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, cultural 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 Pumphouse 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’s Indigenous/Francophone heritage, and key messaging of our part in the world that features events for able-bodied athletes as well as athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities.”

Continued on page 8

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 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 Grace, Sidney Crosby, Katari- na Ronson and Haley Wickenbecker, 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 9
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 have significantly more feedback than we 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 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 more 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 plan.

“The results of the review process will be presented to council before the TMP is finalized,” she said.

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 de- cided 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 extend into September” if more time is needed to digest information from the consultation process and “bring forward a fulsome plan for council consideration.”

“Council 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,’” he said.

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

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 town’s transportation master plan, says he believes the town has re- ceived a good response.

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

Simkus says given what resi- dents 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 all together, but others have, finding little in its propos- als worth keeping.

In her comments to the town, Krista Jones, representing the Niagara-on-the-Lake Conservancy, which works to pro- tect natural and built heritage, agreed with the transportation master plan declaration that it is “imperative that the preserva- tion of the character of neigh- bourhoods and the Old Town Council is a priority.”

But its recommendations don’t reflect those desires.

She strongly disagrees how- ever, with its claim that the current proposed multi-modal transportation master plan should be paramount in fu- ture decision-making, and firmly believes 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 re- design of Queen Street will neg- atively impact businesses and the residents of surrounding streets; that opening Ball Street is too late, he adds. While the process began three years ago, it was too late, he adds. While the process began three years ago, and there has been public en- gagement, it wasn’t until this last draft was recently released that the public was made aware of the details of the plan.

“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 the process the town follows.”

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

In hindsight, Simkus says, “this project was launched almost on the eve of COVID,” and 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 cur- rent round of public comments “a tidal wave.”

“If you address all your key points, what kind of skeleton will you be left with?”

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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 should approve any work that goes forward as, do the Benevolence 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 archeological 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 with out-going 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 archeology, history, geography, and current land conditions in the vicinity of the cemetery. In addition to looking at other archeological digs nearby, the background study includes archeological 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 archeological potential, or a stage 2 assessment be carried out.

The next step, 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 final; 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. If it is approved by council, will likely begin in the spring.

“I’ve always felt the Negro Burial Ground fall 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 or restricting 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.

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 Gravenor 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 acquainted to direct 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 supporter 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 he gets it approved, 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-autiful day to celebrate World Nature Conservation Day last Thursday at B.Y.’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 cocoacandicacyforkids@gmail.com, to sign up for the next Dive into the Hive workshops. B.Y.’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)
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 a taste of life and less than a handful of small props at its centre. Actors sit uninvited next to the 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, explaining 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 Seeto 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 contrasting 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 Sensations, 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 Octo- room 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 geographical location.

There are some nods to modern times, however, buy all that stuff you have to do. You might glance at your beauty might take on multiple allegorical characters as the play progresses. The audience also meets Strength, Beauty, Mind and Sensations, 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.

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

The theatre-in-the-round seating means each 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.

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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 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

So delicious!

丈夫和妻子Sang-Il Lee和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)
Emancipation Day has special meaning in NOTL

This statement was re-leas...
READER AGREEMENTS

talking to a lot of people from the town or the village. We can do all these things together, and keep the balance intact. So, just as Toronto continued to be able to develop and improve, we still want to keep the balance intact.

I think most people expect it to be that way. It’s nice balance. At the moment we are all here for pretty sure. I have the same reason for both of those, so must be there.

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

Terry Davis
NOTL

Don’t rush approval of transportation master plan

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

The report also suggests that parking spaces and vehicular traffic would be shut down more and more into the surrounding residential blocks. There has already been much in the way of debate about this, and not just 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 roads might be able to access routes into the 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 to the need for the unnecessary stop signs that have been added to the intersection of Queen/i Niagara Boulevard at the front 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 transport plan.

Peter Millard

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 belong — on the sidewalk or on the road? Now we are considering how we integrate them into NOTL, altogether.

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 too would like to see them around. We are all here for the same reason for both of those, so must be there.

I think most people expect it to be that way. It’s nice balance. At the moment we are all here for pretty sure. I have the same reason for both of those, so must be there.

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

Terry Davis
NOTL

LOCAL LETTERS

READER AGREEMENTS

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 or 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 at 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 it over 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 think to consider the actual reasons 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 the way that traffic on the other two streets manages to end up on Charlotte? Do they think too that Charlotte is a town where most people expect it to be that way. It’s nice balance. At the moment we are all here for pretty sure. I have the same reason for both of those, so must be there.

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

Terry Davis
NOTL
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 posses, 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.”

At the first hand-over, Lord Mayor Betty Disero meets up with George Webber. (Penny Coles)
Cultural festival ‘one-of-a-kind event’

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.

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 Walters, Caverley’s sledge hockey coach, who nominated him to be a torchbearer. Walters is programs and events manager at ParaSport Ontario.

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.

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

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 experiences 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 Shannegyancok and LadyLake 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.

continued from page 1
3 ways you may be losing money without knowing it

1. Spending on unused services
   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.

2. Mismanaging automatic payments
   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.

   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.

   “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.”

www.newscanada.com

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Celebrate Seniors

Golden Years Guide

Safety reminders while at the cottage

(1C) 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.

Find or verify an LEC business in Ontario online at esasafe.com/contractor.

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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 Jerrold’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 dignity 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 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's App 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/

Local artist Lynne Gaetz is showcasing her paintings and mixed media works in a solo exhibition at Niagara Pumphouse 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)
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 (Photo supplied)

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-bloom. 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 finding with white, pink or dark pink blooms 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?

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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 artistic director, and his wife, Barb, are no strangers to the Niagara Peninsula. The couple have returned to the area over the years since Schubertiade went 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.

"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 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'Ar gento (with Sibylle Mar guard 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 for tickets and information.

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)
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 is your favourite thing to 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 do something for charity what charity would you want to help?
A. I would want to help the Leukemia and Lymphoma society.

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Family-Friendly August project courtesy of The Niagara Pumphouse

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AUGUST PROJECT

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(Artist’s Corner)

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JOKE

Why did the boy eat his homework?

A. Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake.

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SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you.
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 Balsam)
Imagine a couple of islands, sitting in a giant tub of transparent water. One of these islands is inhabited, home to about 600 locals who live in serendipitous and casual times, conversing 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 cat grass grows here. The hot moisture is briefly broken by colossal thunderstorms in the night, which excite the scores of fish swimming around the islands.

Am I talking about a tropical island 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 skiff in tow. We had concludend the best way to explore for four days would be by means of boats around these islands and underpinning up on more remote stretches of shoreline.

While standing on the upper deck of the Pelee Island II Ferry as it led Leamington and mainland Canada behind, the first thing that became apparent was just how big Pelee Island is in relation to 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 for 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 by the tides of development. There was very little in the way of new systems on foot. The day erupting 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 8-inch Jordan 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 naturally-occurring black pigmentation). This, to me, speaks to the ge-netic diversity and health present on the island.

Sixty seconds later, Brandon and I encountered a log and found not one but two eastern newts. A wood frog was cuddling up with them, and wanted 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 swordsmen, 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 bushwhacked through a jungle-like environment and found ourselves standing at the southernmost point of populated Canada.

On day three, we woke up with a sun hangover. We were slow, and I had developed fever symptoms overnight. I was shivering, sweating, and shak-ing. I was in the tent during another raucous thunderstorm. I had hearing bocks aches and was lethargic. It was now that I learned from exploring Middle Island, Canada’s southernmost territory?

No way. Brandon and I avoided the boat and gasoline (which was only available at limited times for fill-up on the island), and navigated approximately 18 km of open Lake Erie water to get to Middle Island. The first part of the journey was agreeable. The second half was what most would refer to as sketchy or hairy waters.

Big, undulating waves bounced and body-checked Brandon’s 53-year-old vessel as we gave him credit for his nerves of steel, his calm, and his skill in that situation.

As we finally arrived at Middle Island, an insane cluster of birds emerged off of the shores. Cardinals, egrets, herons, and birds of prey came out of the physical block of land like homeworks out of their nest. They trilled and that wildly above our heads. It was loud. With 100 metres to land, we could already smell the pungency of bird feces, a stench mix of ammonia and chicken farm.

As we found the only agreeable spot to anchor the boat along the island’s rough limestone shores, I remember my fiercest body hopping out of the boat and into the water, with shivers and aches, and were 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 crows. If you didn’t know what you were listening to, it would be utterly terrifying. Brandon and I actually thought we were hearing wild pigs, given the low and impressive-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. “Thank God that was the sound as the fish car-cass fell from the treetops. Oddly 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 for a soak with lion people, and then began the precarious boat ride back to our camp on Pelee Island.

The trip wrapped up day four with one of the best sur-prises 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 hot, clay soil. The alvar on Pelee Island can reach 40 degrees Celsius with no problem, every summer. We were mind-ed of something from Florida or Australia.

Brandon, who 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.

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

Owen Bjorn can catch the fox snake he was looking for on Pelee Island.

Owen Bjorn and his friend Brandon celebrate being the southern-most Canadians on the uninhabited Middle Island. (Owen Bjorn)

Owen Bjorn. Special to The Local
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 going to be there, 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. The opening ceremonies are Friday night.

Strange had been very involved through the 1960s putting together a new sports structure for Canada, "Rosemary tells The Local. "There had been no sports media presence 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 being named an Honorary 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 can’t buy a ticket that I really want to go, I can always get a job 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. 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 Toronto in 1985. He 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, and a double gold medalist at the 2006 Commonwealth Games and an 11-time Canadian amateur boxing champion.

McKeever is the first pa-raathlete to be inducted into the Canada Games Hall of Fame. The 49-year-old winter Paralympian represented Team Alberta in cross-country skiing at the 1991 Canada Winter Games. He has competed at five 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 all-star represented Team America at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. He is a four-time NBA all-star, an 11-time NBA all-star and an Order of Canada recipient. Nash is currently sitting on the board of directors. Don passed away in 2018. When those matches end, the pairings go to each team’s number two players against one another. Then, finally, there is a men’s doubles match and a women’s doubles match on both courts played by each remaining member of the provinces’ team. That means every team member has played and there are a total of four matches per group. Each group 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 three players that give them the best chance to win the tiebreaker."

The teams are playing for what are called ‘flag points’ on a team’s behalf. At the end of the week there will be 32 ties played, which could amount to up to 192 matches. Each team 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 August 13. The gold medal game is expected to be played at 3 p.m. on 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, Aug. 20.

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

For tickets to the events in NOTL or anywhere in the region, visit nathl2022games.ca/tickets.
Across:
1. Old computer dial-up device
2. Adjust
3. Imperfect person
4. Fort Utah, formerly
5. Food scraps
6. Fort Utah, formerly
10. I
11. North Dakota
12. I
13. Pear
14. Pear
15. Orts
16. News
17. Green light
18. Area
19. Area
20. Kale
21. Roster
22. Ours
23. Carpet
24. Bluish
25. None
26. None
27. Spiel
28. Alloys
29. Upgrades
30. Enroll
31. Nines
32. Ruins
33. Cries
34. Ann
35. Pipe
36. Ruben
37. Okra
38. ES P
39. Moral
40. Rascals
41. The women
42. Widths
43. Barn
44. Prima donnas
45. Mischievous ones
46. Horse that has not won a race
47. Asia
48. Slipped into
49. It – rocket science'
50. The Martian --- (Ray Bradbury)
51. Care plan
52. Greek X
53. Extra-office computer system
54. Before
55. Carrier to Copenhagen, briefly
56. Sith
57. Emit
58. Snakes
59. Taos
60. So as
61. Nines.

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. Degrees in mathematics?
9. Steroid hormone
10. Cascades peak
11. Stockbroker State
12. "How obvious!"
13. Seckel or Bartlett
14. H! products
15. Bear in Brittany
16. Hill pr
17. Seckel or Bartlett
18. Flickertail State
19. Steroid hormone
20. "How obvious!"
21. "How obvious!"
22. H! products
23. Bear in Brittany
24. Slightly off-color, I'm in red
25. Put on top, wavy lines do badly
26. Not one
27. Pitch
28. Name of eight popes
29. Register
30. Winds
31. Preparations for keeping
32. Wines and dines
33. Crush turn
34. Course halves
35. Measure
36. Measure
37. Measure
38. Measure
39. Measure
40. Official sitting
41. Course halves
42. Side-to-side measurements
43. Where the cows come home to
44. Commissions
45. Spy on a plane
46. Slightly off-color, I'm in red
47. Largest of seven, round the world
48. Any of 44 Across could sing one
49. Isn't
50. Chronicles
51. Care plan
52. Greek X
53. Extra-office computer system
54. Before
55. Carrier to Copenhagen, briefly
56. Sith
57. Emit
58. Snakes
59. Taos
60. So as
61. Nines.

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IN MEMORIAM

NOV 17, 1951 - AUG 4, 2020

In loving memory of Brent Christopher Carver. Two years have already passed without you, rivers of tears of sorrow and joy have been shed and, above all, memories of wonderful times together are shared and treasured every day. Love always, family and friends.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

Sudoku solution from
July 27, 2022
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 playoffs, 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.

“Staying on the goalie front was very important,” Ferlatte says. “He was brought to us by an agent,” Ferlatte of Kodzaev. “We’ve had a very good track record of moving goalies to the better junior levels and colleges and universities. This was obviously the best fit for Gorgii. He 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.”

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. “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 andrew.ferlatte97@gmail.com or team owner Robert Turnbull at turnbullr54@gmail.com.

Mike Balsom
The Local

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