

The Niagara-on-the-Lake LOCAL



Former
NOTL club
champ
makes a
career of golf
page 14

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Liz and John Hawley loved time together at their cottage in Ridgeway, getting away from their hectic lives to recharge, and to spend time with their kids and grandchildren. Liz, who loved being a nana, cuddles with Merritt, one of her six grandkids, on the cottage porch overlooking Lake Erie. (Photos supplied)

Hawley family loses beautiful wife, mother and nana

The community is mourning the loss of Liz Hawley, 'a generous spirit'

Penny Coles
The Local

Liz Hawley, wife to John, mother to three adult sons and their wives, and nana to six adored little ones between the ages of nine months and three years, was entering what could have been the best stage of her life.

Instead, at the age of 60, she was taken tragically in an automobile accident on Niagara

Stone Road last Wednesday, hit head-on by a young man who was, at press time, in critical condition.

To all who knew her, she was a loving, generous spirit, motivated by faith in all she did.

It was because of her faith, her love of God, that she was able to have such love for others, says John.

"She genuinely cared about people. She loved everybody.

Even people who met her once were impacted. People weren't sure what to do with her — she was so strong and loving."

She was the matriarch of the family, says John, "and she encouraged all of us to be close to the Lord."

Liz died suddenly, but she left without one unresolved issue with anybody, John says. If there were ever any issues, with the family or anyone else, she'd

be sure they were resolved. "She was an amazing peace-maker, and a peace-seeker."

The day after Liz died, he and the boys had a conversation about how they would go on, says John.

"I had Liz with me for 38 years, the best years of my life. The boys had the best mom they could have had. This was a tragic situation. But there will be no blame. We can't let that be her legacy. We will focus on what we had, not what we might have had."

He and the family have spent the last few days in Ridgeway, in the cottage on Lake Erie

that Liz chose as a getaway for her and John, for the kids, and for the grandkids when they came along. They looked at photos, and shared stories and memories of Liz.

"Is this painful? It's brutally painful," says John.

But he is determined to focus on all the good they have shared. Their glass wasn't just half full, it was overflowing, he says.

"I ask myself why she chose me, why she put up with me. I have no idea why. I lucked out, I guess. I'm blessed. I have to focus on that. It's the right thing to do."

Whatever John did or accomplished in business, she

was there beside him, working with him. It was her idea to have the Wednesday Supper Market. When she suggested it, John says he asked her why people would want to come out to a bunch of food trucks. "And look at it. It was a great event. People loved it."

Although as the developer of The Village subdivision, he was the face of so much that happened there, "she was part of everything I did. She was beside me every stop of the way," he says.

For a time, she poured her

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NOTL man arrested for alleged assault of protester

Penny Coles
The Local

After three years of protests against horse-drawn carriages in Niagara-on-the-Lake, police have made their first arrest involving a member of the public and an animal rights activist.

The Niagara Regional Police have charged a 37-year-old Niagara-on-the-Lake man with assault and theft, following an altercation with a protester that occurred Saturday, July 25, around 1 p.m., at the corner of King and Picton Streets in NOTL, an area of the Old Town frequented by

protesters against horse-drawn carriages.

The man who has been charged is not believed to be associated with the Locals for Carriages, the group supporting local carriage companies, says Const. Phil Gavin of the NRP.

Family members of the accused man had been for a carriage ride that afternoon, and were approached by a protester expressing his concern about horse-drawn carriages. About 45 minutes later, a sign was taken from the protester and bent in half, and a cell phone was also taken, says Gavin.

During the initial investigation uniform officers were able to recover the property of the protester, the cell phone and the sign.

Last week, a day before the incident in the Old Town, Niagara Falls Inspector James McCaffery took the unusual step of issuing a public statement asking all those involved in the ongoing protests, including Locals for Carriages counter-protesters, to participate in “meaningful discussions and negotiations that speak to the core issues of the dispute, and find some resolution.”

“Our officers will con-

tinue to do their duty as it relates to all parties involved in the ongoing dispute over animal rights and the carriage businesses in NOTL,” says McCaffery in the July 24 public plea. “We will maintain our neutrality and continue to manage the situation using discretion, education, and where required, enforcement. We will continue to avail ourselves to both sides for discussion, as the maintaining of the public peace and safety for all those involved, and the community remains paramount to our officers.”

Police are also concerned about the esca-

tion of comments on social media, Gavin says. “That escalation is not what we want.”

Protesters and counter-protesters often video activity between the two groups at the intersection, one of the busiest in town during the tourist season, and those videos are often included on social media.

For three years, the police goal has been to preserve peace for all involved, including members of the community and visitors to the community, Gavin says, but the core issues have not being resolved.

“NOTL is not the first to be challenged” with this

issue, he says.

“There are potential solutions out there.”

On July 29, Mark Giordani of Niagara-on-the-Lake turned himself in and was arrested and charged with the alleged criminal offences of assault and theft. The NRP had reached out to him to explain his arrest was imminent, Gavin says.

Giordani was released with a promise to appear at a future court date.

The investigation remains ongoing. Anyone who may have witnessed the incident is asked to contact detectives at 905-688-4111, extension 2200.

Flashing green lights help volunteer firefighters

Drivers can help firefighters save precious seconds on way to emergency

Penny Coles
The Local

In the province of Ontario, volunteer firefighters are permitted to equip their personal vehicles with flashing green lights, which are intended to send a message to oth-

er drivers on the road that they are on their way to an emergency.

It’s meant as a request to drivers that they should pull over or let the vehicle pass, to allow the volunteers to save potentially life-saving seconds arriving at their destination,

which could be a fire, a traffic collision or a medical emergency.

It’s a courtesy request reserved for volunteer fire departments, not mandatory legislation, says NOTL deputy fire chief Jay Plato.

It doesn’t give volun-

teers any special privileges — they can’t speed or travel through red lights or stop signs, as their full-time paid counterparts in other municipalities do.

Although volunteer departments have spent decades reminding drivers of the meaning of the flashing green lights, there are always drivers who don’t recognize the reason for them, says Plato.

Some may be new residents, who have moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from large urban areas with paid full-time firefighters, and others are visitors from the Toronto

area or the big cities.

It can be frustrating for the firefighters, Plato says, although the lack of understanding has been an issue for so long they’ve learned to accept it.

This issue is not about the community not doing its part, he says. “The community as a whole embraces it and accepts it. This is about education and promotion, so more drivers are aware of the lights and what they represent. This is a tourism community, and people coming to town from large cities don’t understand volunteer fire departments. We

know people would want to help if they understood what the lights mean.”

Last week the Region delivered about 20 new signs to NOTL, with reminders about flashing green lights. Some have already been installed on regional roads in town, and there will be a few more new ones on municipal roads, says Plato. Other signs are being moved to more visible locations, in an attempt to educate drivers about the meaning of flashing green lights, which were legislated in Ontario for use by volunteer departments in 1994.

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NOTL deputy fire chief Jay Plato standing beside a flashing green light sign. (Penny Coles)

Museum continues to engage community through pandemic

Penny Coles
The Local

Despite a pandemic that has cancelled most live events, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is having a busy summer, keeping the public engaged, while moving toward an exciting future.

This is a museum with staff and board members determined to rebrand, expand and redesign space for programming and exhibits.

They won't stand still, and if there is a perception of museums as dusty old spaces, that's not this museum, says Sarah Kaufman, curator and managing director. It's a small space, for now at least, with a lot going on, including high-quality exhibitions, programs, lectures, and more to come.

At the moment, next on their agenda is an at-home, day camp with crafts and activities to keep kids happy and busy while they learn about the history of their community.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is offering free kits for its Kid Curator summer camps during the month of August. Each week has a specific theme, and kits will be provided with crafts and activities for that theme.

Although the kits are free, Kaufman says the museum is asking parents to consider a donation of \$25 to help cover the cost of materials.

Each kit needs to be ordered the Friday before the camp, and picked up on the Sunday or Monday of that camp week.

Shawna Butts, assistant curator and educational programmer has been working with program assistant Emma Facca, a Brock university student working for the summer at the museum, to develop curator camp themes that will keep youngsters interested. Some of the themes have been taken from past camps, and some are new, says Butts.

Next week, the camp begins with All Along the Waterfront, a topic that is important in NOTL, especially recently, says Butts.

"Each craft will come with instructions," says Kaufman, who with her own youngsters at home, knows how important it is to keep them occupied. "We show them how to do the activity, and what the end result should look like. They should be able to do that with minimum adult supervision. The kits should be great for parents who need to work at home, and have their kids working alongside them."

The activities are aimed at kids ages six to 10.

The museum is now open to the public, and has resumed walking tours, but until recently, was focused on keeping the public engaged through virtual programming.

A popular lecture series has been successful in the transition, says Kaufman.

Like many other organizations, the museum had plans to further develop online resources, but with COVID came a push to move forward more quickly than anticipated.

"Everyone is working hard to continue to be engaged with the public, to have a place in the community," says Kaufman.

It has turned out to be helpful for community members who aren't comfortable going out, and for reaching people through different formats.

"This has created a whole other level of awareness. I think our presence on social media, which we were more or less pushed into with COVID, really helped getting our name out there."

It also came along at a time when they were already in the process of rebranding the museum, says Kaufman, chief of which was the new name for the former Niagara Historical Museum. "The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum is more fitting, because we are the community museum. We've always seen ourselves that way."

Next on their agenda is to put programming together and prepare to take the Tiny Museum on the road.

The museum recently received \$37,800 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Seed Grant and \$25,000 from

the David S. Howes Fund and Vintage Hotels NOTL Community Fund at the Niagara Community Foundation. The funds will be used towards the creation of exhibitions and education programs for their mobile museum. It sits on a trailer, parked beside the museum, with a truck ready to be loaded up with artifacts to take out into the community.

The hope is to be able to take it to schools, festivals and local events as they start up again, says Kaufman.

Each time it goes out into the community, the exhibits that travel with it can be tailored to the event and the community, she explains, such as Canada Day, the Peach Festival, The Landscape of Nations, the Virgil Stampede, or even a business event. "There are so many options for community exhibits," she says.

School programs can also be adapted to supplement curriculums, says Kaufman, who is excited to think of all the outreach possibilities and opportunities for the Tiny Museum to take history out to the community.

Also exciting to contemplate is the coming expansion to the building, which has not seen a major renovation since the 1970s.

Kaufman says the expansion plans have not changed, nor has their budget, but once it's time to start construction, it may have to be modified.

Currently all public programs must be held within the museum's galleries, or outside the courtyard, due to a lack of proper programming space. That will change with the expanded space.

Also propelling the project is the need to accommodate the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, by 2025.

The expansion is expected to cost about \$8 million, with a \$2 million fundraising campaign that was put on hold due to the pandemic.

Kaufman says she doesn't know yet whether the pandemic will also affect construction costs, and won't until they are closer to the start of the project.



Emma Facca, a Brock university student working at the museum this summer, Shawna Butts, assistant curator and educational programmer, and Sarah Kaufman, curator and managing director, show Kaufman's five-year-old daughter Isabel all the goodies that come in a Kid Curator Camp kit. (Photos by Penny Coles)

"There's so much we can't determine, but we're still moving forward with our budget and our plans. We are essentially shovel-ready."

In the meantime, they've been working on the permits they need from the Town, so they can begin the next step, the procurement process.

And a lot of work ahead. With the major construction project they're facing, Kaufman says, the museum will be closed and all the artifacts will have to be safely stored safely off-site during that time.

"We'll have to do a lot of packing away at the museum,

and we have to find a remote location to work from," she says.

They've been putting feelers out and doing some research on the safest location for a year or two.

The site they choose will have to be climate controlled, or if not, can be adapted, she says. They'd also like to have staff there with the collection, and maybe be able to offer some research resources to the public.

The biggest question mark remains the infrastructure grant they are anticipating, which would fund about 75 per cent of the project. They expected news "this summer,"

Kaufman says. Now they're looking at the end of the summer to hear about that very significant source of funding.

If the major grant does not come through as expected, there are other avenues of grants they can search, she says.

One way or another, "this expansion is going to happen, and we're itching to go. There is a lot in the works."

For more information on the museum and its special events and exhibitions, visit www.niagarahistoricalmuseum.org or call 905-468-3912. The museum is located at 43 Castlereagh Street.



Sarah Kaufman and Shawna Butts are anxious to start taking the Tiny Museum, with all its tiny hidden spaces, out into the community. There are display cases, drawers and even little tables for hands-on learning.



The Tiny Museum is ready to go when programming is completed, schools are open and events are being held.

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St. Davids residents waiting to see progress on their park

Penny Coles
The Local

When 235 homes in Cannery Park went on the market in 2013, they were seen as the perfect place for young families. They sold out quickly, and along with other growth in St. Davids in recent years, have added substantially to the population of the village. Cannery Park is within walking distance of St. Davids Public School, near a golf course, churches and the St. Davids Lions Park, with a pool, playground, and tennis courts. Some of the families who have

moved to the new subdivision, many from the GTA, were looking for a quiet, peaceful neighbourhood to bring up their kids, and they found it in St. Davids. Shriti Gandhi is the mom of two youngsters, aged four and seven. She and her husband are one of the young couples who chose St. Davids and Niagara-on-the-Lake to bring up their family. She estimates about half of the homes in the subdivision have families with kids — families who were looking forward to the large green space in the centre of their neighbourhood as a community gathering space.

She loves her neighbourhood, but recently, she's been disappointed by the lack of attention paid to the park residents were really excited about. "I'm a little confused," she says, gesturing to the open space in the centre that has been fenced off all summer, and a playground that is in the open, blazing sun. "Is this all there is? I attended the town hall meetings, I was on Join the Conversation, and this isn't what I was expecting." She recalls the presentations of the designs, and the alternatives for the playground equipment, and she was excited to see some progress made. The playground was installed in the fall, and some grass planted this spring, but it has not been tended, and is off-limits for playing. She also has some questions about what is yet to be completed. The two main issues, she says, are the lack of shade and seating, both of which were priorities during discussions, and which she expected to see. "There is no shade, and there is no seating area," she says. There are young trees planted around the perimeter of the playground, but it will be years before they provide any shade. There is a large wooden pergola at the entrance, at the opposite end of the park to the playground, which doesn't really add much to the park, and doesn't provide shade, she says — she

would rather have seen the money spent on something useful. The majority of the park has offered no recreational space for kids this summer. "It's so sad, especially when most kids have been homebound for months." There was also a lot of discussion about a "concrete slab and basketball net," she says. Several homes have basketball nets at the end of driveways, and it would have been nice to see the kids off the street and playing in the park instead, she says. Before the construction of the park, the open field was used more than it is now. Kids played there, although the ground was uneven. It's been levelled off, which has been very helpful, but the grass that was planted didn't take, and now it's full of weeds, and closed off for use. "It was decent. It was a place for families to congregate. It's of no use to us now, not to mention aesthetically unpleasing," she says, struggling to come up with a word that isn't too harsh to describe its unkempt appearance, with patches of grass, dirt where nothing grows and a myriad of weeds. While she anticipates there will eventually be green space, she says, "is this what it's supposed to look like? I feel they could have done better."

Gandhi says she wonders if the Town is that interested in her neighbourhood — she knows the villagers were not excited about the high-density subdivision. "I know we're not NOTLers," she says, "but we moved here to be NOTLers." Mila Frith and her husband also came to St. Davids to escape a large urban area and raise their children in a small, safe community. She too says the park looks awful, and that it's a shame the open green space has been unusable this summer, although "since it's been landscaped, it's beautiful in comparison to what it was." However, "for a town that's known for how pretty it is, this kind of looks like it's been slapped together. You can't really appreciate what was done because of the weeds." When the process began in 2018, the Town did a good job of listening to the residents' comments in terms of the playground equipment, which was chosen to accommodate a wide range of ages, as requested, but she too is disappointed that there is no shade, which she believes was mentioned from the beginning as important. She recalls the decision against the basketball court, but believes it would help to get children off the street and congregating at the park. Frith, who started a Cannery Park Facebook page for residents of the subdivision, says the other concern mentioned was the smell of the storm water pond, which the Region has now cleaned up. When the park was just a field, her three boys and others in the neighbourhood used the area to fly kites, play kickball,



Last week, the open green space was closed off and looking pretty dismal. (Photo supplied)



On Friday, the contractor cut the weeds, but most of the park remains closed off and unavailable for use, waiting for sod. (Penny Coles)

tag, soccer, and other games. "It was how the kids got to know each other," she says. While she appreciates the hot, dry summer has made it difficult to grow grass, she and her boys look forward to being able to use the green space again. When Gandhi contacted the Town last week about the condition of the park, she received a response that town staff were also concerned, and were working with the contractor to have the weeds cut before the end of the week, or town staff would do it. The contractor had said their attempt to establish grass, which was seeded in June with a layer of topsoil, was unsuccessful due to the recent heat wave. Acting director of operations Kevin Turcotte says the weeds were cut Friday, and the park is looking better. But there are still dirt patches, and the open space continues to be sectioned off, to prevent people from walking on the turf in its present condition. "We need a little bit more time," he says, asking residents to "be patient." When the public was engaged through open houses, and the playground designs presented, there was no shade indicated, although there are some small trees planted "in close proximity to the playground." There was never any plans for shade other than the trees, Turcotte said. There are definitely shade options, such as a sail structure, "but unfortunately that is not in the budget," he says. If the community feels they want or need shade, they could raise funds, and he'll work with them on a design they could take to council, "maybe as a

shared cost." The developer provided the site for the park, as part of development charges, but the town budget has to cover the cost of construction, although that money comes from the development charge reserve, not directly from taxpayers, Turcotte explained. Benches have been held up due to COVID, and will arrive and be installed shortly, under the pergola and others "placed strategically throughout the green space." There is also an armour stone wall for natural seating, he says. "A lot of people are excited" about the park, he adds. "We've gotten good feedback." Although a basketball court was discussed early on in the process of designing the park, Turcotte says the majority of residents felt it was unnecessary. He says he feels the well-attended open houses, comments on the town's website and the engagement of the public were signs that the process of involving the residents worked well for the community. He's looking forward to an official park opening, hopefully in September. Town staff continue to work on a path that will connect the subdivision to the St. Davids Lions park on York Road, says Turcotte. There was a delay initially while waiting for the developer and owner of the property to turn it over to the Town, he says, but that transfer has been completed and staff are working on a design. Staff have to do some clearing and surveying before working out further details. "It's definitely in the works," he says.



Mila Frith and her boys Luke, three, Zeke, 10 and Isaac, eight, visited the park Thursday, but couldn't stay long in the heat. She and others in the Cannery Park subdivision were hoping for a shaded area for the kids. (Penny Coles)



Face Covering **Required** in Enclosed Spaces

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has mandated the wearing of masks, face shields or face coverings in all indoor public spaces (By-law 5248-20)



Let's help each other stay safe!

The following exemptions are provided in the By-law:

- Children under the age of 10
- Persons with medical conditions which inhibit their ability to wear a mask (i.e. breathing or cognitive difficulties)
- Persons who are unable to apply or remove a mask without assistance (i.e. those accommodated under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act)
- Persons who have protections, including reasonable accommodations, in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code which would prevent them from wearing a mask
- Persons while assisting or accommodating another person with a hearing disability

*Face coverings may be temporarily removed under certain circumstances



#StaySafeNOTL
notl.com/covid-19



Liz and John, Jay and Samantha, Ransom and Whitney and Adam and Brianne Hawley celebrated the new year together. The beautiful family, which includes six grandchildren, is devastated to have lost Liz, to whom family and community were most important. (Photo supplied)

Strong faith and beliefs will help family carry on

Continued from page 1

creativity into the Refuge Antiques & Giftery, a store beside the Garrison House restaurant. She loved it, loved working with her friend Nancy Widdicombe, and loved the people who came into the store.

Nancy also speaks of that time with fondness, when she was working with her dear friend.

Liz, she says, "was larger than life. Working with Liz was such a blessing on so many levels. She created something new everyday."

She just never stopped, says Nancy. "Watching her get excited, and explain her vision to me daily, was exhilarating."

Liz "was the most talented, positive, loving and supportive person I've had the privilege to call my friend," says Nancy.

"We had a silly friendship. We laughed so much everyday, working, watching her dance to really great songs in the store."

Customers might have thought the pair "kinda crazy," she adds. "But that's what made us work. We were, and were proud of it. We had a beautiful crazy friendship based on love!"

John says he eventually had to ask Liz to give up the store, because he needed an office, but as the next stage of the development comes about, the village centre with more shops, Liz wanted to bring creative individuals together.

He still feels connected spiritually to her, feels her close to him, and as he continues the next stage, he says, she'll be there with him. "I never imagined she wouldn't be here to see through this next exciting stage with me. We have to finish it with excellence, and honour her. Everything we do will have a new meaning," says John. "She had such an aura. She was so amazing."

Liz was always good with a crowd, good at parties, always welcoming, "but she was really an introvert," he says. The Ridgeway cottage was the place to relax, be together, "and come back recharged, ready to do what we needed to do."

Adam, Liz and John's oldest son, also speaks of the time away for all of them at the cottage, especially once the babies started arriving.

He says she was patient about grandchildren, never asked him when he and Bri-

anne were going to have children, or even specifically said she wanted grandchildren. "But we knew she loved kids, and would want grandkids. One day she let it slip. I was 33, had been married a while, with no sign of a baby, and she said 'you're getting a little old, aren't you?' She was waiting. And once my parents bought the place in Ridgeway to escape to, she knew eventually grandchildren would be around. She designed a perfect place to be together, to make memories together. She created play spaces, spaces for the family to have fun, and chaos, and laughter. She loved it there."

Adam also talks of her creativity. "It spilled into everything she did in life. One of her focuses was on the model homes. Everybody in The Village would come to see what she had done with them."

John would suggest that "since the last one was such a hit, maybe you could use the same tiles, the same flooring." And she'd say, "maybe..." And then everything would be completely different. She wanted to express her creativity."

Another outlet for her creativity, combined with her love of helping others, was Jewellery for Justice. Liz found great joy in creating beautiful jewellery, but even more in investing in the lives of women in pain, women who were abused or exploited in the sex trade. But she didn't just support them financially, says Adam, "she walked beside them as they came back into society. She was passionate about helping them, and became a mentor to many women, a lot of women who are devastated right now."

She was also supportive of her three sons, says Adam, "in terms of who we were, what we enjoyed. She took an interest in each of us as individuals, whether it was sports or music, or anything that interested us. She wasn't a huge fan of violence in sports, though. She'd watch us, but she didn't like to see us get tackled."

Adam says his parents, who were married for 37 years, "were closer now than they've ever been. They worked together. Everything they did, they did together. There was nothing they weren't involved in together."

As the family spent time in

Ridgeway after her death, the memories were comforting, but what helped most was her strong faith and beliefs, says Adam.

"In the midst of tragedy, we were able to feel moments of peace, and find God. Her faith gave us that ability to come together as a family."

Michelle Mercer, pastor of the Gateway Church in Virgil, knew Liz, John and the Hawley family through various church events and connections, and remembers Liz as someone who "gave others courage to take steps of faith to reach their dreams."

For Liz, "her dreams would have been faith-based. God was calling her to make a difference," and she did, through her work with other women, and her community. All the good she did to help others "were examples of her living out her faith, her sense of being led by the Holy Spirit in her actions and deeds."

Faith, she says, will help John and the family to know they can carry on. "They will have hope eternal, hope that there is something more than the here and now, and that they will see each other again some day."

John also comes back to the importance of faith to Liz, and to the family.

"I don't know how we would have got through this otherwise. I can't explain pain and suffering, or even death. Death sucks. But that doesn't mean there isn't a God. We know our faith will help pull us through this."

He goes quiet for a moment, and then recalls something else that is helping him.

"We were told she died instantly. Mercifully, she wouldn't have had a chance to know what was coming. I'm so grateful for that, that she didn't suffer."

Yes, he was angry. "I was very angry at God, and I had to sort that out. God's a big guy, he can take it. But I can't live on that. I can't let it eat me up. That would be a horrible legacy for Liz. Bitterness is no solution. I can't allow us to go there," says John.

It wouldn't be Liz's way, "and it wouldn't bring her back."

Liz leaves her husband John; her three brothers; her three sons and their wives, Adam and Brianne, Ransom and Whitney, and Jay and Samantha; and her six grandchildren, Ransom, Merritt, Easton, Callie, Malcolm, and Levi.

As more businesses and services reopen, we must all continue our efforts to protect each other.



Continue to practice physical distancing, stay two metres apart even in gatherings.



Wear a face covering where physical distancing is a challenge or where required.



Continue to wash hands frequently.



Get tested if you are worried you may have COVID-19, or have been exposed to the virus.

Inside or out, stay safe. Save lives.

EDITORIAL

A life lived with love

Liz Hawley had a strong presence in this community. She was loved, respected, and admired for her kindness and generosity. As has been said by many, you only had to spend a very short time in her company to know there was something special about her, to feel her warmth and love for all.

She and John have made their home in Niagara for almost three decades, they brought up their family here, and are leaving their indelible stamp on this town through the beautiful subdivision they created with their love, their commitment to quality, and their attention to detail.

It's not finished, has a little ways to go, but we know John will make sure Liz's influence is felt when it is completed.

The much more important impact Liz will have made on the community is the life she led, her genuine affection for people, the warmth she exuded. She has demonstrated that a life well-lived is lived with love. Not just for some, for all.

Her family says it was her faith that gave her such unlimited capacity to love others, and that they were blessed to have her share her faith and encourage it in them.

We may not all share her strong faith, or any faith, we may have faith that comes from a different spirit, but we can believe in love, in treating others with the spirit of kindness, if we can find it within ourselves. That is the example Liz set for those she touched.

It's so much easier to be an-

gry, to judge, to withhold the spirit of love. We may find ourselves doing that for such superficial and unimportant reasons. We have to wear a mask. Others aren't following the lines in the grocery store.

The Hawleys have reason to be angry, but instead they are resolving not to carry anger and bitterness within them. They are determined to live a legacy Liz deserves.

We were blessed to have Liz as a member of our community for the time she was here. Let's allow Liz, and the Hawley family, to remind us what is important in life, to give us courage to carry love in our hearts.

If they can, so can we.

Penny Coles
The Local

LETTERS

Thank you to our volunteer firefighters

Thank you. I've always appreciated the role of our volunteer firefighters, but this week has made me even more grateful for living in this community.

Last week a friend and I passed an accident scene I wish I never saw. As the fire trucks with their sirens on rushed down Niagara Stone Road, my eyes welled with tears because I knew what they were headed to.

Later that evening I found out that one of our fierce community leaders had passed away in that accident. She was a wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Someone who knew the meaning of "community" and lived it. Someone who gave her heart to those who needed it. Someone who has left a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Our firefighters live and

breathe community.

It brings me back to what I have said so many times before. I have comfort in knowing that if I'm ever in an emergency, the first on scene will be someone I know. A familiar face. A friend.

A few times in the past, my family had emergency situations where the first on scene were the men and women of our amazing fire department. As soon as they arrive, there is a comfort that takes over the fear and anxiety just with the presence of familiar faces.

On the other side of this, they respond to EVERY call in NOTL knowing that the person they are rushing to rescue may be a friend, loved one, member of our tight community. They have a strong desire to help others, with the extra courage that is required when

living in a small community. They leave work, family dinner and gatherings as soon as their pager goes off. That takes a special person, willing to put their lives on a brief hold to help others.

My admiration and gratitude for these men and women grow stronger with the days. I cannot thank them enough for all they do.

Get to know the team, and thank them.

My hope is that none of you will ever be in a situation where you or your loved ones will need the services of our incredible firefighters, but if you are, know that they will be there. To all 100-plus staff and volunteers of our five stations: thank you.

Maria Mavridis
NOTL

Community fund supports palliative care



A recent donation from the Niagara Community Fund to the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service purchased 20 iPads, which will be used to connect patients in long-term care facilities with their family members. It will also help provide bereavement support. During past months, the ability to connect has become a challenging issue, and the palliative care staff are excited about the new initiative made possible by the donation. The NOTL Community Fund is under the umbrella of the Niagara Community Foundation, which helps local champions and philanthropists to support the work of the charitable sector in NOTL, including organizations like the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service. In the photo are Mike Berlis, chair of the NOTL Community Fund, Patricia Whitwell, palliative care service board chair, and Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director of the service, at their office on Wellington Street. (Photo supplied)



Auchterlonie on Astrology

Bill Auchterlonie
Special to The Local

The full week of Aug. 6 to 12 of Auchterlonie on Astrology can be found on the Facebook page for The NOTL Local, and on the website www.auchterlonieonastrology.ca.

Tuesday, Aug 11: Today is the third quarter Moon at 12:44 p.m. and 19 degrees Taurus. Because it happens when the Sun is so high in the sky just after noon, we enjoy ample opportunities to boost our reputations. The day winds down by winding up with willpower

to uncover new truths and build better partnerships. On Aug. 11, 1984, US President Ronald Reagan joked that he had just authorized the bombing of Russia to begin in five minutes. It was an off-the-record comment, not broadcast live but later leaked to the public.



Views from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

E. M. Forster wrote *Where Angels Fear to Tread* in 1991, three years before his masterpiece, *Room With a View*. It offers the same contrasts of stuffy

England with voluptuous Italy, but has a darker plot and not so nice people; however, the stellar performances of Helena Bonham Carter and Helen Mirren make this film a valuable experience.

Donald Combe is a

retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. During the pandemic, restricted to Netflix, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions of what he is watching with "short and sweet" exclusive reviews 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. The deadline is Monday at noon.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community

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

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

Publisher:
The Niagara-on-the-Lake Local

Graphic Designer:
Rosie Gowse
composing@notllocal.com

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

Julia Coles
julia@notllocal.com • 905-934-1040

Helen Arsenault
Local Business Directory,
Local Happenings, Classified Sales
classified@notllocal.com

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The opinions expressed in submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of The NOTL Local.

COMMENT

Exploring great outdoors is healthy activity for kids



Owen Bjorgan
Special to The Local

With summer camps and many sports unavailable at the moment, I'm always intrigued as an educator, and as a person, as to how the youth

are responding to these unprecedented times. I feel like many of us are being reminded of how critical these summer services really are.

Like many native wildlife species, Canadians thrive in the summer months. Sports, gatherings, parties, travelling, and free time for youth. Heck, our school season is designed around enjoying two months of peak summer weather in Canada!

However, most adults work. When the youth aren't having their curious minds exercised, they can wreak subtle havoc on themselves and their parents alike. Exploring the great outdoors is arguably the most primal way to gain new experiences, burn off some steam, and do something healthy all at once.

I have been fortunate to get some pretty unfiltered feedback from kids about

missing school, summer camps, and getting back out into nature. These conversations have taken place over the past few days, during a couple of recent hiking tours I ran with parents and their kids.

On one of my tours, four boys arrive armed and ready with bug nets, backpacks, and more enthusiasm than the average adult. One little guy even has a 'bug gun,' which is a battery-powered, vacuum-shaped plastic gun that sucks up insects into a little jar with a lid.

We were going to explore the banks of a large creek in Lincoln. I have a moment to candidly ask them something I'm always wondering.

"So, there hasn't been any school for a little bit. Do you miss it, or are things fun and okay?"

The one boy keeps an eye-ball to the ground through the magnifying glass I let him borrow.

He roars, "it has been the best time to explore and be with my friends!"

Extra emphasis on the word "best." He meant it. So did his little brother and his two buddies who accompanied him for the adventure.

When kids are denied opportunities to summer outings, their two most exploratory months of not only the natural world, but their social skills, may become altered.

On another outing with a different family, one of the young guys was full of fire and energy. He's going to be a rock climber one day, likely in this same area we're touring together.

He tells me how he's excited to see his "back-to-school" materials packed up. He told me of his new backpack, and how he's excited to see his friends again. Standing in the depths of this forest, I transported myself to a time where I was just a kid, down here with my own parents, definitely excited about the same thing.

His siblings are strong ones, making the trek through the muggy and tropical-feeling Carolinian forest. His oldest sister seems pretty okay about the whole change-up. Relaxed and easy-going, she made me hope not too many kids spend as much time recycling pandemic thoughts as we do.

"The germs are out there," says one of the boys from my previous tours, as I sadly de-

clined a high-five opportunity from him. Bizarre. Moments later in the hike, we found a tulip tree growing near his backyard. I told him how rare and significant that was. He took zero social distancing measures, and a moment later, he had stopped to hug this tree appreciatively for a long moment.

His brother and buddies stood by quietly, without judgement. I pictured them in 10 years; it was hilarious. I might be wrong, but they probably have some great canoe and camping trips ahead of them. The camaraderie and sense of wonder for the outdoors is already alive.

Adventurous spirits and strong little legs will hopefully continue to prevail when other opportunities remain on hold this summer.

With the last few outings I've had with families, the innocence has been real. It was the most "normal" stuff I've seen in months. It made me realize how much I missed educating the young about our natural wonders, while they experience new places and understand what's available in their backyard. Especially here in Niagara. They are all students of life.



The boy hugging the tree held on with appreciation when he heard how rare the tulip tree near his backyard is. It was a special moment that creates a lot of conversation during an unusual summer for kids. (Owen Bjorgan)

NOTL TAWG: United, inclusive, diverse, efficient

NOTL TAWG
Special to The Local

The NOTL Tourism Advisory Working Group (NOTL TAWG) is now becoming an official entity under the auspices of Tourism Niagara-on-the-Lake (Tourism NOTL), with a clear goal and vision to work in collaboration with town council and staff on finding and implementing the solutions that will lead to a better managed and more sustainable tourism experience for all in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Our determined and committed group came to existence in early January 2020. The NOTL TAWG not only efficiently assembles around the same table a variety of tourism and business stakeholders, but

as well some of the most experienced and qualified individuals from the NOTL tourism industry, all ready to join forces, roll up their sleeves and work together for the benefit of both residents and business owners alike.

The group's current primary focus is to help manage this year's pandemic tourism response, but discussions are already taking place on the creation of a sustainable tourism strategic plan in order to help establish a clear workable path for the future of our town and its tourism industry. The NOTL TAWG recognizes that such a general plan needs to be clear, actionable and inclusive of the amazing diversity of people visiting, living and working in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The COVID-19 pandemic regrettably delayed our efforts towards a tourism strategic plan, as everyone has had to focus on survival. The group is now reuniting and open to start working on specific long term tourism aspects like parking management and traffic flow.

A short-term plan is developing to help with pandemic recovery efforts as tourism slowly increases back to a target of 30 per cent of last year's numbers. This experience has helped us all to recognize that tourism is more than ever vital to the short and long term survival of our town. We now need a carefully crafted sustainable tourism strategy built by the industry stakeholders and key representatives themselves. We must get organized,

put any differences and private agendas aside and better collaborate to move forward from here for the betterment of our community.

So many people have been working hard since the beginning of the pandemic. Our town leaders and staff have been managing the emergency response to protect our community; businesses have responded by voluntarily closing or implementing the needed protective measures; and our citizens have been careful and respectful of protecting our vulnerable population.

Since March, the NOTL Chamber of Commerce has put out an outstanding amount of effort, despite limited resources, towards both tourism industry advi-

sory and advocacy. President Eduardo Lafforgue is committed to continue keeping all business owners, regardless of membership, up to date with the information and tools they need to go forward during these uncertain times.

The Chamber of Commerce board of directors has been meeting once a week since the provincial declaration of state of emergency and continues to do so. As per mid-July, the NOTL Tourism Advisory Working Group has also restarted meetings on a weekly basis. The challenges we face can and will be solved only when the tourism industry, the town and the residents all start working together towards a unified and well-planned sustainable vision for NOTL.

We believe that although

the interests of various groups need to be heard, best practices suggest that these interests converge into a single entity being able to efficiently work through the needed compromises to meet a successful outcome. The NOTL TAWG's intent is to facilitate the opportunities for collaboration by opening these lines of communication so we can all start working together towards this unified vision as soon as possible.

The NOTL TAWG includes but is not limited to:

Tim Jennings
Executive Director, Shaw Festival

Paul MacIntyre
Vice President of Operations,
Vintage Hotels

David Levesque
President, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Bed and Breakfast Association



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Lions serve their community



St. Davids Lions Joe and Kim Typer cook up a storm for the community, who came out in droves for burger night. The response was overwhelming, says Joe. They ran out of food before the evening was over, even though they thought they had enough for two weeks. They will have more food and extra fryers going this week, and Joe says they apologize for the long waits, and to all those who did not get a burger. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Bill Brew, Don Pichko and Pat Darte were on hand Friday night to help out with the St. Davids Lions burger night, which created long lineups along York Road. Event organizer Ed Pittman says the event was a tremendous success, selling 400 burgers, and the support from the community was phenomenal. "Hopefully we can work out a faster process and cut down on the buildup of traffic for next Friday's event," says Pittman.

Lion Susan Snider helps serve community members who lined up for the Lion burgers. The success of the event, she says, was thanks to great community support.



Beatrice and Ted Harpur enjoy their Friday night Lion burgers, absolutely worth the wait.

Trailers popular as people turn to camping during COVID

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

With summer travel plans put aside under the threat of COVID-19, many are turning to new methods of enjoying the warmer months. Across Canada and the U.S., that has resulted in a huge spike in recreational vehicle (RV) sales.

For Niagara Trailers owner John Petrie, that has meant a busy season at his York Road business.

Like all non-essential businesses, Niagara Trailers was closed at the start of the pandemic. Deliveries of recreational vehicles were put on hold until Petrie was able to reopen in May. With more than 200 pre-sold units awaiting their new homes, much of the first six weeks was spent making good on those deliveries. New sales were slower than normal, though Petrie says they did sell on average at least one trailer per day.

When Niagara moved into Stage 2 of the provincial re-opening strategy, only seasonal, or long-term camping was allowed. Petrie says that lasted for about three weeks, during which his staff were fielding mostly inquiries about larger park models and fifth-wheel trailers.

Finally, transient, or overnight camping was phased in, and visits to the 2019 Spirit of Niagara Awards Company of the Year really ramped up. "That's when we started selling more travel trailers," Petrie explains. "We have people taking them up to friends' cottages, taking them to fields. They're using them not just for camping resorts, but for many, many different functions."

With the virus out there, the advantages of traveling by trailer are obvious. "When you buy a trailer, it's your unit," Petrie continues. "You can customize it to the way you want, it's your mattress, you can have your trailer steam-cleaned and disinfected



John Petrie says Niagara Trailers, the 50-year-old family business in St. Davids, has been busier than ever as people turn to camping for summer escapes. (Mike Balsom)

to your perfection, you can cook in them. RVs are almost perfect for this environment that we're in right now. You can completely isolate yourself from the rest of the world in an RV."

A recent Ipsos poll in the U.S. found that 20 per cent of respondents are more interested in RVs as a travel option in the aftermath of COVID-19. As well, more than 50 per cent of those who plan to take a trip this year reported that the pandemic has increased their interest in luxury camping.

That has meant a lot of newcomers to the RV world are taking the plunge. As an almost 50-year-old family business, Niagara Trailers has built up a large base of loyal customers across Southern Ontario. But the pandemic has driven many people to RVs for the first time.

"As I'm talking to people," Petrie observes, "I'm finding that these are people who were thinking of possibly doing this, maybe not this year or next, maybe three or four years from now, but not having other stuff they can do has brought them forward. These are usually people who already enjoy the outdoor lifestyle. I wouldn't say they're new to camping, but they're new to trailers."

With all these "newbies" pulling trailers behind their cars, one might worry about their ability to tow their new rig safely through NOTL. Petrie puts these RV rookies through a two-hour orientation session at Niagara Trailers.

"We teach you how to hitch your trailer properly, and then we take you for a little test drive around St. Davids to make sure you're comfortable with it," he assures. They also walk buyers

through the features of their purchase, including how to connect to water, power and sewage services at campgrounds, and they provide them with brochures and literature about different campsite options around the province and western New York state.

The new models aren't the same trailers your parents may have dragged up to Rice Lake back in the 1960s, by the way. Petrie says "a lot of the new trailers are a lot more electronic, most of them have electric awnings, electric jacks, our bigger units actually self-level at the push of a button. If you look at the furniture that's inside them, the stereo systems, the TVs, it's high-end."

Petrie says the first thing newcomers need to know before entering the RV world is the capability of their tow vehicle. That capacity obviously can limit the size of the trailer they purchase. Next, he says it's important to decide whether to park the trailer in a more permanent location, such as a seasonal campground, or to travel with it to different locations. That decision can influence the purchase, of course. Petrie estimates that about 35 per cent of the RVs he sells are delivered to parks, where his staff will help set them up.

The current demand for trailers has left Petrie and his family with little time to travel themselves. "For the month of June we hit record sales," he says, "and July seems to be the same. People are using RVs, going out and having a good time with them, and enjoying them."

Instead, as with most summers, he will await the end of camping season before taking the opportunity to enjoy his own leisure time.

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Shred-it event returns with pandemic-related changes

Penny Coles
The Local

It's the time of year again to go through the boxes of old documents piling up and taking space in your basement.

The goal is two-fold — to get rid of those papers safely, avoiding the possibility of identity theft, while helping a very important local organization.

The fundraising Shred-it event has become an annual tradition in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and a reminder for locals to go through their documents and dispose of them securely. It originated as a fundraiser for the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital Auxiliary, and once the hospital closed, was taken over by members of the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service, who continue to carry on with it.

Like everything else during this pandemic, there are some necessary changes this year, says Bonnie Bagnulo, palliative care executive director.

The fundraiser is moving from the Meridian Credit

Union parking lot to the community centre, with some other necessary adjustments.

Doug Martin, Virgil branch manager of the Meridian Credit Union, "was always our biggest fan, and he is still behind us," says Bagnulo. He has always been an incredible supporter of the event, she says, as have credit union volunteers, but this year, upper management has decided it's not wise to offer their location at this time.

"They thought it best to hold off until September or October, but we're used to having it in August. We reached out to the Town and they gave us permission to use the community centre."

However, the Meridian Credit Union is continuing to sponsor the event, says Bagnulo, and is funding the Shred-it truck. Martin, with his banking background, has always strongly endorsed the event, and stressed the importance of shredding documents that could aid a fraudster involved in the big business of stealing identities. Tax-related mail with social insurance numbers

is especially dangerous if it falls into the wrong hands, as are old debit and credit cards that can also go through a shredder.

In the past the fundraiser has drawn on volunteers from the near-by Vineridge Academy, but this year will rely totally on members of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service to cover two shifts.

"We thought it best to keep it within our own organization," says Bagnulo, with volunteers wearing masks and gloves, and physical distancing.

The palliative care service has continued to operate during the pandemic, but differently, says Bagnulo.

Volunteers are relying on virtual visits or telephone support for most clients. To that end, volunteers are grateful to the NOTL Community Fund for a recent donation to fund iPads for long-term care residents, which will make it easier to connect with them.

Window visits are occurring when possible, and for community visits, if clients can come out on their porch, with the help of a caregiver if

needed, volunteers can chat with them.

For those who are bedridden it's more difficult.

"We've all had to adapt, but we're having significantly fewer visits. Last year we had more than 160 clients, and 1,800 visits. This year I can see it will be less due to COVID. We can't reach everyone," she says.

The Shred-it event is Sat-

urday, Aug. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the community centre parking lot. A banker's box of paper can be shredded for \$8, or three boxes for \$20.

The NOTL Community Palliative Care Service has been providing caring support and quality of life for seriously ill residents of NOTL, their families and caregivers, since 1986, with trained vol-

unteers who provide compassionate, emotional support, and relief for caregivers.

It also has a variety of equipment to lend, including wheelchairs, recliner lift chairs and walkers, and has an extensive lending library of books, CDs and DVDs.

For more information about palliative care, call 905-468-4433 or visit notlpc.com.



Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director of the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service, is getting the word out about the popular fundraising Shred-it event. (Photo supplied)



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Chamber message to NOTL: Find your moment

Penny Coles
The Local

It's obvious residents are anxious to get out, to enjoy what's left of the summer, and to do so safely.

Eduardo Lafforgue, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, is hoping they will do that in their own backyard, and reclaim not only the main street they may not have visited recently, but all that is being offered locally.

"This is the time, across the country and around the world, when residents want to go out, stay safe and stay close to home, rediscovering what's around them. And in NOTL, there is so much to discover," he says.

At the same time, businesses are relying on local support, and doing everything they can to offer services residents will enjoy, Lafforgue adds.

Once Niagara entered Stage 3, most businesses were permitted to open, with limited seating, and safety protocols that have been costly. Faced with the loss of "traditional visitors," such as the national and international tourists who stay at hotels and visit the Shaw Festival, businesses continue to put their best foot forward and offer top-quality and innovative services. "They stress quality, while doing something special, such as deliveries or takeout, to make it work for locals. They are putting a huge extra effort towards service."

Lafforgue recounts a visit to the Ravine Vineyard and Estate Winery patio with his family recently.

"They made us feel very welcome, and they were doing everything they could to create a perfect experience for the people of NOTL. Our server was wearing a mask, but I just had to look at her eyes to know she was smiling, that she was happy to be back, happy to serve. And I was delighted to feel them putting their guests' experience above everything else."

The chamber has developed two committees to help local businesses as they move forward through the next

stages of recovery, aided by a federal grant for Tourism NOTL, the destination marketing organization of the Chamber of Commerce.

Some of it has been spent on marketing Niagara-on-the-Lake to the wider community, including the GTA. It's intended to draw the "local market: hyperlocal, local, regional and provincial," Lafforgue explains, and the first exciting step was to take part in a Globe and Mail Ontario tourism feature, telling visitors they will be welcome in town, and at local businesses which are following all the protocols and guidelines to keep everybody safe.

"All over the world governments are supporting destination marketing organizations to market around us, to discover and rediscover our own backyards," says Lafforgue.

"We want people to discover the treasures they will find here."

The tag line they have come up with for marketing Niagara-on-the-Lake is Find Your Moment.

But hyperlocal means starting with residents, and the message for locals, he says, is "if you haven't seen what's going on in your restaurants and your wineries and shops, find out. Find your moment."

One of the recovery committees is focused on marketing, with local experts: April Brunet, vice-president of marketing for Vintage Hotels; Valerie Taylor, marketing director of the Shaw Festival; Andrea Kaiser, chair of the Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake; Carly Rupcic, marketing advisor for Ivanhoe Cambridge (Outlet Collection at Niagara); Julie Lepp, marketing director of White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa; and Angela Redekopp, vice-president of Greaves Jam. They are putting together a marketing program for NOTL and dedicating a lot of time to advising on how best to help with the recovery period.

The other committee is the NOTL Tourism Working Group, with 17 members from different sectors of NOTL, working in an opera-

tional and management advisory capacity, says Lafforgue.

"What we want to do is position NOTL as a choice destination. Take your time. Walk, bike, have extraordinary culinary experiences, enjoy tastings at wineries. Businesses are showcasing the best of what is here," says Lafforgue.

Last month, surveys were taken to gauge the success of road closures, with questions directed at visitors and residents. Judging by the results, he says, residents are rediscovering their own backyard.

"We are meeting our visitors with warmth and professionalism. Niagara-on-

the-Lake is genuinely committed to providing the warmest and most positive experience possible. Visitors and residents will see smiling faces behind the ubiquitous masks, and feel the eagerness to serve with joy and resolve," says Lafforgue.

"Tourism in NOTL is run

by great hoteliers, restaurateurs, retailers, musicians, actors – women and men who possess the intrinsic quality to put their guests' experience above all else."

The pandemic has not changed that, cannot change that, he adds. "We haven't lost it."



Many restaurants are extending their space by adding a patio, including the former Orzo on Queen Street, which has been renamed the Firehall Flame Smokehouse, with a new menu that suits its name. Restaurants and wineries are offering innovative services for residents and visitors, including delivery and takeout options. (Penny Coles)

Monument, Fort George open



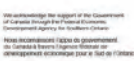
At Brock's Monument 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, heritage interpreters will share the history of the Battle of Queenston Heights and the life of Major General Sir Isaac Brock. There are also tours at 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m. each day. Also, featured talks with Scott Finlay as Brock take place outside the monument at noon on Saturday and Sunday. Fort George is open with hours extended to Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, also from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Photo supplied)



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Volunteers of CARES urge wearing PFDs on the water

Randy Klaassen
Special to The Local

This time of year reports of drownings are common across Ontario. As a volunteer with search and rescue, listening to reports with an eye for what could have prevented accidents from happening, I find the number one factor in drownings is not wearing a personal floatation device (PFD) on the water.

I love being outdoors, and don't get out as much as

I'd like, especially in summer. I really enjoy canoeing, and wouldn't think of launching a canoe without safety gear, which includes wearing a PFD, properly secured.

By nature, accidents occur when we don't expect them. And I've heard boaters say the reason they don't wear a PFD is because they are good swimmers. Unfortunately, mishaps occur on the water, typically resulting in people not being able to swim. Statistics of drown-

ings, occurring in Ontario, from the Lifesaving Society, indicate more than 80 per cent of the cases (for young adults it's over 90 per cent) are of casualties not wearing a PFD, and 75 per cent of those are male.

In my role as training officer for Civil Air Rescue Emergency Service (CARES) Niagara, we've had to adjust the training procedures of volunteers to accommodate for COVID-19. In accordance with require-

ments of the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, crews of CARES wear personal non-medical equipment while working in the close environment of small aircraft, or in ground search vehicles.

While classroom training at Niagara District Airport has been curtailed since mid-March, volunteers have continued online training, and since May have conducted simulated training with a reduced number of

crew members.

This time of year, in addition to searches for missing aircraft, the common call for assistance is to search for missing persons in water on Lakes Ontario and Erie. For this, CARES volunteers coordinate training with Canadian Coast Guard and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary crews. Together we work hard to respond rapidly and efficiently to save lives.

People enjoying the wa-

ter can help us significantly by being safe to begin with. Make sure you know your equipment; tell someone else where you plan to travel and the approximate time of your return; pay attention to weather forecasts; wear brightly-coloured clothing so search and rescue crews can see you; and wear a PFD, while having fun.

For further information on CARES Niagara, check the web site, <http://caresniagara.ca>.

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Quantum leap for renovated, reopened Pumphouse

**Kim Wade
Special to The Local**

For the first time since the renovations, patrons of the arts were happy to enjoy the exhibits at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre.

Marketing coordinator Aimee Medina and the staff finally opened their doors Sunday afternoon to show off the building updates and their new exhibits. Although 120 people preregistered for the event, “approximately 150 people (give or take) attended the reopening. The guests came at various times of the day, which helped us ensure that social distancing and mandated indoor gathering requirements were met. We were even able to accommodate guests that didn’t pre-register, if space was available, when they arrived, or by advising them to come back at a time when space was available,” says Medina.

She, the board and staff felt the reopening was a success. “The support of the community was overwhelming, and guests expressed their delight and appreciation that the Niagara Pumphouse has finally reopened after months of closure. I saw happy faces at the event on guests, instructors and members who finally got to see the updated facili-

ty and enjoy the exhibits at the Joyner Gallery, Walker Room and lobby gallery.” Members eager to renew their membership or register to live classes and workshops once again also came to the opening. Students of the online art class, with their families, were proud to see their artwork on display at the children’s studio; and enthusiastic volunteers helped with welcoming guests and conducting the tour, she says.

The featured artist for the reopening was Niagara resident Beverley Barber, who won first place in the 2019 Walker Industries Art Competition. Her exhibition, *Communication in The Quantum Leap*, invites guests to use their imagination when viewing her pieces in this collection. She wants “people to feel vibrations when they look at her mixed media paintings.”

“I describe my art as vibrational, and always changing,” Barber says. “My ultimate goal in art is to raise the vibrations to a level that allows the viewer to feel happier and good about life. I feel that is what is really needed today.”

She explains that when the implications of COVID-19 were beginning to be felt, “time slowed down.” Barber, who usually spends time in the winter months with her

daughter’s family in California, found she had the time to try something a little different for this exhibition. She created the pieces for this show during her pandemic isolation. The show was supposed to feature acrylics, but it became something more as she added watercolour and other media to the pieces. Barber explains she first painted in watercolour, then in acrylic paints. She ripped up the watercolour paintings and added them to the acrylic paintings along with bits of other pen and ink drawings, scraps of newspaper and images from magazines. She sees the symbolism of destroying the original watercolours as “destroyed to relate to a new reality.”

She likes to switch styles, she says, and likes to keep it “fun and full of surprises,” not wanting to be predictable in her style. The result is paintings that became more surreal, and she felt it was more important to begin to question reality as we are living “in a time that questions reality.” She strived for her images to be non-personal, so the viewer could use their own sense of imagination and “go beyond their own sense of reality.”

She described that through this process, she used the non-logical part of



Artist Beverley Barber displays some of her works at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre. (Kim Wade)

her brain, and “for the first time it feels more authentically myself.” She expressed a real need to make a comparison between today, and our new reality going forward. She found the media covering COVID-19 overwhelming, and her work reflects that. As she began to look at her work in a new light, so should we start by “looking at new problems we have in a way that would be creative.”

Also, she found that for this exhibit, she focused on composition more than ever before, and found that as an artist it is “more interesting where I’m going than where I’ve been.” She feels she has learned a lot from this work, and in these times of the unknown, she has made a great advance as an artist, a “quantum leap.”

Her exhibition runs until Aug. 30.

Medina commended Barber on her exhibit, and mentioned there were “visitors (not just from the Niagara area) to attend her opening reception and show support for the artist. Barber talked to guests about her journey as an artist, and how her collection, now on display at the Niagara Pumphouse gallery, came about.”

“The show is the art centre’s first exhibition this year, since the COVID-19 pandemic derailed the centre’s season, and will be part of a reopening, renovation tour that weekend. It’s oddly fitting, then, that the first exhibit’s theme is “random versus predictable in art,” as this year has been anything but

predictable,” says Medina.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Eduardo Lafforgue, resident and CEO of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce, were at the event to admire Barber’s exhibit, as well as the works of other artists, such as Niki Kingsmill, whose art was featured in the gallery’s lobby. Kingsmill is also the host of the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre’s online watercolor workshop series. In addition, the walls of the Walker Room displayed the work of Niagara Pumphouse members and the Children’s Studio exhibited the work of online art students.

Donations made to the gallery during the event will be used to support operating expenses during COVID-19. For according to Medina, “like other galleries and cultural facilities, COVID-19 derailed plans for the first half of 2020. We were looking forward to reopening in March after undergoing renovations over the winter. Community art classes and workshops for adults and children had to be cancelled. Solo exhibits planned since last year had to be postponed. Major special events that the centre relies on to raise funds for programming had to be called off. This included its *Art at the Pumphouse* art show and sale that takes place each August and its *Moonlight Picnic* in September. Upcoming events such as the online fundraising auction will reconnect the Arts Centre with art lovers and collectors, as well as raise funds to help offset revenue

lost due to the pandemic.

The centre’s first online auction will begin taking bids on Aug. 17 and end on Aug. 31. Bidding will take place using the Charity Auctions Today platform. Many of the works have been donated by local artists. The gallery will be auctioning off 25 art works in all media in the first event. Due to the overwhelming response for submissions, another auction will take place later in the fall. In addition to the donations acquired through the reopening reception, this fundraising initiative is a first for the gallery, and will also help offset the lost revenues during the closure due to the pandemic.

The works up for auction are available for viewing online or in person at the gallery. The Pumphouse is open Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. To ensure the safety of all guests, Medina says the new schedule allows staff to effectively follow provincial/municipal guidelines. Some of the measures we have implemented include mandatory face covering for staff and guests; availability of sanitizing stations in each room; observance of physical distancing; cleaning and disinfection of supplies, and displays and work stations touched by the public, among others.”

For more information, visit niagarapumphouse.ca, or to register to bid at the auction, contact support. charityauctionstoday.com or call 905-468-5455.

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Pandemic can't stop Red Hats from having fun

**Brenda Sharp
Special to The Local**

The Red Hat Society is a movement of women determined to celebrate every stage of life, and those in St. Davids are doing just that.

The organization connects women and gives them new and exciting ways to gather.

The intent of the group is to gather women who have given their all to their family, career and community, and forgotten to take time for themselves. All of us need an occasional "recess" from the cares and duties of everyday life for no other purpose than to have fun with like-minded women.

The Red Hat Society ladies are known for their fun, and unusual red hats which are worn at every

gathering, along with purple clothes. The idea was originally inspired by a well-known Jenny Joseph poem, *Warning*, which begins, "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple, with a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me."

Women from all over bought purple outfits and red hats and held a tea party in the U.S. on April 25, 1998, at which time the Red Hat Society began.

Thanks to the pandemic, our Red Hat Society ladies of St. Davids had not met for our monthly luncheon for four months.

However, we decided in July we could gather safely, adhering to physical distancing rules, and enjoyed a Hawaiian-themed picnic outside our community centre at Creekside Senior Estates, where they all reside.

Three of the ladies performed Hawaiian songs on their ukuleles, and all of us had a friendly little hula dance contest.

Red Hat "Queen" Catherine Edwards demonstrated a quick and easy way to core and cut a pineapple.

My husband, Bryan Sharp, donned a Moana Maui-themed costume to make and serve beverages to the ladies.

After enjoying a picnic lunch of fried chicken, salads and desserts, the ladies posed while holding Stop-It Coffee for a Cause, to help my fundraising efforts to promote research for a cure for Trigeminal Neuralgia, a disease which I suffer from.

We are all looking forward to their next luncheon. We are not sure where it will be, but we do know for sure, it will be fun!



Brenda Sharp, Lisa Pepperman, Fran Burdett, Julie Vandelinde, Carol Bannister, Laudi Sutton, and Catherine Edwards enjoy their first meeting since the start of the pandemic.



Bryan Sharp pours drinks for the St. Davids Red Hats (Photos supplied)



Lisa Pepperman, Fran Burdett and Julie Vandelinde entertain with their ukuleles at their Hawaiian-themed party.

Music Niagara presents virtual double feature Sunday

**Richard Baker
Special to The Local**

This Sunday, Music Niagara continues its *At Home Series* with music produced by two strikingly different instruments.

One is all touch, and a mainstay of all music; the other is no touch at all, and widely unknown.

This latter instrument, the theremin, is a fascinating electronic device invented in 1920 by a young Russian physicist, Leon Theremin, as part of then Russian government-sponsored, and decidedly not musical, research into proximity sensors. It consists of two metal antennas that sense the relative position of the thereminist's

hands, and control oscillators for frequency with one hand, and volume with the other. The electric signals are then amplified and sent to a loudspeaker. The result is an ethereal and pure sound with a spooky quality, that has been widely used in movies and television shows, recently and notably in *Midsomer Murders*, as well as in 21st-century new music and rock. The Moog synthesizer was later a by-product.

Our performance is by Dutch thereminist Thorwald Jorgensen, one of the leading classical theremin players in the world. He has played it in leading orchestras, as a chamber musician, soloist, and on radio

and television throughout the world. His elegant, almost immobile stance and unmoved expression as he coaxes the ether into producing sound is quite remarkable to witness, and much enhanced by the immediacy of the video.

The other instrument is, of course, the piano, this week featured in a recital by Constanze Beckmann, an artist familiar to our audience from previous appearances with Music Niagara. Beckmann is a German-born pianist who has performed throughout Europe, Canada and Israel. She regularly plays with musicians from the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Leipzig Gewand-

haus Orchestra, and is a sought-after collaborator for singers and string players. Since 2010, she has also participated in numerous projects as a pianist and curator, featuring works composed by survivors as part of Holocaust Education Week. Beckmann will play three pieces: Bach, Partita No. 4 in D major; Mozart, Piano Sonata K.576 in D major, and Brahms, Intermezzo No. 1 in E-Flat Major, Op. 117.

To watch this performance or find information on the 2020 season, go to Music Niagara's new website on the day of the event, at <https://www.musicniagara.org/>, and click on Watch Live.



Thorwald Jorgensen will play the theremin in a virtual Music Niagara concert Sunday. (Anouschka Hendriks-van Den Hoogen)



Linda Attoe, RP

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COVID-19 DIARIES
NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

August 7-9 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For those of you who like to write and journal, the Niagara Historical Museum is looking for your insight. You can participate in the recording of our history, today. In 50 or 100 years we may just have an exhibition on the COVID-19 Pandemic and your journals will help us tell the stories of how Niagara-on-the-Lake made it through. Please visit: www.nhsm.ca for details or call 289-719-1918 to record your audio diary.

HUGE GARAGE SALE

Saturday August 8
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Unique pieces, antiques. Baking needs galore. Miscellaneous equestrian tac, new and used clothing, furnishings, jewelry, DVDs, and much more!

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TECHNOLOGY – ENGINEERING – ART – MATH

August 12 @ 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us for virtual Story Time with a Twist! Kasia will be live-streaming S.T.E.A.M. Storytime – a weekly NOTL Public library favourite from our Facebook page. Can't make it? No problem! We will be uploading the video to our YouTube channel so you can watch at your leisure. Join Kasia each week for a S.T.E.A.M. based storytime. All Are Welcome! Hosted by Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library <https://notlpubliclibrary.org>.

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Best In Show (outdoor film)

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Former NOTL Golf Club champ
turns love of sport into his career

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Stepping inside the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club, one can't help but notice the shiny brass nameplates honouring the club champions through the years.

In amongst the Derbyshires, Galways, Cruikshanks and Garretts sits the name of one golfer who has made a career in the sport for almost 40 years. Over four decades, Michael Millthorpe has rubbed shoulders with the top golfers and most recognizable celebrities around the world.

In the early 1970s, Millthorpe was a typical Canadian teenage sports-nut, playing hockey in the winter and participating in football and track and field at Grantham High School. A chance invitation to a round of golf from his Glencairn Drive, St. Catharines neighbour led him to pick up clubs for the first time. He immediately fell in love with the sport, and began playing at various courses around Niagara, including St. Davids and Queenston.

Then he was hired at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club. For only \$50, he was able to play as a junior member. He would ride his bike from his north St. Catharines home to get to work, and stay to play a round of golf whenever he could.

Millthorpe quickly became a good enough golfer to start competing in local junior tournaments against some of the best young golfers in Niagara. In 1975, he decided to enter a contest for the junior boys championship at his home club.

His memory of that championship is a bit fuzzy, but the fact that Mark Derbyshire, who had won the previous two years, was now 18 years old and thus ineligible as a junior, left the field a bit more open. According to Millthorpe, a kid with the last name of Fuller was the favourite. Millthorpe put together a round of 75 to edge Fuller by two and beat the other five golfers in the junior field.

He later left the job at the

NOTL Club, and began playing out of Sawmill, while continuing to compete in other junior tournaments. During this time, he discovered that local golfers Rod Spittle and Sandy Billyard, among others, had earned golf scholarships to major U.S. colleges. In those pre-internet days, Millthorpe had to work hard to find out more about those opportunities.

"I remember going one day to Brock, to the library, and going through universities and colleges that offered golf scholarships," explains Millthorpe. "I wrote probably 30 letters to coaches asking for an opportunity. You'd give them your record, how you did in junior tournaments. Mine wasn't the flashiest, but out of those 30 I heard from five schools, one being the University of Southern Mississippi."

Before Grade 13 at Grantham, Millthorpe visited Southern Miss. They offered to pay for his out-of-state tuition, and if he earned a place on the golf team, they would also pay for his room and board. That sealed the deal, and in August, 1977, he flew to Hattiesburg to compete for one of 10 spots on the team.

Millthorpe's four rounds were good enough to earn him that full-ride scholarship, and he played collegiate golf for three of his four years at Southern Miss. In his senior year, though, his involvement in fraternity life led him to lose interest in the golf team. He opted not to play that year.

During his studies at Southern Miss, a fellow fraternity member, Jack Warfield, convinced Millthorpe to volunteer with him at the Magnolia Classic, an "alternate" PGA event that at the time was played at the Hattiesburg Country Club on the same weekend as the Masters. The two worked the tournament for four years, watching some of the young stars of the PGA hone their games.

After graduating from Southern Miss in 1981, Millthorpe returned to Canada, sold his clubs and had no interest in playing the game.



Mike Millthorpe (Photo supplied)

He later enrolled in teacher's college at Queen's University, graduating in 1984. He began supply-teaching locally while Warfield, in the meantime, had taken a job with the LPGA. Millthorpe received a call from his friend that May offering him a position with the LPGA as a rules official.

Millthorpe took him up on that offer, and hasn't looked back. He continued in that position until 1990, when he was brought in as a rules official at

the first American Century Celebrity Championship at Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course in Nevada. The field of 56 golfers that year included singers Kenny Rogers and Frankie Avalon, hall of fame quarterbacks Joe Namath and John Elway, Harlem Globetrotter Curly Neal and basketball players Danny Ainge and Michael Jordan. After two years in charge of rules, he became director of that

Continued on page 16



Mike Millthorpe's daughters didn't mind meeting celebrities at the many golf tournaments they attended with their dad, including actor/singer Justin Timberlake. (Photo supplied)

LOCAL WORSHIP

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33 Four pecks

36 Secret Chinese society

37 Bingo!

38 Time in Boston

39 Merchant ship's capacity

41 Immediately

42 Dentists' grp.

43 "Death --- Expert Witness" (P D James)

44 Is adjacent to
- 46 Homo sapiens

47 Frequently, poetically

48 Mailed

49 Specialty food store

51 Contemptuous exclamation

52 Mantle

56 State of constant change

58 Lily Munster actress Yvonne De ---

60 Not his

61 Captain Jack Sparrow actor

62 Online missives

63 Senses of self-importance

64 Wild about

65 Look after

66 Seedy joint

67 Talks lovingly

68 Singles

69 Could be bobby, red or white
- Down:
- 1 One

2 Army chaplain

3 Gush forth

4 Presidential workplace

5 Chucks

6 Outbreak

7 Junkie
- 8 Destructive Hindu deity

9 Those north of the 49th

10 Curves

11 Police officer's patrol route

13 Snow carriage

18 Wrestling maneuvers

26 Enter stealthily

28 Provide new equipment

29 Long feathery scarf

31 Get lost!

32 Minor chessman

33 Smile

34 Federal farming regulator

35 Confront

36 Channel revived as Heartland

40 --- King Cole

45 Engraved with acid

48 Salty

50 Montreal ---, now the Washington Nationals

51 Gray matter

53 Breastplate of Zeus or Athena

54 Brigham Young University city


55 Antique auto

56 Depositors' protective grp.

57 Longtime "Tonight Show" host Jay

59 Rounds

OBITUARY



MARCIA ELIZABETH "LIZ" HAWLEY (NEE GOULD), 60, was killed on July 29, 2020 in Niagara-on-the-Lake in an automobile accident. Daughter of the late John (1975) and Marcia (2009), she is survived by her husband John, her three brothers; Hal (Kim), Jay (Jan), Tim (Bonnie), her three children; Adam (Brianne), Ransom (Whitney), Jay (Samantha), and her six grandchildren; Ransom, Merritt, Easton, Callie, Malcolm, and Levi. She was an unbelievable wife, mother, nana, sister, and friend. Her love for her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was evident to all who knew her, and compelled her to continually find ways to love those around her.

During her life, Liz gave much of her free time to supporting women that were escaping abuse and recovering from addiction. She directed proceeds from her businesses to organizations that fought human trafficking, and she would often spend hours a day praying, talking, crying, and laughing with friends when they needed help through dark times or wanted to celebrate milestones and victories.

Liz was a gifted and celebrated interior designer. She found outlets for her incredible creativity in everything she did, including in Refuge Antiques & Giftery, a beloved store in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and in her unique sense of style, her jewelry designs, her poetry, her sense of humour, and play time with her grandchildren.

Liz and John and their sons moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Toronto in 1991 and never looked back. She loved her adopted hometown, and her positive impact and legacy can be felt through her visionary work as a Co-founder of The Village neighbourhood and the cherished Farmers' Market and SupperMarket community events, as well as her invaluable behind the scenes efforts helping John with his role on the important work of creating the Landscape of Nations memorial at Queenston Heights, and the Voices of Freedom Park in Old Town.

Her favourite place and refuge was the family cottage in Ridgeway, where she would find rest and peace with John, and laughter and fun with her children and grandchildren. There, she designed beautiful spaces for her family to relax, create, and enjoy one another's company. It is impossible for her family to express just how much she will be missed.

A private Funeral Service for family will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020. A celebration of life will be held at a location and on a date yet to be determined. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Joy Smith Foundation and/or Rising Angels.

Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com.



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

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from July 9, 2020

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

Across: 1 Ups, 4 Thou, 8 Scab, 12 Naps, 14 Hens, 15 Hare, 16 Idol, 17 Eases, 19 Inca, 20 True, 21 Over, 22 Vast, 23 Yeti, 24 Vet, 25 Read, 27 Gras, 29 Bad, 30 I S P, 33 Bushel, 36 Tong, 37 Aha, 38 E S T, 39 Tonnage, 41 Now, 42 A D A, 43 Of an, 44 Lies on, 46 Man, 47 Off, 48 Sent, 49 Dell, 51 Bah, 52 Cape, 56 Flux, 58 Carlo, 60 Hers, 61 Depp, 62 E-mail, 63 Egos, 64 Into, 65 Mind, 66 Dive, 67 Coos, 68 Ones, 69 Sox.

Down: 1 Unity, 2 Padre, 3 Spout, 4 The Oval Office, 5 Heaves, 6 Onset, 7 User, 8 Shiva, 9 Canadians, 10 Ares, 11 Beat, 13 Sleigh, 18 Strangleholds, 26 Edge in, 28 Retool, 29 Boa, 31 Shoo, 32 Pawn, 33 Bear, 34 U S D A, 35 Stand up to, 36 T N N, 40 Nat, 45 Etched, 48 Saline, 50 Expos, 51 Brain, 53 Aegis, 54 Provo, 55 Essex, 56 F D I C, 57 Leno, 59 Ammo.

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The Niagara-on-the-Lake

LOCAL

The trusted voice of our community.

LOCAL SPORTS

1975 NOTL champ still loves a game of golf

Continued from page 14

tournament, a position he still holds today.

The following year he was hired by Jordan's team to run the NBA legend's own Ronald McDonald Celebrity Tournament. His career has also included stints helming the PGA Sprint Titleholders Championship, the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic, and the NBC Golf Skills Championship, which in 2000 featured Jack Nicklaus squaring off against Arnold Palmer. He also was instrumental in bringing a version of the Skills Challenge to

Europe, which he directed for five years.

Many of the tournaments with which Millthorpe has been involved include a celebrity element. He keeps their fame and fortune in perspective when he's at the golf course. "They're just regular guys who like to play golf," he says. "They just happen to do something very well for a living." Perhaps that attitude is one of the things that makes him so good at what he does.

Two years ago, Millthorpe was brought in to run the PGA's new Diamond Resorts Tournament of Champions in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The

January event pairs PGA tournament winners with celebrities, with different pots of prize money up for grabs for each field.

That tournament is convenient for Millthorpe, who has called Ormond Beach, Florida, home since 1999. Of course, he considers South Lake Tahoe, where he spends nearly two months of the year preparing for the American Century Tournament, as his second home.

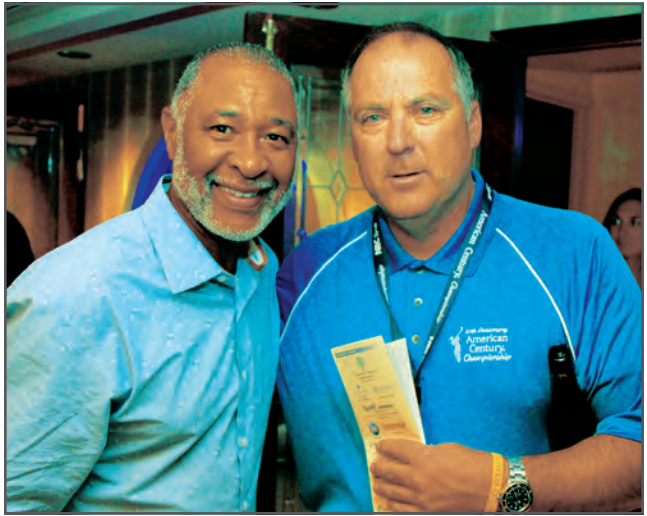
The father of two girls reflects happily on a life in golf that really happened by chance and connection. He admits that if he had been hired permanently by the school board back in 1984 before Warfield called, he might not have taken the offer.

And it is a life, not just a career, in the sport. Millthorpe met his wife of 34 years, Kathy, who has been the Chief Financial Officer of the PGA for 10 years, at a golf tournament in Houston. And daughters Hannah and Chloe have travelled around the country meeting some of their favourite celebrities, including reigning Super Bowl champion Patrick Mahomes and singer/actor Justin Timberlake.

Millthorpe doesn't get back up to Canada too often, though he was planning a trip this year before the pandemic. He recently lost his 92-year-old father,



A photo of former NFL quarterback Neil Lomax with Mike Millthorpe, TV Host Maury Povich, U.S. Olympic hockey player Mike Eruzione, soap star from General Hospital Jack Wagner, and Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway is just one of many Millthorpe has of himself rubbing shoulders with celebrities at Lake Tahoe's Edgewood Golf Course, where he runs the American Century Tournament. (Photo supplied)



A career in golf gave Mike Millthorpe the opportunity to meet many celebrities, including former MLB shortstop and Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith. (Photo supplied)

who passed away this April at a long-term care home in Mississauga. The closure of the border meant he couldn't come to be with his extended family.

At 62 years old now, he's hoping to stay on as director of both the American Century and Diamond Resorts tournaments for five or six more

years. "I don't consider it a job," says Millthorpe, "it's more of a passion. But at that point, I'll let someone else take over and they can run with it."

The 1975 NOTL junior champion still plays a good round of golf, too. Though a knee replacement last year has slowed him down, he usually

plays every Saturday and Sunday. He also competed in the Florida State Golf Association's senior division from 2015 to 2018, finishing fourth in 2016.

"I wouldn't change a thing," he says. "I've enjoyed my time in golf since 1974. No one would have ever predicted it would take me where I am today."

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