babe Nsame, the emcee at the Queenston Heights Park rally, called Saturday "a day to create memories." With him was local DJ Marinko, spinning tunes to create the right mood for the rally.

Shelly greets Kylie, Marlowe and Isla after the relay, and even has small stuffed versions of Shelly for them as a reminder of a great day.



Julian Caverley loves playing sledge hockey with ParaSport, and was presented with a sledge of his own, the Meridian Play to Play award, after the relay. With him are Jeff Tiessen, managing director of ParaSport Ontario, Wade Stayzer, and Kevin Waters, Caverley's sledge hockey coach, who nominated him to be a torchbearer. Waters is programs and events manager at ParaSport Ontario.



Carter Simpson's family and friends participated alongside him as he carried the torch in Saturday's relay.

Carter Simpson, or Carter Famous, as his family call him, still has lots of energy for dancing after running his leg of the relay. He is new to NOTL, but is rapidly becoming as famous as he was in Sault. Ste. Marie, where he and his family moved from recently.

**Continued from page 1**

ter, and Instagram.

The event, declared "an event of municipal significance," is expected to host up to 3,500 people throughout the day.

The Canada Summer Games organizers are touting

the 13-event cultural festival being held across the region as a "one-of-a-kind initiative that has never been done by another Canada Games host before."

The events are being held on evenings from Aug. 7 to 20, "to showcase the unique cultural heritage, entertainment, art, and culinary experienc-

es of each pairing (between municipalities and provinces and territories) during their assigned special night. As we continue to emerge from what has been challenging times, the Niagara Host Society is excited to provide an opportunity for Canadians to come together in celebration of what

makes this country so special."

The first event is this Sunday, Aug. 7, from noon to 10 p.m., when Lincoln teams up with Newfoundland and Labrador for an event at Charles Daly Park.

It is promising programming that features family activities and live entertainment,

including Shanneyganock and LadyLike from Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as homegrown talent, food and drink at an East Coast Kitchen Party with "come-from-away-inspired fare alongside the Niagara Benchlands' local chefs, wineries, and artisan tastemakers."

For more information about 13 For 13 events across the region, visit <https://niagara2022games.ca/13for13/>.

To learn about NOTL's Aug. 10 events, visit <https://www.notl.com/recreation-events/community-initiatives-events>





# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## 3 ways you may be losing money without knowing it

(NC) In the current economic climate, you probably want to hold on to every penny possible. But when spending money is as easy as tapping your card or setting up automatic payments from your credit card, it can be easy to lose track.

However, the convenience of avoiding the checkout line for expenses like streaming services, food delivery and fitness memberships may cost us more than the monthly or annual fee. It could affect your overall financial health.

Here are three ways your bank account balance may accidentally suffer and how to avoid it.

A recent BMO survey found that one-third of respondents have lost money by paying for a subscription they do not use. So, think twice before you shell out for any old service, and see if there are alternatives before you take the plunge.



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Since many subscription services renew automatically, many people lose sight of cancellation windows. The survey found that one-quarter of people have difficulty cancelling subscriptions they don't want, and many forget to cancel altogether. Review your subscriptions even if you think you cancelled them.
- 3. Losing track of spending**

Not checking your accounts often and only reviewing transactions that have already occurred means you miss the opportunity to cancel or change a subscription.

“Tracking monthly expenses is important to ensure you're not leaving money on the table,” says Gayle Ramsay, Head, Everyday Banking and Customer Growth, BMO Financial Group. “Tools like the Pre-authorized Payments Manager on our mobile banking app can help track automatic payments, so you stay on top of expenses. With the right tools and information, you can decide when to cancel unused services, cancel subscriptions before an automatic renewal, and avoid surprises on your credit card statements.”

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# Celebrate Seniors Golden Years Guide

## Safety reminders while at the cottage

(NC) The cottage is a haven for you to unwind and recharge. It's a place to escape to for a weekend away from city living and regular routines. While it may be easy to unwind and relax, there are important safety reminders to consider during your weekend getaways. Here are some points to keep in mind:

### Water and electricity don't mix

Whether it's an electrical outlet on the boat-house or in a bathroom, avoid a potential electrical hazard or risk of shock by ensuring you have Ground Fault Circuit interrupters (GFCI) for all outlets that supply outdoor appliances and tools, especially near water.

For outdoor outlets exposed to the elements, a cover plate marked "Extra Duty" will keep water and debris out and help prevent electrical shocks.

In indoor spaces like the kitchen and bathroom,



GFCI protection is also required for outlets located within one and a half metres of a sink.

### Look out and up for powerlines

If you notice any tree branches within one to

four metres of powerlines as you go to and from the cottage over the summer and fall, you can

help prevent dangerous accidents. Because powerlines are owned by the utility, contact them right

away to report. If you own the trees, you should contact and hire a professional utility arborist to safely prune the branches for you. Do not try to prune the tree yourself as there is potential for serious injury.

### Hire the right expert

It may be tempting to do it yourself, but if you're making certain updates to your retreat, working with the right professional will ensure your cottage is safe and enjoyable. If you're hiring someone to do electrical work, they must be a Licensed Electrical Contracting business. These businesses understand the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, are licensed by the Electrical Safety Authority and can ensure all electrical components are considered and that a notification is requested from ESA.


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# Culture of respect and dignity a business priority

Continued from page 5

with like-minded, passionate, experienced business partners in Toronto, and began plans to open a factory on the island to

manufacture the block.

Together Dale and Jerr-old's team purchased a licence for Jamaica, and E-Z Block Manufacturing Jamaica Ltd. was born.

It's been a slow but steady

process to launch the business, especially while navigating the challenges of start-up during a worldwide pandemic. In May 2021, their first manufacturing plant began producing blocks in the little town of Tucker,

near Montego Bay.

They speak of their vision with great pride and confidence, and of the progress made in only three years.

Maintaining a workplace culture of respect and dig-

nity is a priority for the entire team. The company is becoming known for their “purpose before profit” culture, in turn creating more opportunities for all team members to live meaningful, purpose-driven lives.

Employing 15 men full-time, they have manufactured blocks for the first 170 affordable homes for the National Housing Trust, with contracts to supply more than 200,000 blocks more. Plans are underway to expand regionally across the island, sourcing local materials whenever possible.

E-Z Block continues to gain respect in the business community as well, collaborating with the Faculty of Built Environment at The University of Technology (UTECH) and the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre at The University of The West Indies (UWI) in Kingston, Jamaica.

Dale's pride and enjoyment in training skilled professionals, and the close camaraderie of the team, is evident in our online conversations. Impromptu barbecues sizzling with fresh seafood are often the shared reward at the end of a productive day.

"I've been blessed to make many friends in the time I have been here," Dale says. "The Jamaican culture is com-

comfortable to me, and having a great friend like Jerrold has made the transition easy."

He adds, "It has taken the love and patience of both our families to get where we are. They have all been here to visit, and see exactly what we are achieving, so they share the vision as well."

Like many of the Jamaican men working on farms in his Niagara neighbourhood, he has come to appreciate the necessity of reliable WiFi to stay close to his family here.

"What's App is the lifeline," he emphasizes. Thanks to What'sApp he can have face-to-face conversations, keeping a close connection with family and making the distance more bearable.

The sense of purpose over profit to provide affordable, well-constructed homes to people who would otherwise not have the opportunity is what drives this unique partnership. The benefits have flowed both ways as deeper friendships across the cultures have flourished.

Both men agree that it has truly been a team effort, with a dream of making a difference in the lives of Jamaicans, with eyes on the entire Caribbean.

For more information  
and videos visit [https://  
ezblockja.com/about/](https://ezblockja.com/about/)

# Pumphouse presents Allegories



Local artist Lynne Gaetz is showcasing her paintings and mixed media works in a solo exhibition at Niagara Pump-house Arts Centre this month. The artworks in the show, aptly titled *Allegories*, tell a story with mystical and surreal undertones. Antlers (*Needs of Humans*, above) tall hats, and collaged words and images express hidden, often symbolic meanings for the artist. The solo exhibit opened Tuesday and runs to Aug. 28 in the art centre's Joyner Gallery. The public is invited to an artist meet and greet on Sunday, Aug. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. (*Photo supplied*)

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## Gaura — birds, bees and butterflies love it

**Marla Percy**  
Special to The Local

It was difficult to choose a special plant from this luscious garden, but a mass of tiny gaura were waving 'pick me' as I came to the front steps.

This lovely perennial (zone 6) has small starry flowers on long waving stems which bloom from early July until autumn. *Oenothera lindeheimeri* is also known as wandflower or bees-blossom. It grows in full sun and prefers sandy soil but tolerates even heavy clay as long as it is well drained.

After being established it can be drought-resistant but blooms better with water. The wands

grow from two to four feet tall, spreading two to three feet wide (so give it a little room).

Gaura can be found with white, pink or dark pink blossoms and they look best in a grouping for the full wave effect. They can be grown in a peony hoop to keep them off a path or another plant. If they get too big, they can be divided like a lily, by digging up the whole plant and separating the mound into three or four pieces.

The wands should be cut back in fall to a few inches, and mulch if the plants are in a very cold location.

If you like a more compact look, you can shear the plant in mid-summer to six inches and

you will get a more compact but flowering plant in no time. The bees love it, the birds love it, the butterflies love it, and it waves hello and goodbye when you pass. What more can you ask from a garden plant?



## Garden of the week



This week's Garden of the Week winners are Judy and Rob Allison at 46 Pierpoint Drive in Virgil. Their garden is very pleasing to the eye, giving a lovely, soft impression. The garden uses different specimen plants with a good colour mix. Plants include blue spruce, red Japanese maple, yellow alyssum, and penstemon, more commonly known as blackbeard tongue. Annuals on the front porch highlight a tranquil place to watch the garden grow. To nominate a garden of the week, visit [jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week](http://jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week) (Photo supplied)

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# Pianist Todd Yaniw will celebrate Schubert Sunday

Mike Balsom  
The Local

It's hard to believe, but there are only four performances remaining in Music Niagara Festival's 15-show 24th season.

Colin Maier, Music Niagara's production manager (and oboist of popular chamber group Quartetto Gelato) is pleased with the way music lovers and supporters have returned to the venues that have been hosting the non-profit's program this summer. Two shows this past weekend, featuring pianist Artur Pereira at St. Mark's Anglican Church and the Toronto All-Star Big Band at Club Italia, hosted more than 250 people between them.

The festival rolls into its final two weeks with a Viennese-style Schubertiade this Sunday afternoon at St. Mark's. Canadian pianist Todd Yaniw will be under the spotlight as the music of the great Franz

Schubert is celebrated. An instructor at the Glenn Gould School at Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music, Yaniw was born in Edmonton but makes Toronto his home today. He debuted with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra at age 13 and studied with the likes of Michael Massey, Dr. James Parker, and James Anagnoson. He earned his Masters degree at Houston's Rice University under renowned Canadian pianist Jon Kimura Parker and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin.

"All of my teachers shaped my artistic goals," Yaniw tells The Local, "whether it's for me or for my students. As I teach, I always think back to similar moments I had with my own teachers."

For Schubertiade, he says the key to playing the composer's music this Sunday is to find the uniqueness that shaped Schubert's



The Toronto All-Star Big Band at Club Italia playing swing music to a crowd of about 150 Music Niagara Festival supporters Monday. (Mike Balsom)

styles and time period.

"For every composer, I try to get into their shoes," he says, "especially when a certain piece is written at a certain time in a certain city. With Schubert, I think of how he died so tragically young (he was only 31 years old) and actually lived a very hard life. He was a bit of an underdog of his time."

Schubert was a prolific composer in his short life. Because of that, Yaniw says doing his work justice takes a bit of care and thought.

"You're sort of celebrating the wide variety of what that one person could actually do," he says. "You have to find pieces that complement each other but still have enough contrast. That's the challenge of programming in general, really."

The idea of a Schubertiade goes back to when the Viennese composer was still alive. These celebrations of his music began around 1815 in the private homes of wealthy friends and admirers of Schubert's music. Many held before Schubert's death in 1828 included the composer himself as a participant, but that wasn't always the case.

"It's in the tradition of those events," Yaniw says of Sunday's performance. "But it's of course in a bigger space, and we get to share it with more people. And it's not so much aimed at the upper class as those were, but instead at everyone."

Yaniw will play Schubert's sonata commonly known as *The Grand Duo* with Music Niagara founder and artistic director Atis Banks and his CamerAtis Ensemble. He'll also be performing two of the composer's shorter pieces, called *impromptus*, to demonstrate how Schubert's work evolved in his later years.

The highlight, promises Yaniw, will be the Trout Quintet, which comprises the post-intermission second half of Sunday's performance. Schubert wrote the piece in 1819 but it wasn't until after his death that it was finally published. It's a particularly expressive composition whose fourth of five movements reprises a theme from one of Schubert's earlier works, *Die Forelle*, which, translated from German means *The Trout*.

The Trout Quintet was written for piano, violin,

viola, cello, and double bass, as opposed to the usual piano and traditional string quartet.

Yaniw says since his start as an instructor at the Conservatory in 2015, he has noticed his mix of coaching versus performing has shifted a bit, leaving him with more time at the school and a bit less time spent performing for audiences. But he gets a similar sense of accomplishment via both avenues.

"It's always satisfying to play something at a high level," he says, "to find something unique that still serves the composer. That's what most of us are trying

to get. And for teaching, seeing that a student has begun to do something in their own way, that it really clicks in a self-sufficient way, that is really satisfying."

A member of Trio d'Argento (with Sibylle Marquardt on flute and cellist Paul Pulford), Yaniw says he has visited Niagara Falls a couple of times but has never made his way to Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he says.

Tickets are \$40 and include wine and snacks at intermission. The performance begins at 4 p.m. Visit [musicniagara.org](http://musicniagara.org) for tickets and information.



Pianist Todd Yaniw (Kirstin Northington)



Atis Bankas and Artur Pereira at St. Mark's Church Sunday. (Mike Balsom)

## Legion helps Ukraine



While Branch 124 Royal Canadian Legion volunteers prepared fish and chips in the kitchen at a recent Thursday fish fry, downstairs Alex Luhowy was collecting donations for Ukraine. In addition \$2 of each order was donated to The Canadian Ukraine Foundation. Luhowy has spent time in Ukraine on a humanitarian mission and was able to talk about how the money is spent. In total the legion donated \$1,190 from a June barbecue, the fish fry and other donations. (Mike Balsom)



# Kids

Actual Kid-Friendly News

## GAZETTE

JOYOUS  
NOTL  
NOTL CENTRIC POSITIVITY

August 2022

Volume 2 • Issue 10

FIND THE SMILEY FACE HIDDEN ON THIS PAGE!



### JOKE

**Why did the boy eat his homework?**  
Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

**Answer:**

## Travel Blog

By: Maanak Gandhi-Malhotra, 6



My family and our friends, the Gold family, went on a road trip to Rochester last weekend. It took two hours to get there. We went there for my birthday. We went to The Strong Museum. There was a lot of stuff to do and see and also touch! There was a fake grocery

store where you pretend to buy stuff. There was also a superhero section, a whole room full of pinball machines and an arcade room. There was kinetic sand to play with and a slanted house that made some people dizzy but me and my brother loved it and we couldn't stop laugh-

ing! But my favourite part was the skyline climb since I love to climb and do gymnastics. THAT IS WHAT I DID AT THE STRONG MUSEUM IN ROCHESTER. I would recommend other kids go there because it's fun but tiring because we had a long drive.

## Movie Review

By: Maanak Gandhi-Malhotra, 6

On the first day of summer break I went to the movie theatre. We watched the movie *Lightyear*.

It was about space. It was sad and funny. I think other kids should watch this movie. I give it three out of five stars. We also had popcorn and candy!

## Interview with Olivia

**Q. What is your favourite thing about NOTL?**

**A.** The people I've met here.

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

**A.** A hairstylist, a farmer or I'd want to work at Walker Industries like my dad.

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

**A.** I would want to find a cure for cancer.

**Q. How did you keep yourself busy during COVID lockdowns?**

**A.** I hung out with my two sisters and we swam a lot plus I got really good at technology.

**Q. What is your ideal day in NOTL?**

**A.** I love walking down by the water in Old Town or driving down the parkway and learning about the history of NOTL.

**Q. What is your favourite book?**

**A.** I like books by Raina Telgemeier, especially *Smile*.

**Q. What do you do to help others?**

**A.** I listen to others when they need someone to talk to.

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

**A.** We have movie nights with all five of us.

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

**A.** I think my creativity makes me special and my ability to express my feelings.

**Q. If you could piece the perfect day in NOTL together, what would it be?**

**A.** I would go for breakfast with my family at Silks. We would go to Old

Town for a walk and go to Simcoe Park to play. We would go to Cows for some ice cream then we would go to the market and stop at Garrison House for lunch or dinner! We would stop by some different fruit and flower stands as well.

**Q. If you could do something for charity what charity would you want to help?**

**A.** I would want to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma society.



Olivia Ferguson, 11 years old

## Artist's Corner

Photo collage by: Yuna, 9



## Family-Friendly August project courtesy of The Niagara Pumphouse

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### CHARITY

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



# Tiny houses, sheds offer housing solutions

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Queenston resident Keith Gowans may just have a unique solution to Niagara's housing crisis, and he wants as many people as possible to know about it.

The former chief operating officer at Habitat for Humanity Niagara has begun a new venture with former Habitat site coordinator Trevor Dunscombe called Aloft Housing Inc. Inside a 10,000 square foot St. Catharines warehouse they are building tiny homes that could have a huge impact on the inventory of affordable homes in the region.

"The name was chosen to reflect two meanings," explains Gowans. "Aloft to mean 'above' and of course to represent the 'loft' type of lifestyle."

Just a short two weeks ago, Gowans and Dunscombe threw open their doors to invite officials from the region and various municipalities to see their first finished, state-of-the-art, modern 220-square foot tiny home. Each visitor left the facility in awe.

Before Aloft, Gowans guided Habitat for Humanity Niagara through the transformation of its St. Catharines ReStore from its Cushman Road beginnings to its current Bunting Road location. He then led the conversion of an old flooring store on Highway 20 into the popular Pelham ReStore, and also oversaw the construction of the Grimsby ReStore about five years ago.

His work with Habitat included building partnerships for a number of homes built by the organization across Niagara. Habitat for Humanity helps families living in high rent or subsidized housing by selling them a Habitat-built

home for no interest and no down payment. The building of the house is funded by donations, and the families' mortgage payments are continually re-invested into building more homes. The organization is the largest builder of new homes in the world.

Gowans was dedicated to the Habitat's work to break the cycle of poverty. He began to see, however, that the organization was increasingly running into problems finding available land. As well, the cost of that land was skyrocketing.

"I was sitting on the Niagara Regional Housing and Homelessness Action committee," says Gowans during a tour of the Aloft facility. "We all struggled with those issues as we were sitting around the table. We were all trying to figure out how we can accelerate housing. And I've been fascinated with these tiny houses."

The problem, Gowans adds, is that pricey land would still be needed to create communities of tiny homes. For inspiration, he turned to Amsterdam and some other European countries, as well as Asia.

Gowans and Dunscombe have developed and built a model home to showcase their idea. Called the Versa model, it can be installed at ground level, elevated for parking underneath and combined for multiple living.

Gowans shows an artist's concept of a collection of five interlocked Aloft houses sitting atop a platform above a parking lot. The six posts that support the homes are giant ground screws that Gowans says are non-invasive. A heated utility chase (or channel) would run down the posts providing services (electricity and plumbing) for each of the five tiny homes. The whole setup

could be in place within five to seven days.

"It might take one or two parking spots away from the existing parking lot," Gowans explains, "but in the grand scheme of things, you might have to sacrifice just a little bit to get the end to justify the means."

He envisions developers, in an attempt to satisfy the demands for apartment and condominium buildings, to include affordable housing components, adding tiny homes above the parking spaces they would need to include in their plans anyway.

Gowans also points to churches as a potential site for elevated Aloft housing. "They all have parking lots. Churches looking to provide shelter could install these at a much lower cost without having to acquire land."

As impressive as the concept is, the finished tiny house that sits inside their warehouse is even more so.

Sitting on a footprint of only 300 square feet, the tiny house is bright, modern and sturdy. The exterior modern aluminum siding has an emulsified finish that looks like wood. The roof and soffits are steel, eliminating the need for costly shingle repair every 15 to 20 years.

Gowans starts his tour on the front deck, made of composite material, to the German-engineered front doors.

"The windows and the doors are super-durable, with a precision fit and finish throughout," says Gowans. "All interior and exterior materials have been chosen for their strong and durable qualities. Security, sound attenuation and quality are all big things for us. For the rental market, if you have a more durable, rigid dwelling, the less you have to maintain, lowering the cost."

Once inside the front entrance, Gowans closes the door and all the ambient sound from the warehouse instantly ceases. The home feels air-tight. An air exchanger on the roof swaps stale air with fresh air every 20 minutes.

To the left of the entrance is an impressive three-piece bathroom, with high quality fixtures and walls made of unsoftened polyvinyl chloride (PVCu) that has the look and feel of high-end tiles. It's non-absorbent, easily cleaned and nearly eliminates any chance of mold.

Across from the bathroom door sits a number of storage cabinets, including a closet for coats and boots. Further down the short hallway, where a skylight provides natural light, sits the galley-style kitchen, with a backsplash made of the same vinyl material as the bathroom. Under-cabinet lighting is provided and again, the fixtures are sleek and modern.

The fridge and dishwasher are clad in the same 13-ply white birch cabinetry as the kitchen storage. Across from the quartz countertop sits a combination convection oven/microwave/air-fryer. Right next to it is a combination clothes washer and dryer big enough to handle the laundry needs for two people.

The living room walls are natural baltic birch, and the bed sits in a loft above the dishwasher and cooking appliance. Smart lighting surrounds the bed and there is hanging storage in the loft as well as a set of cubbies beside the bed. The steps up to the sleeping loft easily pull out and slide back in to save space.

Smart windows eliminate the need for blinds or curtains. A simple flick of the switch allows the resident to create immediate privacy. A heat ex-

changer provides warmth in the winter and air conditioning in the summer, while the floor is heated throughout.

At 220 square feet (Gowans says they can go as big as 300 square feet), it definitely is a tiny home, but it isn't much smaller than a studio or bachelor apartment. It would be ideal to house either one or two people.

"All these things you see here, including the furniture you see in our pictures (at alofthousing.com), sell for \$175,000," Gowans says. "If you take away some of the frills, it's not a huge difference."

He adds that, to erect an affordable housing building millions of dollars have to be spent to acquire the land and ready it for construction.

"Instead, these can be put up over an existing parking lot without having to buy the land. And they can be removed easily in five to seven days, too."

Gowans estimates that from start to finish the build for one of these tiny homes would take 12 to 16 weeks. And though only the demo home has been constructed so far, he is sure their current 'factory' could accommodate five or six concurrent builds.

Gowans and Dunscombe

and their team (Craig Brown, former Habitat construction manager and Rick Ross, president of Switchworks Technology) have also built a 108 square foot shed, their Studio series, with electrical wiring that would be ideal to use as a home office. It is built with the same attention to detail and durability as the Versa.

"Because of COVID, people wanted their own space to work from home," Gowans says. "For those who want to go to work, but not commute to work, this is the happy medium."

This Thursday, Aug. 4, Gowans and Dunscombe will tow the studio shed down the road for the Tiny Home Show at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. They will also showcase their raised housing through video and computer displays. There, he expects representatives from as many as 33 municipalities to visit to look at the possibilities.

Aloft, of course, will not be the only player in the game there.

"Competition-wise, it's great," Gowans says. "No one can make them fast enough for the demand that will be out there. Everyone we have shown is interested in what we're doing. And we're interested in solving the problem."



Keith Gowans believes the tiny houses and sheds he is building with Trevor Dunscombe can offer affordable housing solutions that don't require expensive building lots. (Mike Balsom)



# Summer adventure on Pelee, Middle Island

## Owen Bjorgan Special to The Local

Imagine a couple of islands, sitting in a giant tub of turquoise water. One of the islands is inhabited, home to about 600 locals who live in serendipitous and casual times, coexisting harmoniously with the lush forests and coastal beaches as they farm or cater to curious tourists. The smaller of the islands is completely uninhabited, devoid of cell phone signals, instead home to birds and rare snakes. The air is humid, but cacti grow here. The hot moisture is briefly broken by colossal thunderstorms in the night, which excite the scores of fish swirling around the islands.

Am I talking about a tropical frontier in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?

Guess again. They are Pelee Island and Middle Island, which punctuate their presence in the middle of Lake Erie as the southernmost in Canada. This is where I kicked off my summer adventures in an effort to film rare species and ecosystems for my upcoming Hidden Corners nature documentary about Lake Erie's coastline, the nation's most biodiverse region.

With my good friend and coworker, Brandon, we left Fort Erie with his 16-foot, 1969 boat in tow. We had concluded the best way to explore for four days would be by means of boating around these islands and anchoring up on more remote stretches of shoreline.

While standing on the upper deck of the Pelee Islander II Ferry as it left Leamington and mainland Canada behind, the first thing that became apparent was just how big Pelee Island is. It's something to see it on a map, but it became quite impressionable as the massive shoreline loomed blurry in the distance. Inching closer, we started to see details of tall trees, quaint cottages, and a marina. It was the entry point to this five by 10-kilometer, roughly rectangular island.

What also jumped out to me was that it was more changed by the tides of Lake Erie than it was the tides of development. There was very little in the way of new builds. The newest construction project Brandon and I saw was a bunch of young men in overalls, all dressed the same with plaid button-up shirts, working away in the sweltering heat on a roof repair job. I felt like we were back in time, as if a calming drug was oozing upwards from the soil and into our system.

On night one, we wrangled up some water snakes on the beach with our headlamps ablaze. But not just any water snake, as Pelee and Middle Island are both home to a genetically unique subspecies called the Lake Erie water snake. It is found nowhere else in Canada.

I literally dove into the water to swim after the illuminated serpent, took a good bite on



Owen Bjorgan and his friend Brandon celebrate being the southernmost Canadians on the uninhabited Middle Island. (Owen Bjorgan)

the hand, and then did a quick talking segment to the camera about the fish-eating rarity that was slithering through my hands.

That evening, we got rocked by a thunderstorm, which featured the kind of lightning strikes where the thunder explodes at the same time as the light. Brandon slept in the tent, and I slept in my tarp-covered hammock in the buggy trees adjacent to the campsite, which had no staff or supervision for three days straight.

Lake Erie was cantankerous on day two, so we opted to explore the local terrestrial ecosystems on foot. The day erupted with excitement quite quickly, when we went to a stretch of forest and wetland called Fish Point on Pelee Island. One-fifth of Canada's plant species are known to grow here.

A small, but jet-black snake slithered down towards the tidal marsh. I had an inkling right away this was going to be special, as no other species of snake in Ontario is all black like that. At the base of a maple tree, I grabbed the specimen, and to my delight it was a melanistic eastern garter snake, Ontario's most common snake in a genetically rare, totally blackened colour (thanks to the presence of melanin, which is a naturally-occurring black pigmentation). This, to me, speaks to the genetic diversity and health present on the island.

Sixty seconds later, Brandon and I overturned a log and found not one but two eastern newts. A wood frog was cuddling up with them, and wasted no time darting away to the vegetation to hide. The newts looked like little fleshy dinosaurs, and their presence was another indicator of how healthy the surrounding ecosystem was.

Brandon and I were ecological fiends, blown away by the diversity and uniqueness of animals encountered in such a short time and area. We celebrated by enjoying a couple of swims along Lake Erie's sandy beaches. Little did we know we were both getting a healthy dose of heat stroke, which would catch up with us the next day. After the swim, we bush-whacked through a jungle-like environment and found ourselves standing at the southernmost point of populated Canada.

boat along the island's rough limestone shores, I remember my feverish body hopping out of the boat and into the water, with shivers and aches, and waves bashing up against Brandon and I as we desperately tried to walk the boat through a rock patch and into a secure bay. My body was tired but my soul was excited. We were now the southernmost Canadians in all of Canada.

The island didn't look like something in Canada whatsoever. The trees were stunted in growth, with a myriad of species found nowhere else in the country. Freshwater lagoons lay eerie and stagnant just a few steps inland, as if you were in a Louisiana bayou. The forest was remarkably noisy with hundreds, if not thousands of cormorants. If you didn't know what you were listening to, it would be utterly terrifying. Brandon and I actually thought we were hearing wild boars, given the low and impressively loud grunting sounds these birds made. Not once, but multiple times, would they drop fish from the tree-tops near us to try to scare us off. "Thunk!" was the sound as the fish carcass fell from the treetops. Odds are, they don't see many humans at all.

We caught another Lake Erie water snake, enjoyed a drink on the beach as the southernmost Canadians out of nearly 38 million people, and then began the precarious boat ride back to our camp on Pelee Island.

The trip wrapped up on day four with one of the best surprises of my life. We spent the morning exploring a unique ecosystem called an alvar — a glacially flattened landscape with exposed limestone rock, shallow soil, and a hot microclimate. The alvar on Pelee Island can reach 40 degrees Celsius no problem, every summer. It reminded me of something from Florida or Australia.

"Brandon, we have 15 minutes left on this trip to find a massive fox snake," I joked, but was secretly saddened we hadn't found one yet. This is

a nationally rare, large and colourful species I have been trying to find and feature on Hidden Corners for more than two years now.

We left the perfect habitat, hopped in the truck and started driving toward the ferry to head back to mainland.

And what slithered across the gravel road just minutes before getting to the ferry?

A drop-dead gorgeous, big old fox snake. For the first time in my life. An epic, symbolic ending to exploring Canada's deep south before heading back to NOTL.



Owen Bjorgan catches the fox snake he was looking for on Pelee Island.



Two eastern newts and a wood frog were found under the same log on Pelee Island.

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# LocalSPORTS

## Don Goodwin to be inducted into Hall of Honour

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Rosemary Goodwin is totally thrilled to see her late husband Don inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Honour this Friday night.

"It's absolutely wonderful," says Goodwin. "And when I found out that Stacey Allaster, who was a great friend of Don's, was being inducted too, it made me really, really pleased."

Goodwin and Allaster, who grew up in Welland, will be joined by a third Niagara resident, former boxer Mike

Strange of Niagara Falls, as well as athletes Brian McKeever and Steve Nash and chair of the Canada Games Council from 2009 to 2019, Tom Quinn.

The Hall of Honour Celebration takes place Aug. 5 in Niagara Falls, just a day before the opening ceremonies of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games. Iconic Canadian broadcaster Ron MacLean and Olympic champion and Canada Games alumna Catriona Le May Doan will host the event, which will be streamed live.

Goodwin was an instrumental figure in the early days of the Canada Games. The long-

time sports broadcaster with the CBC played an active role in getting the inaugural Canada Games off the ground in 1967. Those were the first winter games in Quebec City, two years before the first Canada Summer Games in Halifax, where he had been working at the time.

"Don had been very involved through the 1960s putting together a new sports structure for Canada," Rosemary tells The Local. "There had never been sports ministries at the provincial or federal level. It was a huge undertaking to get all the provinces on board. And the concept of a Canada Games was going to be the crown jewel of that, the glue that would make it all stick."

Don led the charge to bring the provinces together late in Canada's centennial year. The Quebec City event was small, but it was a start. And he knew that the summer games in 1969 were going to be crucial to the success of the concept.

"It's astounding that they did it," Rosemary says of those first summer games, which Don had persuaded the CBC to broadcast on both television and radio in both official languages. "It was fabulous. That was all they needed, and they were away to the races."

Don was a tireless volunteer, who also served as chef de mission for Canada at the 1972 and 1974 Olympic Games. In 1996, he was the master of ceremonies for the opening and closing ceremonies at the Olympics in Atlanta. His passion for sport, and in particular tennis, led to his 35-year run as emcee at the Rogers Cup. He was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2014.

"The whole reason I got involved (as the co-lead for tennis at this summer's games along with Marilyn Francis) was because of him," Rosemary says. "Everything I know about tennis comes from Don. Tennis is the one place where, if I can tuck into a project that I can focus on, I always feel him sitting on my shoulder."

Don's career with the CBC led to him being put in charge of sports and then entertainment, before heading the national broadcaster's Ontario region.

The Goodwins moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1997, and were involved in the NOTL Tennis Club for years. Rosemary served as club president from 2008 to 2010 and currently sits on the board of directors. Don passed away in 2018 from pancreatic cancer.

Allaster, his friend and colleague, participated in the 1989

Canada Summer Games in Saskatoon as a tennis manager with Team Ontario. The Notre Dame College School graduate was the vice-president of sales and marketing and tournament director of the Rogers Cup, and was named president of Women's Tennis Association in 2006. Allaster is currently the chief executive of professional tennis with the United States Tennis Association, and the first female tournament director of the U.S. Open.

Current Niagara Falls city councillor Strange competed for Team Ontario in boxing at the 1987 Canada Winter Games in Cape Breton, NS. He is a three-time Olympian, a double gold medalist at the Commonwealth Games and an 11-time Canadian amateur boxing champion.

McKeever is the first para-athlete to be inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Honour. Canada's most decorated winter Paralympian represented Team Alberta in cross-country skiing at the 1999 Canada Winter Games. He has competed at six Paralympic Games and amassed 16 gold, two silver and two bronze medals for Canada.

Nash is one of Canada's greatest basketball players and

one of the best point guards to ever play the game. The two-time NBA MVP and eight-time NBA all-star represented Team B.C. in men's basketball at the 1993 Canada Summer Games in Kamloops. Nash was instrumental in helping Canada qualify for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

Quinn is an Officer of the Order of Canada. The businessman is known as a visionary leader and a prominent volunteer in Canadian amateur sport, lending his expertise to non-profit sport organizations at the national level and in his home province of Quebec.

Rosemary is excited to be attending Friday's event, where she will be accepting her husband's honour. And all six of this year's inductees will be honoured at Saturday's opening ceremonies for the games.

"I'm looking forward to seeing some people who have told me they will be there," she says of the Hall of Honour celebration. "I'm curious to see the video tribute to him. I am sure it will be very sentimental and heart wrenching. I wouldn't miss it for the world."

"It's a lovely sign of respect," she concludes. "I am really pleased that his work is being recognized and appreciated so many years later."



Longtime sports broadcaster Don Goodwin was instrumental in the early days of the Canada Games. (Photo supplied)

## NOTL Tennis first week of games, sailing second week

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

The Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games is delivering on its promise to involve all 12 of the region's municipalities. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, tennis and sailing take the spotlight during the 16-day duration of the event.

Tennis begins at the NOTL Tennis Club on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 9 a.m. That morning Ontario takes on Alberta in Pool A, Manitoba battles Nova Scotia in Pool B and the Northwest Territories plays against Newfoundland and Labrador in Pool C.

Pool A also includes British Columbia and Quebec, while New Brunswick and Saskatch-

ewan round out Pool B. Pool C only has three teams, with Prince Edward Island completing that grouping.

As explained by the NOTL Tennis Club's Rosemary Goodwin, who is co-chair of tennis with fellow board member Marilyn Francis, tennis is a team event at the Canada Summer Games, not an individual one.

"Each team consists of four boys and four girls who compete just for their teams," Goodwin tells The Local. "When my province plays your province, we'll be assigned two courts. For the first match, your best men's singles player will play a match against mine. And your number one women's singles player will play against my number one women's player."

Those two matches take place simultaneously."

When those matches end, the pairings go to each team's number two players squaring off. Then, finally, there is a men's doubles match and a women's doubles match on both courts played by the remaining members of the province's team. That means every team member has played and there are a total of six matches per grouping. Each grouping is referred to as a 'tie'.

"If one team wins four or more matches," Goodwin says, "that team has won and the match is over. If each team has won three matches, a mixed doubles match is played to break the deadlock. Each province can put forward their

players that give them the best chance to win the tiebreaker."

The teams are playing for what are called 'flag points' for their team. At the end of the week there will be 32 ties played, which could amount to as many as 224 matches if each goes to a seventh match.

Pool play goes Sunday through Tuesday, with qualifying matches scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 10. Quarter-finals, semifinals and consolation matches are scheduled for Friday and the finals are on slate for Saturday, Aug. 13. The gold medal game is expected to start at 3 p.m. that day.

The Welland Tennis Club is also hosting some of the tennis competition, but there is action on the Memorial Park courts in NOTL each day next week.

The sailing competition is being run out of the NOTL Sailing Club in partnership with the Dalhousie Yacht Club from Wednesday, Aug. 17 to Saturday, August 20.

There are 10 races taking place each day in five different categories: 2.4m Para Mixed, Single-Handed Laser Radial Female, Single-Handed Laser Male, and both Male and Female Double-Handed 29er. All races begin at 11 a.m.

For tickets to the events in NOTL or anywhere in the region, visit [niagara2022games.ca/tickets](http://niagara2022games.ca/tickets).

## LocalHAPPENINGS



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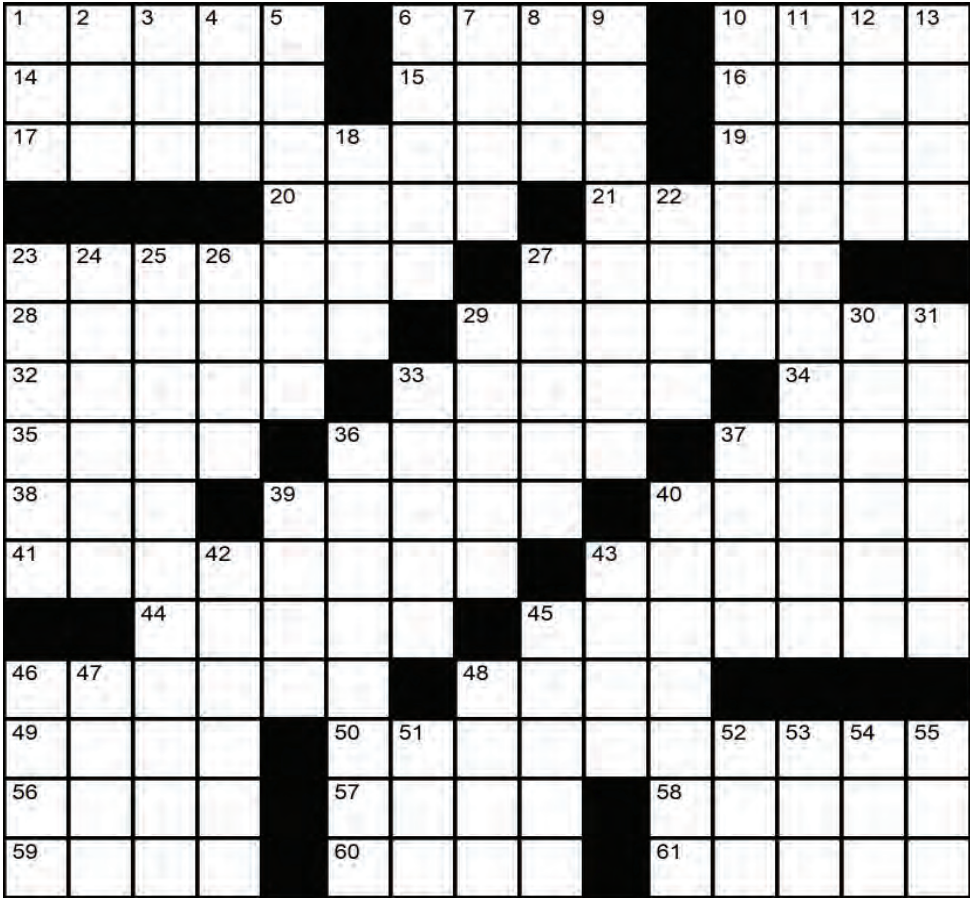
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19 Subject of study  
20 Mazuma  
21 Baseball scorecard listing  
23 Scott Pelley's employer  
27 Into a state of decline  
28 Melts together  
29 Airline perks  
32 Bankrupts  
33 Turns on the waterworks  
34 --- Arbor, MI  
35 Utter a shrill cry  
36 Panamanian singer --- Blades  
37 Gumbo essential  
38 Second sight  
39 Point of a tale  
40 Seen by those with 38 Across, perhaps?  
41 Went home to disrupt a play with no men  
43 Volkswagen classic  
44 Prima donnas  
45 Mischievous ones
- 46 Horse that has not won a race  
48 Broadcasts  
49 'It --- rocket science!'  
50 The Martian --- (Ray Bradbury)  
56 "Star Wars" monastic warriors  
57 Send forth  
58 GWTW's Scarlett ---  
59 New Mexico artists' colony  
60 In order  
61 Course halves
- Down:  
1 Auto efficiency measure  
2 Boston Bruin great  
3 Buck's mate  
4 First of her kind  
5 Found in barrels, often  
6 Labors long and hard  
7 Compulsion  
8 Degree in mathematics?  
9 Steroid hormone  
10 Cascades peak  
11 Flickertail State  
12 "How obvious!"  
13 Seckel or Bartlett  
18 Hill products  
22 Bear in Brittany  
23 Magic transport
- 24 Slightly off-color, I'm in red  
25 Put on top, wavy lines dip badly  
26 Not one  
27 Pitch  
29 Name of eight popes  
30 Register  
31 Winds  
33 Prepares for keeping  
36 Wines and dines  
37 Crude cartel  
39 Chess turn  
40 Official sitting  
42 Side-to-side measurements  
43 Where the cows come home to  
45 Commotions  
46 Spray finely  
47 Largest of seven, round the world  
48 Any of 44 Across could sing one  
51 Care plan  
52 Greek X  
53 Intra-office computer system  
54 Before  
55 Carrier to Copenhagen, briefly

IN MEMORIAM



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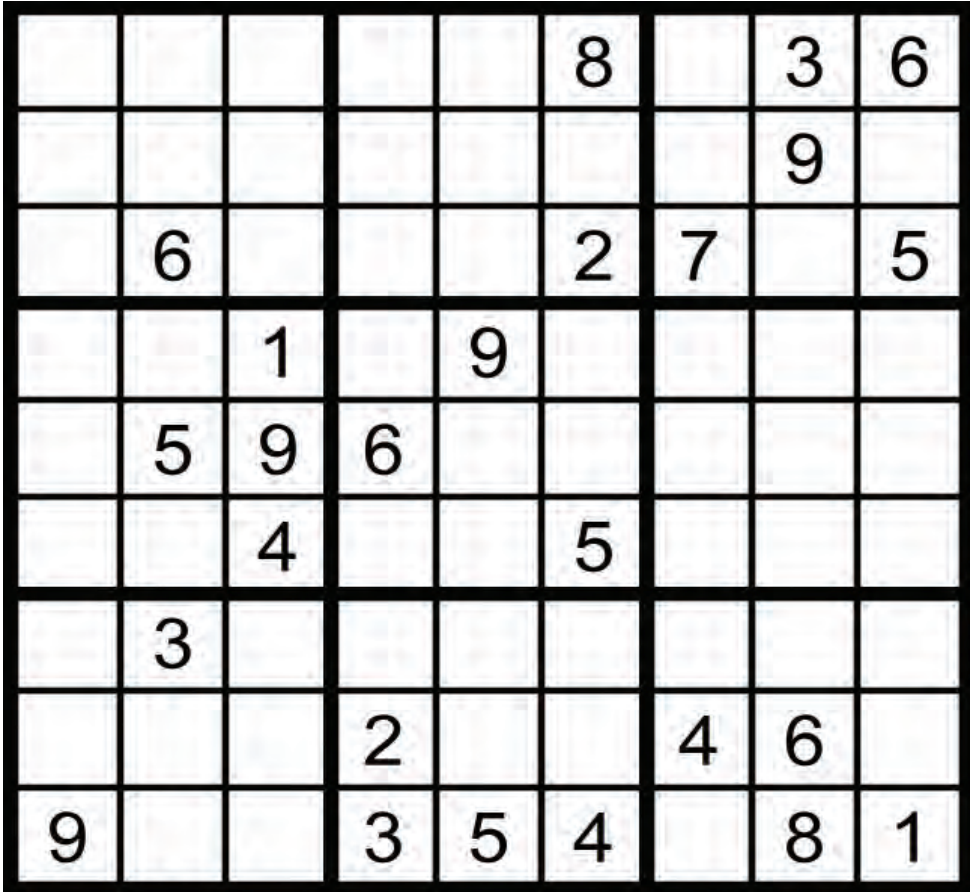


PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from July 27, 2022

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

Across: 1 Modern, 6 Tune, 10 Snip, 14 Provo, 15 Orts, 16 Hose, 17 Green light, 19 Area, 20 Kale, 21 Roster, 23 C B S News, 27 South, 28 Alloy, 29 Upgrades, 32 Ruins, 33 Cries, 34 Ann, 35 Pipe, 36 Ruben, 37 Okra, 38 ES P, 39 Moral, 40 Spook, 41 The women, 43 Beetle, 44 Divas, 45 Rascals, 46 Maiden, 48 Airs, 49 Isn't, 50 Chronicles, 56 Sith, 57 Emit, 58 O'Hara, 59 Taos, 60 So as, 61 Nines.  
Down: 1 M p g, 2 Orr, 3 Doe, 4 Eve, 5 Monkeys, 6 Tolls, 7 Urge, 8 Nth, 9 Estrogen, 10 Shasta, 11 North Dakota, 12 I see, 13 Pear, 18 Laws, 22 Ours, 23 Carpet, 24 Bluish, 25 Slipped into, 26 None, 27 Spiel, 29 Urban, 30 Enroll, 31 Snakes, 33 Cures, 36 Romances, 37 O P E C, 39 Move, 40 Session, 42 Widths, 43 Barn, 45 Riots, 46 Mist, 47 Asia, 48 Ana, 51 H M O, 52 Chi, 53 L A N, 54 Ere, 55 S A S.





# LocalSPORTS

## Preds sign three new players

Mike Balsom  
The Local

The Niagara Predators have had a flurry of signing activity the past two weeks. Three new members of the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) team were recently announced, including two who will be joining the Virgil-based team from overseas. Askar Aimanbetov is re-signing, as he was a member of the team in 2018-2019 when the Predators were still playing out of Toronto. The 20-year-old native of Astana, Kazakhstan amassed 33 points in 26 games that year for the Preds before moving on to play for the Seacoast Spartans of the Eastern Hockey League (EHL), and then the Minnesota Blue Ox of the US Premier Hockey league. "He brings size," Predators general manager Andrew Ferlatte says. "He's a power forward, very similar to what Alex Page brought to the Predators for the playoffs last season. He has the ability to go into the corners and help out

our younger kids." Aimanbetov is currently home in Kazakhstan and is planning to arrive in Canada later this month. Ferlatte doesn't expect any delays in his arrival despite the unrest in Eastern Europe. Niagara had its eye on 6'0", 181 pound forward Michael Santini of Waterdown before the GMHL entry draft this spring. Santini was scooped up by the Northern Alberta Tomahawks before the Predators could call his name. "We had to acquire him in a trade," Ferlatte explains. "He's a speedy forward with a great release. He's someone that we are going to rely on to put the puck in the net for the team." The winger brings with him almost 100 games of Greater Ontario Junior B Hockey League (GOJHL) experience, including play-offs, split between the St. Catharines Falcons and the Niagara Falls Canucks. Finally, the team signed 17-year-old Russian goaltender Gorgii Kodzaev, who has been playing in that country's under-20 Division 1. He'll be joining

another new signing in the goalie corps in 18-year-old Grimsby native Warren Krogman, the team's fifth round draft pick. "He was brought to us by an agent," says Ferlatte of Kodzaev. "We've had a very good track record of moving goaltenders on to the major junior levels and colleges and universities. This was obviously the best fit for Gorgii. It speaks very well about our organization's reputation overseas." The Predators next on-ice skills training session at the Gale Centre in Niagara Falls is this Sunday afternoon, and they will return to the ice for an open skate Wednesday, Aug. 10. "We're trying to get a head start compared to other teams," he says. "The sessions have been going really well. It should give us an advantage heading into the season." Ferlatte is busy trying to line up both a trainer and an equipment manager for the upcoming season. He's hoping to connect with Brock University's sports management program for some co-op placements. As well, the push is

still on to recruit local billet families to host players from out of town. "We have a large surplus of players that will need billets that we could bring in," he explains. "We're hesitant to bring in some of them until we get some billets on our side here." Billet families receive \$550 per month for each player they take in, as well as season tickets to the Predators home games. They are expected to provide a private room and meals for their guests. Interested families can email Ferlatte at andrewferlatte97@gmail.com or team owner Robert Turnbull at turnbullr54@gmail.com. **Tickets on sale for OHL game at the MCU arena** Tickets are now on sale for the Sept. 7 game hosted by the Erie Otters at Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena. Tickets for the game between the Otters and the Niagara Ice Dogs are only \$10, with proceeds going to the NOTL Minor Hockey Club. They are available at Phil's Independent Grocer.



Russian goaltender Gorgii Kodzaev, 17, has been playing in that country's under-20 Division 1. (Photos supplied)



Forward Michael Santini has been acquired in a trade.

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