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

Hawley family loses beautiful wife, mother and nana

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 made 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 step of the way,” he says.

For a time, she poured her energy into recharging and spending time with her 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)

Continued on page 5
**N.O.T.L. 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 McCaffrey took the unusual step of issuing a public statement asking all those involved in the ongoing protests, including Locals for Carriages and counter-protesters, to participate in "meaningful discussions and negotiations that speak to the core issues of the dispute."

"Our officers will continue 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 McCaffrey 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 arrive 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."

"Our officers will continue to educate drivers about the meaning of the green lights," says Plato.

"It doesn't give volunteers 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 the 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.

**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 other 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 for volunteer fire departments, not mandatory legislation, says NOTL deputy fire chief Jay Plato.

"It doesn't give volunteers special privileges — they can't speed or travel through red lights or stop signs, as their full-time paid counterparts in other municipalities do."

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Looking for a way to dispose of those confidential documents and personal papers that have been collecting in your file cabinet or in your basement?

Shred-it

Saturday, August 15th, 2020
9 am to 1 pm

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE COMMUNITY CENTER
14 ANDERSON LANE, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

$8 per banker's box (20" x 12" x 10"), or 3 boxes for $20

PLEASE NOTE: Staples & paperclips accepted, but not 3-ring binders, staples or other clips.

All proceeds go to support the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service

A big THANK YOU to Meridian Credit Union for continuing to support this event!
"Each craft will come with instructions," says Kaufman, who with her own youngesters at home, knows how important it is to keep them occupied. 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. “We showed 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. They kids should be great for parents who need to work at home, and have their kids working alongside them.”

The activity is to keep them occupied. “We show them how to do it, and what the end result should look like. They should be able to do that with minimum adult supervision. The kids should be your own youngsters at home, who knows how important it is to keep them occupied. They should be able to do that with minimum adult supervision.”

"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 will 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.

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.
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 Primary 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 neighbour- hood to bring up their kids, and they found it in St. Davids.

Shruti 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 neighbour- hood, but recently, she’s been disappointed by the lack of attention paid to the park resi- dents were really excited about.

“My lawn is really small,“ 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 attend the town hall meetings, I was on the town council,“ she says, “and I don’t think I was expecting.”

She recalls the presentations of the designs, and the alterna- tives for the playground equip- ment, and she was excited to see some progress made. “The playground was installed in the fall, and some grass planted this spring, but has it not been tend- ed, 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 pri- orities 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 per- gola at the entrance, at the oppo- site side of the park to the play- ground, which doesn’t really add much to the park, and doesn’t provide shade, she says — she wonders if the park looks “awful, and that it’s a shame the open green space has been unus- able 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 re- ally 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 play- ground equipment, which was chosen to accommodate a wide range of ages, as requested, but too is disappointed that there is no shade, which she be- lieves 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 con- gregating at the park.

Fritth, who started a Cann- ery Park Facebook page for resi- dents of the subdivision, says the other concern mentioned was the smell of the storm wa- ter 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, 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 con- dition of the park, she received a response that town staff were also concerned, and were work- ing with the contractor to get 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 opera- tions Kevin Turcotte says the weeds were cut Friday, and the park is looking better.

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

“Is this all there is? I attend the town hall meetings, I was on the town council, maybe as a shared cost.”

The developer provided the site for the park, as part of develop- ment charges, but the town budget has to cover the cost of construction, although that money comes from the develop- ment charge reserve, not di- rectly from taxpayers, Turcotte explained.

Benches have been held up due to COVID, and will arrive and be installed shortly, under the per- gola and other “placed strategi- cally” 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, the Town says the majority of residents felt it was unnecessary. He says he feels the well-attend- ed open houses, comments on the town’s website and the engagement of the public were signs that the process of involv- ing the residents worked well for the community.

He’s looking forward to an open 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 com- pleted and staff are working on a design.

Staff have to do some clear- ing and surveying before work- ing out further details.

“The definitely in the works,” he says.

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

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)
Strong faith and beliefs will help family carry on

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)

Creativity and faith: Liz and John Hawley’s passion is helping others

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.

“Her faith gave us that ability to come together as a family.”

Michelle Morier, 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 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 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 is 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. But it 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.
**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 months, 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 loved 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 angry, 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, I have made 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 five 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.

For example, in my family, there have been 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 the line for others.

My admiration and gratitude for these men and women grows 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, you know that they will be there. To all 10 plus staff and volunteers of our five stations, thank you.

Maria Mavridis
NOTL

**Letters! We want letters!**

If you have a letter to the editor you’d like to see published, please send it to penny@notlocal.com. Please try to keep it to about 350 words. Sorry, but we won’t publish anonymous letters. The deadline is Monday at noon.

**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.auchterlonieastrology.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.

**Donald Combe**
Special to The Local

E. M. Forster wrote Where Angels Fear to Tread in 1911. three years before his marriage. Room With a View, is 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.

**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 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 Bagnoli, executive director of the service, at their office on Wellington Street. (Photo supplied)
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 havoc on themselves and their parents alike. Exploring the great outdoors is arguably the primal most 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 and about. 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 bag backs, backpacks, and more enthusiasm than the average adult. One boy 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 memory of 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 out in their usual patterns, they begin to see the summer months as their own personal laboratory months of not only the natural world, but their social skills, and how to become more adaptable.

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 were touring together.

He tells me how he’s excited to see his “back-to-school” material 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 transferred my high-energy to him.

I was just a kid, down here with my own parents, definitely excited about anything. His siblings are strong ones, making the trek through the muddy and tropical feel of Carolinian forest.

This 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 re-creating pandemic thoughts as we do.

“The germs are out there,” says one of the boys from my previous tours, as I sadly declared a high-five opportunity from him. Bizarre. Moments later in the lake, we all found a tufa 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 quietly, without statement. I pictured them in 10 years; it was hilarious. I might be wrong, but they probably have some great campfire and camping trips ahead of them. The camaraderie and sense of wonder for the outdoors is not in decline.

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 COVID-19 pandemic regretfully 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 the 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 benefit 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 advisory and advocacy. President Eduardo Lafargue is committed to continue keeping all business owners, regardless of membership, up to date with 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 campaign being able to efficient- ly work through the needed compromises to meet a successful outcome.

The NOTL TAWG’s intention is to facilitate the opportunities for collaboration by opening these lines of communication so we can all start working together to achieve this unified vision as soon as possible.

The NOTL TAWG includes but is not limited to:
- Tim Jennings, Executive Director
- Shaw Festival President
- MacIntyre, Chair of the Tourism Advisory Working Group
- Emmie Wise, President
- Will Marley, Tourism Director
- Vintage Hotels

The trusted voice of our community.
Lions serve their community

St. Davids Lions Joe and Kim Tyer 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 fries 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)

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 down from normal, though Petrie says they did sell on average at least one trailer per day.

When Niagara moved into Stage 2 of the provincial reopening strategy, only seasonal or long-term campers were 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.

“They were not feeling their usual sense of security, and were using trailers as a buffer,” Petrie explained. “They were using them not just for camping, but for many different functions.”

With the virus out there, the advantages of travelling 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 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 new-comers 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 do can do has brought them forward. These are usually people who already enjoy the outdoors 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, while 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 had 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 summer months, he will await the end of camping season before taking the opportunity to enjoy his own leisure time.
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 up 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. This year, upper management has decided it’s more difficult to hold off until September, 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. “They thought it best to keep it within our own organization,” says Bagnulo, who continues to carry on with it.

For those who are bedridden, it’s even 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 we can see it will be less due to COVID. We can’t reach everyone,” she says. The Shred-it event is Saturday, 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 volunteers 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.
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 anxious to get out, to enjoy outdoor dining and socialize with others.

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 Rupnic, marketing advisor for Ivanhoe Cambridge (Outlet Collection at Niagara); Julie Lepp, marketing director of White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa; and Angela Redelopp, 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 operational and management advisory capacity, says Lafforgue.

“What we want to do is position NOTL as a choice destination. Take your time. Walk, hike, 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, 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)

Welcome back, we missed you
www.niagarathelake.com

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niagarathelake.com
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 drownings, occurring in Ontario, from the Lifesaving Society, indicate more than 80 percent 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 requirements 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 water 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.

Randy Klaassen
Special to The Local
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 facility and enjoy the exhibits at the Joyners 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. “I want 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 paint. 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. She is not wanting to be predictable in her style. The result is paintings that became more surreal, and she felt it was 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 her brain, and “for the first time it feels more authenti-cal for 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 exhibition, 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 this 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 Dufero 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 Nikki Kingmill, whose art was featured in the gallery’s lobby. Kingmill is also the host of the Niagara Pumphouse’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 offset costs of the space and renovation as well as the works of other artists, such as L’Oreal, Redken, Goldwell and RICA. Sponsors (not just from the Niagara-on-the-Lake area) will be part of a capital campaign to help offset the lost revenues 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 donations, another auction will take place later in the fall. In addition to the donations acquired through the reopening reception, fundraising initiative is a first for the gallery, and will also help offset the lost revenues during the closure due to the pandemic.

“Thanks go out 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 provincially/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. charityauctionstonight.com or call 905-468-5455.

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

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 decided not to 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 Gewandhaus 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.

Richard Baker
Special to The Local

This Sunday, Music Niagara presents virtual double feature Sunday at Home Series with music produced by two strikingly different instruments.

Music Niagara presents virtual double feature Sunday
LOCAL HAPPyenINGS

THE LION BURGER RETURNS
Starting Friday, July 31 and each Friday afterwards
(probably until the end of August)
We will sell Lion Burger Combos (burger, fries & bottle of water) for $10
Time is 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.
St. Davids Lions Pavillion

DRIVE-THRU • CONTACTLESS • PAYMENT BY VISA OR DEBIT ONLY

THE LIONS WISH TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO ATTENDED OUR EVENT.
We sold out of all food - to those who left empty-handed, we thank you for your patience and understanding since your support means so much. We promise to correct this at our next BBQ this Friday Aug. 7th. Our success depends on you!

COVID-19 DIARIES

NIAGARA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Join Kasia each week for a S.T.E.A.M. based storytime. Make it? No problem! We will be uploading the video to Public library favourite from our Facebook page. Can’t be live-streaming S.T.E.A.M. Storytime – a weekly NOTL Join us for virtual Story Time with …. a Twist! Kasia will 1918 to record your audio diary. For those of you who like to write and journal, the Ni-
city or small, we can participate in the recording of our history, today. In
other, can participate in the recording of our history, today. In

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 Ni-
agara 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.nhcm.ca for details or call 209-719-1918 to record your audio diary.

HUGE GARAGE SALE
Saturday August 8
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
2 Garrison Village Drive, NOTL

Unique pieces, antiques. Baking needs galore. Miscellaneous equestrian tac, new and used clothing, furnishings, jewelry, DVDs, and much more!
Hand sanitizer on site. Masks please.

S.T.E.A.M. STORYTIME! SCIENCE – 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

FIRST ONTARIO PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
#NiagaraPerforms
Friday, August 14th @ dusk
The Lost Boys (outdoor film)
Saturday, August 15th @ 5-6 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.
The Mark Lalama Trio (outdoor concert)
Friday, August 20th @ dusk
Best In Show (outdoor film)
Saturday, August 29th @ 5-6 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.
The Figure Four (outdoor concert)
View via PAC’s Facebook and YouTube channels
www.FirstOntarioPAC.ca

PLACE YOUR COMING EVENT COMMUNITY SOCIAL HERE
With or without a border, colour graphics optional. Include your Logo! Prices starting at $20.
Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335 or email: classified@notllocal.com

Local Happenings

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 Der-
byshires, Galways, Cruik-
shanks and Garretts sit the
name of one golfer who has
made a career in the sport for
almost 40 years. Over four de-
cades, Michael Millthorpe has
rubbed shoulders with the top
golfers and most recognizable
celebrities around the world.

In the early 1970s, Millthorpe
was a Canadian teenage
sport-snuts, 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.
David 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 tour-
naments against some of the
best young golfers in Niagara.
In 1975, he decided to enter a con-
test for the junior boys champi-
onship at his home club.

His memory of that cham-
pionship 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 oth-
er five golfers in the junior field.

He later left the job at the
NOTL Club and began playing
outside of Sawmill, while contin-
uing to compete in other junior
tournaments. During this time,
he discovered that local golf
pros Rod Spittle and Sandy Bill-
yard, 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
through going universities and
colleges that offered golf schol-
arships,” explains Millthorpe.
“I wrote probably 30 letters to
coaches asking for an opportu-
nity. Would you 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 South-
ern 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 South-
ern Miss. In his senior year,
though, his involvement in fra-
ternity life led him to lose inter-
est in the golf team. He opted
not to play that year.

During his studies at South-
ern Miss, a fellow fraternity
member, Jack Warfield, con-
vined Millthorpe to volunteer
with him at the Magnolia Clas-
ic, an “alternate” PGA event
that at the time was played at the
Hattiesburg Country Club on
the same weekend as the Mas-
ters. The two would join the tour-
ament for four years, watching
some of the young stars of the
PGA hone their games.

After graduating from
Southern Miss in 1981, Mill-
thorpe returned to Canada,
sold his clubs and had no in-
terest in playing the game.

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 po-
sition until 1990, when he was
brought in as a rules official at
the first American Century Ce-
lobrity Championship at Edge-
wood Tahoe Golf Course in
Nevada. The field of 56 golfers
that year included singers Ken-
ny Rogers and Frankie Avalon,
hall of fame quarterbacks Joe
Namath and John Elway, Har-
lem Globetrotter Carley Neal
and basketball players Danny
Ainge and Michael Jordan.
Af-
ter two years in charge of rules,
he became director of that
Continued on page 16

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ST. DAVIDS LIONS
Pavilion.

LOCAL SPORTS

Mike Balsom (Photo supplied)

Mike Millthorpe (Photo supplied)

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

Puzzle Answers

Sudoku solution from July 9, 2020

1 9 2 6 3 8 4 5 7

2 5 9 1 3 6 4 7 8

3 1 7 8 6 2 4 9 5

4 6 8 5 7 1 9 3 2

5 9 4 2 1 3 8 5 7

6 8 5 4 9 1 3 2 7

7 2 8 9 5 3 1 4 6

8 3 7 6 2 4 5 9 1

9 6 4 8 3 5 1 1 2

Across:

1 Raises
8 Naps
12 Hens
14 Hare
16 Destructive Hindu deity
19 Those north of the 49th
20 Curves
21 Police officer’s patrol route
22 Snow camouflage
23 Wrestling maneuvers
24 Enter stealthily
25 Provide new equipment
26 Long feathered scarf
27 Get lost!
28 Minor chessman
29 Smile
30 Federal farming regulator
31 Enormous
32 Open
34 Aligns
35 Scrutinize
36 Online misses
37 E.g. A O L
38 Engraved with acid
39 Mantle
40 Yellowstone National Park
41 Ring
42 Regulate
43 One ---, now the Washington Nationals
44 Heartland
45 --- Expert Witness”
46 One ---, now the Washington Nationals
47 Ring
48 --- Expert Witness”
49 Army chaplain
50 One ---, now the Washington Nationals
51 Ring
52 God
53 Ring
54 Ring
55 Ring
56 Ring
57 Ring
58 Ring
59 Ring
60 Ring
61 Ring
62 Ring
63 Ring
64 Ring
65 Ring
66 Ring
67 Ring
68 Ring
69 Ring

Down:

1 One
2 Army chaplain
3 Gush forth
4 Presidential workplace
5 Chickens
6 Outbreak
7 Junkie
8 Homc sapiens
9 Frequently, poetically
10 Honeymoon
11 Wives
12 Hens
13 Hare
14 Hare
15 Parasites
16 Parasites
17 Parasites
18 Parasites
19 Parasites
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2 Unity, 2 Padre, 3 Spout, 4 The Oval Office, 5 Heaves, 6 Karts, 7 Cables, 8 Sent, 9 Deli, 10 Bah, 11 Cape, 12 Flux, 13 Beat, 14 Pawn, 15 Man, 16 Into, 17 Dives, 18 Curves, 19 postage, 20 clips, 21 Leno, 22 F D I C, 23 Surfboard, 24 Beams, 25 Theory, 26 Edge in, 27 Re-tool, 28 Boa, 29 Shoo, 30 Defend, 31 Shout, 32 Times, 33 USDA, 34 F开头的单词, 35 Stand up to, 36 TNN, 40 Nat, 41 Strangleholds, 42 E-mail, 43 Egos, 44 Fourpeaks, 45 Ails, 46 Set, 47 Secret Chinese society, 48 Longfeathered scarf, 49 Ceramic, 50 Yellowknife, 51 Alaskan, 52 Greenwich, 53 Nook, 54 Cape, 55 Alpine, 56 Has, 57 Hawk, 58 Carlo, 59 Cape, 60 Hers, 61 Depp, 62 E-mail, 63 Egos, 64 Into, 65 Mind, 66 Dive, 67 Coos, 68 Ones, 69 Sox.
Continued from page 14

A career in golf gave Mike Millthorpe the opportunity to meet many celebrities, including former MLB shortstop and Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith. He also was instrumental in bringing a version of the Skills Challenge to Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The January event pairs PGA Tour 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, 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 he had been hired temporarily 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 LGPA 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, who passed away this April at a long-term care home in Missauga. The closure of the border meant he couldn't come to be with his extended family. At 62 years old now, he hopes to stay on as a 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 loves a game of golf and his second home. "I would 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."