



**Peachy weekend in NOTL**

**pages 12-14**

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The Saturday night opening of the Canada Summer Games at the Meridian Centre was an awe-inspiring spectacle, and a proud moment for Canadians. For more photos see page 21. (Mike Balsom)

## Seventh wave a reminder pandemic isn't behind us

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

Dr. Mustafa Hirji, Niagara's Medical Officer of Health, is certain the seventh wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is upon us.

The difference between this wave and the previous ones, however, is it most likely won't take the same drastic measures to stem the spread.

In a recent interview, Hirji confirmed the trends in wastewater analysis, infection rate and hospitalizations have been on the rise in recent weeks. And in the 10 days leading up to Thursday, seven people had died in Niagara from COVID.

"We are perhaps now seeing some signs that the number of infections has

stopped rising," Hirji said. "My hope is that we are getting to a peak and that we're going to start to go down, which would mean we are about half-way through this wave. We're not yet at that stage. There is also the chance that it stays at a high level, or increases again."

The acting MOH urges everybody to remember the pandemic is not over. He recommends that vaccinations should be up to date with all three doses, and encourages people to wear masks indoors as well as when in larger crowds outdoors.

And if you're sick, do a rapid test to find out if it is indeed COVID, and stay home if it is.

**Continued on page 9**

## Games opening ceremony brings country together

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

I've never been a huge fan of opening and closing ceremonies at events such as the Olympics. In fact, other than Vancouver 2010, I don't think I have ever sat down to watch more than five minutes of either celebration.

Saturday evening, however, I had the distinct pleasure of experiencing first-hand the opening ceremony of the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games, as a partner with former CBC Olympics broad-

caster Sue Prestedge for the play-by-play of the Athletes Parade.

You can consider me a convert.

After being postponed from 2021, for many it has been hard to get excited about these games. Of course, there's been this little thing called the pandemic that may have gotten in the way. But Saturday's gathering at the Meridian Centre got the ball rolling in a big way.

The energy in the building was palpable as the young athletes from each of the 13

provinces and territories paraded into the arena dressed in their team colours. Remember, these athletes are true amateurs, the best in the country at their sports, and for the most part under 23 years old. Many of them will be Canada's future Olympians and Paralympians, and they were thrilled to be in Niagara to take this next step in their journey.

As one might imagine, Team Ontario, as the host province the last to enter, received the loudest response from the crowd. But seeing

the many different provincial flags waving in the stands brought home the point that there were people from every corner of the country right here in our region.

Once the athletes were seated on the Meridian Centre surface, the ceremony began with a performance from Indigenous drummers, led by Gary Parker. Then, 17-year-old youth Indigenous ambassador Kya Steinbach-Parker from Fort Erie took the Turtle Island stage to share the Haudenosaunee creation story and to reflect on the gener-

ational trauma suffered by Six Nations people.

That was followed by a powerful performance featuring Juno Award winner DJ Shub, Métis fiddler Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk and, Kyle Burton of the Toronto Métis Jiggers and accomplished hoop dancer Myranda Spence.

At one point during the performance, technical difficulties silenced the sound from the musicians, and the athletes began clapping, then starting 'the wave' across the arena to fill the silence.

Though totally un-

planned, that was a key moment in realizing the power of all of these people together in this building, celebrating the beginning of a two-week sporting event. Nothing was going to stop anyone present from enjoying this night.

A series of dignitaries then took to the Turtle Island stage, beginning with Canada Games Council (CGC) Chair Evan Johnston and Olympic champion speed skater and CGC board member Catrio-na Le May Doan.

**Continued on page 21**

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# Time to erase differences, live together as inclusive society

Mike Balsom  
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake resident Ken Chan is excited with anticipation for the installation of a rainbow crosswalk across Anderson Lane at Niagara Stone Road.

"The presence of a rainbow crosswalk sends a clear message," says the vice-president of administration at Brock University. "It will demonstrate to our businesses and guests that we have evolved as a society to be inclusive, respectful and accepting of each other."

Chan was present in late June when, at the end of Pride Month, a similar crosswalk was officially unveiled on Sir Isaac Brock Way, linking the Niagara Region headquarters with the Brock University campus.

"That was a very surreal moment in a very positive way," he says. "I listened to (Niagara Region) chair Jim Bradley, (Thorold mayor) Terry Ugullini and Enzo (De Divitiis, chair of Pride Niagara), and looked across to see my office at Brock, and the university's residences in the background. And along the horizon I saw Niagara Falls."

"It sent a message," continued Chan, "that regardless of your background or who you love, you are welcome. For me that is a message that is so appropriate. Thousands of students come from around the world to Brock. It says that Brock, and the community



Ken Chan, on the rainbow crosswalk on Sir Isaac Brock Way in Thorold, sees a rainbow crosswalk as sending a message of being inclusive, respectful and accepting of each other. (Jocelyn Titone, Brock University's Marketing and Communications)

it is a part of, are inclusive."

Chan and his husband Warren Duffy moved to NOTL last summer when he accepted his new position at Brock University. From the beginning they have felt embraced in their new home.

"When we go for walks together here," says Chan, "people are welcoming and friendly. They treat us with respect. It's a reflection of who we are in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

He shares with The Local his story, growing up in Brunei as young gay man in a country where loving someone of the same sex is still illegal.

"It was a journey as a young boy, questioning why I was different from my friends and family members," he says. "I first came out in the late 1990s when I applied to be a police officer (in Peel Region). I was one of the first few out officers at the time when it was a very different culture and environment. Significant progress has been made."

He says coming out to his family was more of a gradual process.

"It's always difficult for a parent and a grandparent," he says. "People react differently. Both of our mothers are very supportive. We both lost our fathers over 20 years ago, so neither Warren or I had that conversation with them. The experience can be difficult for many, but we are truly fortunate."

He sees himself somewhere in the middle in the historic fight for equal

rights. At 47 years old, Chan wasn't part of the Stonewall riots in 1969 in New York City, or even old enough to have marched with AIDS activists in the 1980s.

But since coming out, he's led a life of a quiet sort of activism, acting as a shining example of a successful gay man comfortable in his own skin.

Recognizing that there are more 70 countries around the world where same sex relationships remain illegal, he has worked hard for change over his adult life.

Chan is on the board of Open for Business, an international charitable organization based in the U.K. It's a coalition of almost 40 corporations dedicated to the advancement of LGBTQ rights across the world.

"That's one of the ways that I can help people fight for equality of rights as hu-

mans," says Chan. "It's an obligation that I feel I need to fulfil. It's an opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the sacrifices made by the women and men who came before me, who put their lives and careers on the line."

"And it's also an opportunity to be a bridge to the younger generation," he adds. "The ability to be out in the workplace shouldn't be taken for granted. And there's still so much more work to be done. We have to all come together to continue the fight for equality."

He also values the work put forth by the many Canadians who fought the battle for same sex marriage in the courts, leading to the July, 2005 enactment of the federal Civil Marriage Act legalizing same-sex marriage. Chan and Duffy were married in 2015 at a ceremony in Toronto, surrounded by family and friends.

Chan admits the Anderson Lane location was not his first choice for the crosswalk. He would have preferred to see it at the corner of Queen's Parade and Wellington Streets, near the entrance to the Shaw Festival Theatre. He saw that site as another opportunity to showcase the richness of the town's arts and culture.

When asked about the back-and-forth within the community about the need for a symbolic crosswalk and the debate about where it might be placed, he is graciously matter-of-fact.

"I appreciate that members of the community provided feedback about the location," says Chan. "Ultimately, where it's located is less important than the fact that we're going to be getting a rainbow crosswalk. The decision has been made, and now it's time for all of us to come together to support the decision and make it a success."

Chan is also heartened by the fact the town will complement the rainbow crosswalk with matching benches in various locations. On July 25, council passed a motion to place these at Mary and King streets in town, as well as at the Queenston firehall, Sparky's Park, Niagara-on-the-Green Park and Centennial Sports Park in Virgil.

"This is a time when we move away from divisive issues and come together as a community to erase differences," he says. "At the same time, we continue to look for ways to live together as an inclusive society, whether it's based on ethnic, racial, religious, or gender identity differences."

"At the end of the day," concludes Chan, "as Canadians, we all live with each other, and are respectful of our views."



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# Grape shortfall in wine country ‘bad for our industry’

**Rick VanSickle**  
The Local

Niagara grape grower Kevin Watson takes a moment to collect his thoughts on the disaster that was the fall of 2021 and winter of 2022 in Ontario. “It’s not good at all. It’s bad for our industry.”

The relentless rain in September was the immediate problem for much of the 2021 crop, but a far greater concern has emerged for the 2022 crop in the wake of the wet weather during harvest and the freezing temperatures later in the winter.

By the time spring and flowering of the buds occurred, growers noticed swaths of unhealthy vines in the vineyard. And sadly, it has amounted to widespread crop loss across the entire Niagara region that will have a devastating financial impact on wineries, especially for the smaller businesses, virtual wineries and those who rely on growers for all or some of their grapes. There just won’t be enough to go around.

Watson pegs the loss of crop in Niagara to half of what a normal vintage will produce. Some growers and wineries fared worse than others. Chair of the Grape Growers of Ontario, Matthias Oppenlaender, agrees with that estimate: “I anticipate the crop to be down to probably half of a normal year,” he said. “We are trying to get a handle on it, as we are talking. There are also vineyards that are being removed.”

Just drive around the main grape-growing areas of Niagara and you can see for yourself the vineyards that were hit the hardest. Many are simply gone while others will not even produce one grape from the 2022 vintage.

Watson, whose family owns and operates K J Watson Farms on Line 2 in Niagara-on-the-Lake and farms 100 acres of multiple grape varieties, has never seen anything like what happened to the vines over the winter and spring of 2022. It wasn’t like the winter damage years of 2014-2015 or even 2003 and 2005, he said. “The issues came from the

rain last fall.” Because growers needed to hang the water-logged, “juiced up crop” long enough to get the sugar levels (brix) needed to make VQA wine, it led to a heavier crop with the roots sitting in the water. “They went into winter not as hardy as they should have been,” he explained. “The vines were just weaker.”

Watson, named Grape King in 2007-2008, estimated that over-wintering vines from 2021 were up to 5 degrees less hardy. While buds can normally withstand temperatures to around -23 C, grapes from 2022 were being compromised at -18 C, according to VineAlert, a Brock CCOVI system for measuring bud hardness.

Watson said the two months of rain last fall laid the groundwork for the looming disaster. The rain caused the crop to be late. “This was because the rains diluted the flavours and we had to wait to allow the sugars to come back up. Also, when it is raining the sun is elsewhere and the buds need the sun to harden off and prepare for winter.”

He said the vines had added extra stress with the delayed harvest as well as little exposure to the sun and that resulted in a nearly 5 C drop in winter hardness.

“We then saw a few nights of -20/21 and unbeknownst to us, damage occurred. I was cutting buds in March to determine how many buds to leave, and we were very optimistic. There were some reports of damage in the area, but I remember thinking that maybe we were spared.”

That optimism turned out to be all for naught. “I was wrong, and we sustained huge damage.”

While Watson said that next year the surviving vines have the potential to be back at 100 per cent, he did lose an eight-acre block of Chardonnay and damage to mostly Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Riesling, and Pinot Gris blocks. “We had a good many years of very little winter damage and it’s always in the back of your mind. Fingers crossed that we don’t have another for a

while. We’re all better when we grow more grapes. And we make such great wine here in Ontario.”

Watson said his farm, with the help of crop insurance that covers up to 80 per cent of the loss, will come out of this just fine. But for this harvest, not only will the crop be drastically reduced, but he is also going to have to farm at lower tonnage, anywhere from a half a tonne to an acre to a tonne an acre.

“The small guy producing good wine will have a hard time,” said Watson, noting the larger wineries such as Arterra Wines Canada and Peller, because of their large grape contracts, are always first in line for the grapes. The smaller wineries fall in somewhere behind them.

He noted that the worst hit varieties at his farm were both the Merlot and Sauvignon Blanc while the Cabernets, Chardonnay, Riesling, and hybrids were less impacted.

Southbrook Organic Vineyards owner Bill Redelmeier, who pens an informative industry newsletter for his subscribers every month, was one of the first in Niagara to discuss the crop loss.

He had reported in an earlier newsletter this spring that Southbrook had survived the winter that hit -24.8 C at the winery, a devastating temperature for bud survival, which leads to loss of vines. Damage can occur at below -20 C in Niagara, and quite likely at -24 C.

In an updated newsletter, Redelmeier wrote: “A few weeks ago, I wrote that we had survived the winter, except for a small block of Merlot. We had checked all the vines, and they seemed to be mostly alive, and we had high hopes for a reduced, but mostly normal, crop. As the spring starts to turn to summer, a different story is being told. We think that we will have lost about 75 per cent of our crop for this year.”

Plants, including grapevines, have evolved over millions of years to maximize survival, explained Redelmeier. “The vine does this in many ways, but especially



Bill Redelmeier of Southbrook Organic Vineyards was one of the first in Niagara to discuss the crop loss. (Photos supplied)

by having multiple buds. The primary bud is there to send out a shoot with multiple nodes, each with leaf and flower buds. The bud at the tip (the apex, or the apical bud) sends out hormones that tell all of the spare buds that all is well, and to stay dormant. This is called apical dominance.”

If the apical bud dies, he

continues, “those hormones disappear, and the dormant buds start to grow, but usually a couple of weeks later than usual. If you are in a warm climate, those secondary buds will produce a reduced, but serviceable crop. In a climate like Canada’s, however, the crop will rarely ripen enough to give us a quality crop and the har-

vest date will be so late that it puts the health of the vine in jeopardy. In order to save the vine, and if the secondary buds are fine, we will go through the vineyard and remove the flowers so the plant can focus on healing itself. We lose this year’s crop, but the vines will be healthy for a full crop next year.

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Bill Redeleier took this photo to show an example of a Southbrook vine that needs time to recover.



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# Former town councillor hoping to serve at region

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Although the chatter has been doing the rounds on social media for a while, Paolo Miele has made it official, filing his nomination papers to run for regional councillor.

The former town councillor was the first name on that particular list. Former Lord Mayor Pat Darte, who served on the 2014-2018 council with Miele, and was defeated by current Lord Mayor Betty Disero, signed up Tuesday.

Aug. 19 is the deadline for registering, as a coandidate.

Miele says the real surprise is the small number of candidates running for municipal council. There were 25 people on the 2018 election list hoping for one of eight seats at the NOTL council table — Miele was on that list as an incumbent seeking his second term, but came 16th in the election.

There were three people running for mayor and four for regional council that year.

At this point, with less than two weeks left to register as a candidate for the Oct. 24 election, there are not enough candidates to fill eight seats around the NOTL council table — Allan Bisback, Sandra O'Connor, Gary Burroughs, Maria Mavridis and Tim Baliuk had registered by Tuesday.

Two candidates, Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa have filed their nominations to run for lord mayor.

"I've never seen this before," says Miele, and although there is still time left for other candidates to come forward, he interprets the lack of interest as people being "just fed up. They don't want to bother."

Miele got his first taste of standing before regional councillors in June, 2018 when, as a member of municipal council, he made a presentation to ask for a four-way stop sign at Line 3 and Four Mile Creek Road, a regional road.

It was an intersection with a high collision rate, he says, and the region agreed.

He would like the opportunity to work for NOTL residents at the regional level, he says. "I have a loud voice, and I would like to put it to work from a regional perspective."

NOTL pays more than its share of taxes to the region, based on assessment — even more than the city of Welland, he says — and should get its fair share of services, but doesn't.

Transit falls into that category — regional transit is going to be a huge cost to the municipality, at \$1.2 to \$1.3 million, he says.



Paolo Miele made a deputation to regional council in 2018, and has decided he would like to be a regular around the regional council table. (Screenshot)

Irrigation is another issue he would like to bring to the attention of regional council. Although the region has an irrigation committee and has been studying the issue with regard to other small farming communities, such as Font-

hill and Lincoln, for years, he says, "NOTL has 8,000 acres of farmland that is not getting water," and despite the studies, the region has done nothing to help.

He'd like to see all four levels of government contribute to ensure all NOTL growers have access to irrigation, and he'd like to start by getting the region onboard.

The roundabout in St. Davids is another issue, one that comes with an expensive price tag, only in this case Miele says it's neither needed or wanted. The majority of St. Davids residents are not happy about it, and traffic lights would be a better solution for handling the traffic at that intersection, he believes — or better yet, leave it as it is. The four-way stop that's there now, he says, with the exception of an occasional traffic back-up, "has worked fantastically for decades."

While Miele has been trying to encourage residents to

make their wishes known, he says the region, which originally had three options on the table, has made its decision for that intersection.

However, the money to pay for it will have to be included in the regional budget, likely in the next year or two — Miele says \$3.5 million. "If I'm lucky and get on regional council, I'll make sure it doesn't happen."

Niagara-on-the-Lake needs more regional housing, he says, and although there might not be many residents in support of it, Glendale would be a good location.

He's also concerned about health care, the doctor shortage in Niagara, the need to have at least one more nurse practitioner in town, and to hire more paramedics.

When he talks to residents about regional council, "they don't seem to see it as having as much of an impact on their lives as municipal council, at least that's the perception I get

from them. Most people are just not that concerned, until it affects them."

Road safety, with the lack of support from the NRP, is also an issue, he says, especially in the town's community safety zones — the police should be watching them and ticketing speeders.

Miele thinks it's important for regional councillors from the smaller municipalities to work together. They face many of the same issues, and while they don't individually have the votes of the larger municipalities, if they support each other, they could.

"When we did the delegation about the stop signs on Four Mile Creek Road and Line 3, the mayors of the smaller communities supported us," he says. "I realized these smaller communities weren't getting what they need. We can help each other."

"I believe in our town," he adds, "and I want what's best for our town."

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# Gary Pillitteri receives Award of Distinction from Canadian Wine Industry

Pillitteri Estates Winery Proprietor and Founder Gary Pillitteri has been awarded the Award of Distinction by Wine Growers Canada. The Award of Distinction is the preeminent award for the Canadian wine industry and regarded as the highest form of peer recognition and appreciation. The award was presented to Gary Pillitteri of Pillitteri Estates Winery for demonstrating

outstanding leadership, commitment and passion for the advancement of the Canadian wine industry. This distinguished honour was presented in a virtual ceremony held on Monday July 11th with participants from across Canada. Gary and his wife Lena began their journey of grape growing and winemaking in the 1960s when they purchased a small piece of land along Ni-

agara Stone Road. At that time they farmed cherry trees and sold cherries along with other tender fruits at their roadside fruit stand, called Gary's Farm Market. Gary was an early adaptor and began planting vinifera (winemaking style) grapes on his farm, culminating with him being crowned Grape King in 1981 for the quality of wine grapes. In 1993 Pillitteri Estates Winery opened on the site of the fruit market with 3 vintages of wine and Icewine available for sale. Now with sales in 30 countries, thousands of wine awards, a national brand presence and a partnership to produce the Official Wines of the Canadian Olympic Team, Pillitteri Estates Winery has become a respected and renowned member of the global wine community. Gary acknowledges that this achievement would not have been possible without the support of his wife Lena, his children, Connie, Lucy and Charlie, his grandchildren and his friends. He is proud that presently there are 3 generations of family members working in Pillitteri Estates Winery. Gary has watched the industry evolve and grow by leaps and bounds in the last 40 years.



Three Generations of the Pillitteri Family work together at Pillitteri Estates Winery



Gary Pillitteri Proprietor and Founder of Pillitteri Estates Winery

“We were told Vinifera varieties could not be grown here. But we grew them. Our wine industry was told we could not make great wine with the grapes we grew. So, we created an appellation standard, VQA, and we made great wine, red wine, white wine, sparkling wine, Icewines, winning every top world wine award. We were told that no one would buy our wines. So, we built wineries with stores and developed agritourism which now accounts for 50% of all VQA wine sales in Ontario. We also looked beyond our back yard and exported our wines.”

The challenges continue and to combat the downturn of international tourism due to COVID, Gary renovated the winery's patio into a new restaurant, BarrelHead Wine Pizza Patio. Locals and tourists enjoy traditional wood fired pizza, Icewine cocktails and live music. Gary, now 86, says “When I came to Canada, I was 12 years old. All I owned was a pair of shorts and the shirt on my back. For me there was no easy path to success. If there was, I have not found it. For if I have accomplished anything in my life, it is because I have been willing to work hard.” Gary's nominator for the Award of Distinction, Jim Clark, President of Colio Es-

tate Wines, noted in his nomination “Gary, you make world class wines, having won thousands of awards world wide and are one of the leading exporters of Icewine. You have invested an incredible amount of capital, time and energy into the export market. While you are promoting Pillitteri wines and Icewine at these shows your family is always waving the Canadian flag by telling yours and our story, for that, the entire industry is grateful. Gary, on behalf of the entire Canadian wine industry, we thank you for your outstanding leadership, your commitment and service. We congratulate you on an outstanding career.”

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# EDITORIAL

## Why can't we collectively do something about health care?

While COVID showed us early in the pandemic that there are problems in our health care system — and continues to show us now — the problems are not new.

We were talking about hallway medicine in the province long ago, and the shortage of nurses, and all health care workers, including paramedics who were held back from answering calls as they waited in hospitals until their patients were looked after.

Experts are looking at this pandemic as creating the perfect storm in health care, one that continues to worsen as hospital staff become more and more exhausted and disillusioned.

While Dr. Mustafa Hirji is telling us we're in a seventh wave, that could have

peaked or could worsen before it reaches its peak, people are acting as if the pandemic is over — it feels as if it is. We're refusing to have third and fourth vaccinations, and we aren't wearing masks, at least not in any great numbers.

Meanwhile, emergency rooms are either crazy busy or closed, our health care system is in chaos, and those who have the ability to do something about it choose not to.

Canadians used to be proud of their health care system, grateful for it, thinking of it as a model for other countries (read south of the border).

It isn't any more, and what it left of it is not sustainable.

While we're enjoying our summer, our festivals

and events, being with people, there are others who are experiencing real health issues and can't get the care they need.

There are two quick fixes that have been discussed and pushed — this isn't new, and it certainly isn't rocket science — the end to Bill 124 so those health care workers who have been held to a one per cent pay increase can be given a decent raise, and maybe stay at their jobs; and paid sick leave, so that those who are contagious and should be isolating at home will do so, rather than go to work and spread disease to others, who also have families to feed and bills to pay. It shouldn't be a matter of people choosing to go to work with COVID, because they can't afford

to isolate with no wages coming in. But it happens, and becomes a cycle that leads to more staff shortages, more people becoming sick, while those who have the ability to put

into practice those quick solutions choose not to — never mind addressing the long-term issue of recruitment of more nurses and doctors.

Why can't we make

enough noise so Doug Ford will listen? What do we have to do to make him listen?

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

## Russian sage likes full sun, little water

**Marla Percy**  
Special to The Local

This Garden of the Week is an arresting corner garden showing two sides of the house, and the owners have made good use of the lovely and reliable Russian sage (*perovskia atriplicifolia*).

The plant produces spiky clusters of bluish purple blooms from mid-June to late fall. Plant them in full sun, as they can take the heat. They can flop with too much shade or too much water. This is an excellent plant for xeriscaping (a system of landscaping with water conservation as the priority) as they are drought-tolerant. Plant them with lavender, sedum or ornamental grasses if you don't want to be watering all the time. The spikes grow from two to four feet tall, but there is also a smaller version available.

The fragrant blooms attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. If the

blooms get floppy toward mid-summer, trim the top third of the stems to promote new growth.

You can mulch these plants with gravel, which helps with drainage as they don't like to be wet. The stems can be left for the winter, but they will flop so if you are a neat and tidy type, trim them to six inches after they have stopped growing. If you leave them in the fall, cut back in early spring to two to three inches when you see evidence of new growth.

In this garden, the Russian sage has been used at the front of the house in the back of a mixed border. The plant looks stunning against the golden coleus and red begonias. The sage shows up again in another spot in another border, but the dramatic show is down the fence at the side of the garden. A long row of the plant stands by itself, backed by a cedar hedge, and this stunning view has definitely sparked my imagination for next year.



## Garden of the Week



John and Marlene Precious, on Cottage Street, have a lovely flowing bed with great colour composition — a repetition of burgundy, yellows and reds. The judges liked their good use of focal plants (weeping white pine, Japanese maple) to carry the eye through the garden. To nominate a garden of the week, visit [jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week](http://jointheconversationnotl.org/garden-of-the-week) (Photo supplied)



## View from the couch

**Donald Combe**  
Special to The Local

E.F. Benson's novel *Mapp and Lucia* (Britbox) was filmed in 10 episodes in 1985 and starred Geraldine McEwen and Prunella Scales. It was again filmed in five episodes in 2014 with Miranda Rich-

ardson and Anna Chancellor. What an overwhelming bounty of riches to those of us who love period pieces. These 15 episodes meticulously examine every rich detail of society in a small English town in the 1930s. Highly recommended for those who long for a bit of escape from cur-

rent realities.

*Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.*

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# COMMENT

## Local LETTERS Queen Street a Heritage District, not a resort area

Full disclosure: Three generations of my family have worked in or owned shops in the Heritage District, and we still have a family member who is presently employed there on a part-time basis.

We do not own any business in the Heritage District but we have numerous friends who do. I am also a member of the town's cenotaph committee and have been on a number of town and regional committees.

I realize the suggested transportation master plan is for all areas of our community, but I will try to give my feedback that directly impacts the first Heritage District in Ontario, the Queen-Picton Street corridor. I also realize that changes made to any of our town's road and infrastructure in some ways affect the continued survival of this area.

It would appear that the individuals who prepared this draft plan were not made fully aware of the history of how the Heritage District has worked over the last 100 years and thus their assumptions are not correct. Some of the suggested changes are the same as we have had in the past and the residents, merchants, Chamber of Commerce, town councils and other groups did not accept nor follow through with the suggestions made, as they thought they were not appropriate.

To my knowledge not one member of the cenotaph committee or the Royal Canadian Legion was contacted with regard to the suggested changes to Queen Street. In the past any changes to Queen Street or the interchange at King and Queen were always referred to those

two groups for their input.

Signs: Again the authors of the report were not informed that in the Queen/Picton area signs are kept to a minimum and making comparison to Wasaga, Niagara Falls etc. is not appropriate, as this is a Heritage District, not a resort area. In fact the street is a site of a battle.

Crosswalks have never been put in place as again they would result in the degradation of the heritage area. Also for the last 100 years the unwritten rule is nothing from Mississagua to Wellington Street can impede the view of the iconic structure on Queen Street, our town cenotaph.

Several years ago the Niagara Regional Police provided the town with statistical information that showed, considering the volumes of

pedestrians and vehicles, the Queen and King intersection was one of the safest in town, as was Queen Street itself.

Queen Street deliveries: I don't think the authors of the report were given all the info they required. Some stores have no rear access or storage facilities, and some are only staffed with one person so they can't leave the store to receive deliveries. Such deliveries can only be made in front of the shops; apartment dwellers have the same issues with deliveries.

Flex street: A variation of this was suggested years ago but was not accepted. It sounds good on paper but in reality does not work in our Heritage District for numerous reasons, as stated many times by many groups, including lord mayors and town councils.

This comparison to London, Ont. cannot be made, again as that area is not like our Heritage District and the surrounding residential area. In London there are one-way streets on blocks away from Dundas, King and Queen Streets, and running parallel to Dundas in opposite directions. King and Queen Streets are both zoned commercial. London is a city of more than 500,000 people, has its own bus service, parking buildings and parking lots just blocks away, and is not a Heritage District.

The streets surrounding NOTL's Heritage District are zoned residential in most cases, and putting extra traffic on them was turned down by past lord mayors and councils, and rightly so.

We must all remember the Old Town and its Heri-

itage District is a living, working historical community, and we all have to respect and honour all these features of our town. The commercial viability of this area is very sensitive and has to remain unique to be successful, and can't be turned into a copy of other downtown areas. It has to be seen to be different by remaining historic. To prove the point, in this report the most visual image and symbol of our town is the historic and iconic cenotaph, which is located in the centre of historic Queen Street.

It is imperative this draft report be referred back to staff and receive direct input from all the many groups these suggested changes will affect.

Stan Harrington  
NOTL

## Local LETTERS Let's recognize Indigenous roots too

Many in town laud the recent decision to recognize LGBT people's long struggle with a coloured walk; for many it recognizes a strata of society that has been substantially present in this place from its beginning.

While the town's history is most often associated with British presence and

even the upper classes, it has now opened up a broader perspective with this move, plus its park recognition of Black significance.

I can't be alone in thinking we should also recognize our Indigenous roots; after all this area was first most associated with the Neutrals when a strip along the Niag-

ara River was turned over to European entrepreneurs. It is also of interest to me that Lenerd Leblanc is the only stone in our oldest cemetery, a name many of us recognize as having French-Canadian and Metis history.

But I am also impressed with the direction that graves point to in St. Mark's

cemetery, east-west, recognizing a very old tradition among Indigenous people to bury the dead so that their soul can easily travel west to the land of the dead and east, the direction that these same souls may be reborn in the children of the community.

It is intriguing that this

tradition continued even after Europeans began burying their dead in this open ground facing east, as can be readily seen even today. We have a very rich social history, indeed.

I note that Gananoque has recognized some of its own background by painting a strip orange in honour

of Every Child Matters even though, to my knowledge, they had no residential schools.

It might be the proper time to consider some kind of recognition of our Indigenous legacy here too.

Earle Waugh  
NOTL

# Summer camping adventure continues in Saskatchewan

David Gilchrist  
Special to The Local

As Claudia and I travelled home from B.C. in our Back-Pack trailer, another area on our travel list was Grasslands National Park in Saskatchewan.

The parks office is located in the village of Val Marie, where former NHL star Bryan Trottier grew up. During his career, he won the Calder Memorial, the Hart Trophy and the Stanley Cup.

Grasslands National Park is Canada's only park that displays and protects the Prairie Grasslands Natural Region. It is reported to represent one of the finest intact parcels of North American mixed grass prairie

habitat in existence.

The park is divided into two sections, one in the Frenchman River Valley, the West Block, where we camped during our stay, and the East Block about two hours away. It's a fairly long, a 20-kilometre drive, with the last five kilometres on a gravel road, from the village into the West Block area itself. The drive takes you past extensive farming areas, and we were able to see the spring activities on these large prairie farms.

When we first entered the park, we were surprised to see a few Plains Bison off in the distance, and we stopped so that I could get a few photos from that distance. Claudia said I should get a little closer as there was a

gate I could run around if necessary — lol! The bison showed no interest in us, however, as they continued to graze and I was able to get a few distant shots.

Continuing on our way along the EcoTour Scenic Drive, we came to one of several posted areas, this one, The Top Dogtown Trail. It indicated the presence of a rare community of black-tailed prairie dogs, a large species of squirrel that is found in southern Saskatchewan, mostly within Grasslands National Park. They live in short and mixed-grass prairies and require loose soils that support their underground network of burrows. We were surprised at the number of these actively going about their

business on both sides of the road. On one of our later hikes here, we were able to hear the many calls they make while communicating with the others, and got some good photos.

We stayed at what is known as the Frenchman Valley campground, which is actually fenced in. The bison are allowed to roam in the park where they wish, but campers are in a protected area. When bison were first reintroduced to the area, their natural habitat, there were 79. Numbers are now at a little over 300. One morning, when we arose, several bison were quite close to the campground entrance. This allowed us to get some photos as we passed by in our vehicle.

During our stay, we took the opportunity to stop at each of the Ecotour pull-offs and went on a few of the shorter hikes. Ancient teepees, a large rock, its surface smoothed from the bison that had rubbed themselves on it for millennia, the '76 Ranch and the Larson Homestead all were interesting sights. On one such hike, we sat in two of the park's red chairs gazing out over the extent of the grassland area, and watched a coyote on its evening prowling.

On other hikes one has the opportunity to come across fossils and lovely small and colourful flowers. There are several species of birds which bring birders to the area, and I

was pleased to get photos of a few of these while on our hikes. The grouse species was especially interesting as we were able to witness the spring mating rituals near the '76 Ranch area, along with several species of waterfowl active in the small river that ran through it. Other wildlife to be on the look out for in this park are burrowing owls, greater short-horned lizards, pronghorn antelope, mule deer and white-tailed deer, and red and swift foxes.

We had a very pleasant camping experience at this park. The weather was very favourable and the vistas of prairie grasslands with the wonderful Saskatchewan skies made it a memorable visit.



A Black-tailed Prairie Dog warns others in the area of our presence. (Photos by Claudia and Dave Gilchrist)



A Prairie bison grazes along the side of the road leading from the campsite.



An evening view of several bison grazing near the Frenchman Valley Campground.



# Shaw Fairground presents a joyous experience

Mike Balsom  
The Local

*Fairground* at the Shaw Festival uses the unique talents of 14 ensemble members who come together for an immersive hour-long experience that takes place on the grounds of the Festival Theatre.

Director Molly Atkinson says it's totally different from the similarly-titled outdoor production from 2021, and it began with a creative meeting between the entire group.

"We just kind of chatted about the things we thought were interesting," says Atkinson, on the line from her Niagara-on-the-Lake home. "I talked about how I wanted it to be a real celebration of art, a celebration of being actors as artists. I wanted the audience to come and be joyful, and to get a feel for who these actors really are."

Atkinson, who has directed the 2018, 2019 and 2021 productions of *A Christmas Carol* at Shaw, was elated to take the reins for *Fairground*.

"It's really nice to be able to have an outdoor performance," she enthuses. "So much art can take place in that beautiful setting. There's not the same pressure you have in regular theatre, but there are challenges you have to take into account."

Those challenges include the noise from nearby cars, motorcycles and birds, as well as the presence of bugs, people walking through when they're not supposed to be, and the record heat the month of July brought

this summer. But seeing the audience up close and personal has made it all worthwhile.

*Fairground* audiences will likely recognize many of those involved from 2022 Shaw productions such as *Damn Yankees* and *Too True to be Good*. But chances are they've never seen them like they do in *Fairground*, and they've never experienced some of the talents that they display in the outdoor setting.

"There's something different that you get to see from them," explains Atkinson, "that you would probably never otherwise get a chance to see. They all jumped in and surprised me with some great ideas."

Atkinson started that first meeting with a list of questions. If you had a million dollar budget, what would you do? What is something you've always wanted to perform but have never had a chance to? What would your five-year-old self want to do?

"What came out of that," she says, "were some lovely, incredible ideas. Some of them were almost impossible to do. We were working with nearly a zero budget, but we found ways to get some things done. A lot of them really surprised me."

In *Fairground*, Jenny Wright follows a passion of hers, dancing with hoops and silks. James Daly, who had planned to do a movement piece but hurt his shoulder in rehearsal, shifted to creating a performance that uses vocal looping techniques. Jay Turvey performs

an original song that he wrote with Shaw music director Paul Sportelli.

One actor sings a number in various different voices. One dances on a swing, while another recites poetry that they have written over the last couple of years.

It all comes together on the grounds of the Festival Theatre, with the audience moving along from stop to stop with the performers. If it feels reminiscent of the old Shaw Fair and Fete, that's no accident, as Atkinson had that in mind throughout the creative genesis of the program.

"It has that real joyous sort of 'fair' feeling that we haven't seen at the Shaw Festival for a few years now," she says.

In guiding the audience through the grounds, the 14 actors connect more deeply with their guests, sharing in the excitement about what lies ahead around the next corner.

"We're all sort of in it together," says Atkinson of that connection, "enjoying each other and seeing each other in a different way. There's an element of surprise, an element of magic in it."

Atkinson adds that as *Fairground* was developing, the actors themselves became increasingly excited about the possibilities, about having a chance to flex their imagination in ways much different than the regular Shaw fare.

And the Shaw grounds itself inspired some of the performances.

"We held some of those first meetings outside," says Atkinson. "Our designer, Paige Prystupa, was amazing. We talked about ideas. We really wanted the gardens to speak for themselves. We came up with an idea about how we wanted to move people around them."

She says another entire list of possibilities arose from the cast based on the surroundings, and Atkinson worked with Prystupa

to turn them into reality. The performances that take place in what is referred to as Linden Alley, she adds, come alive with the perfect backdrop.

"My role was to guide them," Atkinson says of the

actors, "to be an outside eye for them, and to inspire them. It's turned out to be a real celebration of art, a celebration of the actors and the audience together."

The next performance of *Fairground* is on Thursday,

Aug. 11. There are seven more performances between then and Sept. 21, all beginning at 11 a.m.

Visit <https://www.shawfest.com/play-bill/fairground/> for tickets and information.



Jenny L. Wright, Shane Carty and Kristopher Bowman (above), Wright in the question game (left), and the cast (below) of *Fairground*, at the Shaw Festival. (Photos by Rhiannon Fleming)





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# ‘Radio silence’ from province over vaccinations

Continued from page 1

The summer has brought about large crowds gathering together at several events across the region. Hirji isn't overly concerned with the possible spread of the virus under those circumstances. "Those are outdoor events," he said. "The ability of the virus to spread outdoors is actually greatly reduced. If we're going to be doing activities, it's great that they are outdoors. If you are going to be in really close quarters with a bunch of people, though, I really do think it is better to be wearing a mask."

Hirji stressed that where vaccinations are concerned, three doses is what is needed. "With the Omicron variant, you need to have three doses to have proper protection against the virus," he said. "The great thing about the vaccine is no matter where you are going, no matter what you are doing, it's always there to protect you against the virus."

In Niagara, only about 61 per cent of adults have been vaccinated with the third shot, while the rate for the first two doses was well over 90 per cent.

"It's not been as high as our first two doses," said Hirji. "But in the last couple

of weeks we have seen a bit of an uptake. That might be because people are hearing about the seventh wave and recognizing the risk. There's still a long way to go."

Hirji believes that some strong messaging from both the provincial and federal governments would have a great effect on the numbers for the third dose.

"Last year there was a lot of push by the province and the federal government to get the two doses," he said. "Vaccine policies and requirements pushed those expectations. Lately, there's been almost radio silence from both the province and the federal government. If they were to speak much more strongly about this, that would push people to start getting that third dose."

He added that there has been a modest number of people opting for a second booster of the vaccine. Recent numbers have shown a seven to 10 per cent increase in the 60-plus age group getting the second booster, and about a three to five percent increase in younger age groups.

"That fourth shot really gives a much smaller benefit than the first three," Hirji said. "If you are elderly, or immunocompromised, it's definitely going to have

much more benefit. It increases your immunity in the short term, but not so much in the long term."

He suggests that the decision on whether or not to get the fourth shot is largely a circumstantial one. For many, he feels the best strategy may be to wait until the fall to make the decision.

"The fall and winter is when this virus is at its prime," he said. "You may want that little extra immunity when we're going into the highest risk period. We know, too, that there will be some Omicron-specific vaccines coming out in the next few months, and you may want to get that specific immunity when you do get that fourth shot."

Outbreaks continue to plague long-term care homes across Niagara. It's a situation that Niagara's lead doctor says never really stopped, and has picked up in the last few months, but it's not as bad as it was 18 months ago.

"Vaccines have made a huge difference," he said. "For the most part, people in long-term care and retirement homes have four or five doses of the vaccine. It's giving them really good protection, so that when these outbreaks do hit, it's not hitting everyone in the home."

It's a relatively small number, and for the most part those that do get sick are not getting severely ill. They are recovering without having to go to the hospital."

"It's important that all of us are doing our part," added Hirji, "because when we limit the spread of infection in the community, it really limits the possibility of infection for our most vulnerable people in these homes."

Just before the Aug. 1 long weekend Niagara began offering vaccinations for children younger than five years old. After only a week of these shots being offered, fewer than one per cent had been vaccinated.

"I'm hoping that it's because the launch was around the long weekend," Hirji said. "We now have about 10 pharmacies starting up with these and we still have to get primary care physicians starting, too. Most parents get their other vaccinations for their kids from their primary care providers, so that will most likely be their preferred method of getting their children vaccinated."

Though the infection rate for children in this age group has been very low since the beginning of the pandemic, he assumes that there are a number of factors leading to those numbers.

"Schools were closed, sports activities were cancelled," he said. "I think they were really protected from getting the virus based on that. I don't think that will be the case anymore. They'll all be going back into child care, pre-school and Junior Kindergarten. We're not going to have masking policies that protect them when they go back. For the first time they'll be exposed to the virus in a way they haven't been previously"

Because of that, he suggests that it's important for these younger children get vaccinated, like their older counterparts, who have had an uptake of about 50 per cent for the first shot, and 30 per cent for the second.

Post-secondary institutions will soon be welcoming students back to campus. Niagara College lifted its mandatory vaccination requirements in April, and Brock University followed suit in June. Hirji feels a minimum of three doses is important for all students returning to campus.

"I would be very supportive of them reintroducing vaccine requirements," he affirmed. "Vaccine requirements really kept the campuses as safe places the past two years. I did some teaching on the Brock cam-

pus. People wearing masks, everybody being vaccinated, really meant we saw almost no outbreaks there."

The seventh wave, he warns, may not be the last. He feels for the next couple of years we are likely to experience recurring waves of COVID.

"We're seeing people getting re-infected with the virus," he said. "Every time you get a new variant it's like you're fighting a new virus. That is going to lead to people getting re-infections. Long term, we will see repeated infections and all the disruptions that come with that, stress on the hospitals, chaos at our airports."

A more sustainable way of managing the pandemic going forward is the key.

"We don't need to be doing things at the same intensity as we have been doing. We have a lot of the vaccine out there, we have treatments. We don't need to be shutting down businesses or having capacity limits. But we also don't need to be doing zero. We need to focus on improving our ventilation systems, filtration of our HVAC systems to clean our air of the virus in public places. And we need to look at making paid sick days permanent so people stay home when they're sick."

## Dylan Rumsey's Swim



Dylan Rumsey will be swimming for mental health awareness from the Queenston boat launch to the gazebo at Queen's Royal Park Saturday, Aug. 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and expecting to take four to six hours. To learn more about Dylan and his swim or to donate on his behalf to the Pathstone Mental Health foundation go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/yb6aqw-mental-health-awareness?qid=73a5d75eedf0b52499804d258aabc34b>



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# Author to talk about her book at library

## Emily West explains Amazon in Buy Now

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Like so many others, Niagara-on-the-Lake native Emily West became a regular Amazon shopper years ago. She's been a customer of the online service since 2000, when as a university student she started looking for books to order.

But even before that, when Amazon was only available from the U.S. unless shoppers were willing to pay expensive shipping fees, she'd use it as a "digital library." She would access the website by a slow, dial-up connection and discover books and resources she could use for school, then track them down in local bookstores or libraries.

Years after discovering the convenience of its e-commerce service for books, she branched out as a new mom interested in baby gear and household items, as well as Amazon's Prime Video content and its two-day free shipping.

Fast forward to 2015, when news outlets were reporting Amazon's mistreatment of employees, the revelation caused her a "personal moment," when she realized she should think more about the company she so quickly turned to as a consumer.

"How employees were treated really got me to think about how incrementally Amazon had gone from this novelty in the 90s, where you could buy books online and they would deliver them to your house, which seemed kind of kooky and weird and interesting, to something people depended on. It had become basically infrastructural, providing such a wide swath of products and services in a way that for a long time did not inspire comment or critique."

That led her to begin an in-depth critique of her own, the result of which is her recently published book *Buy Now: How Amazon Branded Convenience and Normalized Monopoly* — a book she will discuss at an event to be held at the NOTL Public Library Tuesday.

Amazon "managed to slip below the radar and fade into the woodwork as part of what it takes to live life in the 21st century," she says. "My book is about getting us to notice how much Amazon is part of our lives, and also how it achieved this, how it

branded its own ubiquity."

Most consumers just think of it as an online service, and see boxes show up at their door, she says.

Although reports of the treatment of warehouse workers may have caused some concern, the public still isn't paying attention to the fact that Amazon, in addition to being the largest e-commerce company by far, is also one of the largest website service companies, has massive amounts of consumer data that it can sell for targeting advertising, and has tremendous advantages against other companies trying to compete with it.

"Its market dominance across so many sectors is still really hard for us as consumers to wrap our minds around," she says, "and it's something we really need to keep top of mind collectively to persuade our elected representatives to keep an eye on the incredibly rapid concentration in the tech industry that Amazon is a part of."

Her book can help us understand that Amazon is not a fair playing-field, subsidizing losses in some areas, such as shipping things so quickly it can put competitors out of business, with profits in its other companies, such as Amazon's Web Services, the most profitable part of Amazon, West explains. And as long as it can continue to do that, Amazon will draw investment capital its competitors will never attract.

West grew up in NOTL, went to Parliament Oak and then Sir Winston Churchill High School, was a child actor at the Shaw Festival and worked at a Queen Street restaurant during summers.

She went to McMaster University for under-grad studies before earning her PhD at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, and now lives in North Hampton, MA, where she is associate professor of communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

She tries to return home to visit regularly, although that slowed down during the pandemic, but is coming to NOTL to visit family and speak at the NOTL Public Library about Amazon, how it promoted the comfort and care of its customers, but not its workers, and became the ultimate service brand in



Emily West grew up in NOTL, lives in the U.S. now, and has written *Buy Now*, a book about problems with the extensive growth of Amazon. She will be back in NOTL to speak at the NOTL Public Library Aug. 16. (Photo supplied)

the digital economy.

Her father, Richard West, is a much-published author and an active member of the NOTL Writers Circle, which meets at the library. He suggested Emily as a speaker.

She says she still shops on Amazon occasionally. She wanted to keep her account active as she was writing *Buy Now* — some of the data she collected is based on her own experiences with Amazon and its marketing and services.

One of the major arguments in *Buy Now* is that Amazon "is one of most trusted and loved brands," developed through building a strong relationship between the consumer and brand through everything from an email reminder to recommendations or the way Alexa, Amazon's interactive voice assistant, remembers you.

West says she has made an effort to cut back on ordering, but hasn't can-

celled her membership — she likes Prime Video and there are some items she can only get on Amazon.

But she does try to be "a more mindful consumer and resist Amazon techniques of making everything so easy and seamless that it never occurs to you to look elsewhere."

And she hopes those who read *Buy Now* will as well.

She doesn't think individual consumer behaviour of cutting back or boycotting Amazon will solve the problem of its disproportionate market power, although she doesn't discourage people from being "mindful consumers."

Should the company that delivers about 50 per cent of consumer products, she asks, be competing in that same market place?

"Shipping and being a competitor in the market place — isn't that a conflict

of interest? Shouldn't we be asking government to look at that more closely? And isn't half of e-commerce by one company too much?"

There will need to be "a much more organized collective network, and something that occurs through law and regulation," she says, to deal with those issues, and she encourages consumers to be part of that effort.

"Consumers need to say yes, it's convenient, but if there are disproportionate costs that come with this convenience, such as unacceptable treatment of workers, too great an impact on the environment, undermining competition, or too much information about consumers in one place — if these are costs consumers find to be unacceptable, then they need to say to government, 'you need to rein this in.'"

Amazon has tried to correct its image regarding working conditions by in-

stituting a minimum wage, at least in the U.S., she says, and touts the benefits it offers, such as health insurance, parental leave, "and even offering training programs, interestingly, for other careers."

Amazon is desperate for warehouse workers, where turnover in the U.S. is 100 per cent a year — some positions might turn over more than once a year, says West.

While working on her book she went on some tours of their warehouses, which she says were definitely interesting, and emphasize "how magical the technology is that gets things to you quickly."

But you never see anyone actually working for more than about a minute, "so it's not super informative of what it's like to work there day in and day out."

West will be speaking at the NOTL Public Library Tuesday Aug. 16 from 2 to 3 p.m.



# Polo event brings best horses, players to town

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The Sport of Kings is coming back to Niagara-on-the-Lake on the historic commons, presented by the NOTL Museum Sept. 10. It will bring horses and members from the Toronto Polo Club — with its reputation of having the best horses and most skilled players in the country — to town for two four-chukker games. A traditional divot stomp, wine, beer, food, vendors, entertainment, a silent auction, a classic car parade, the

Fife and Drum Corps, and of course a hat competition are all planned to make it a spectacular event. The museum gathered a small group together Friday to talk about the much-anticipated event, after a four-year absence — it was decided in 2016 that the polo matches would be held every two years, explained Amy Klasen, director of financing and marketing for the museum, but the pandemic cancelled 2020. “We’re really excited to be back on the commons in 2022.”

While the premium and VIP seating sold out, she says, bring a chair, pick a spot at the side of the field, and prepare to enjoy the day. Sarah Kaufman, managing director and curator of the museum, explained the history of the event, sharing stories of the early days of polo related to the military presence in town. Lots of events on the commons included horses, she says, beginning with soldiers who needed to perfect the skill of carrying a weapon while riding a horse, and did so by playing polo, mallet in

hand, while at the same time providing entertainment for those who watched them. Nancy Bailey, broker for Engel & Volker in Oakville, was introduced as the major sponsor of the event. As a local for more than 30 years, and having been involved first in the hospitality industry and now real estate, she says, “I love this community, I love living here, working here and playing here.” She also loves local history, and seeing it preserved, as it is through the polo matches. And with so many new people moving to NOTL, “I want everyone to learn about the town. I’m happy to be a returning sponsor.”

Funds raised from the event go to operations and programs that present the history of the town, says Klasen, including the storage and exhibits of more than 60,000 artifacts relating to NOTL. George Dell, who along with Neil Rumble, former manager of the Chamber of Commerce, was the organizer of the early polo events, says he is thrilled to be part of the planning, working with the polo club — he was a polo player and an announcer — to bring the great athletes, four teams of four players, and 64 top polo horses to town. “It’s a wonderful experience to have that here, and an



George Dell (centre) is with Juan Sarli and Emily Hurst, two members of the Toronto Polo Club who are expected to be on the commons in NOTL in September.



Nancy Bailey, Sarah Kaufman and Neil Rumble were at the NOTL Museum Friday to celebrate the return of the polo event to the commons. (Photos by Penny Coles)

exciting time.” Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa also attended, speaking of the importance of the museum to the town. Disero put in a plug for the capital project planned for the museum, saying “anyone who has an extra dollar in their pockets, please contribute to the expansion.” General admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate, and children under 12 get in free. Tickets are available at the museum on Castlereigh Street.

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# Chamber's Peach Celebration returns to Queen Street

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The Peach Celebration returns this year after a two-year absence, with more to celebrate than ever — it's the 30th annual event for Queen

Street merchants and local growers to gather for the opportunity to recognize the harvest and the agricultural community.

Several local farmers will be on the main street, which is closed to traffic, to

sell their peaches and also to engage with visitors, many of whom plan a trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake to coincide with the celebration.

"We're so excited it's finally back," says Nicole Cripps of the NOTL Chamber of

Commerce, which organizes the event.

The celebration was created as a way for visitors and locals to connect with tender fruit growers, who are an important component of Niagara-on-the-Lake's agricultural industry, and to enjoy all kinds of peach delights — peach crepes, peach gelato and peach pie, of course — offered by local restaurants and bakeries.

This year will be no exception, says Cripps.

Fritters on the Lake will be offering apple fritters with peach ice cream, and Cheese Secrets has come up with something different — raclette, which Cripps describes as a white cheese that is melted, and which will

then be scraped onto grilled peaches.

More than 50 of the Queen Street merchants are participating in the sidewalk sale, moving merchandise outside on the street, which will be closed to traffic.

The steamed corn on the cob will be back, as will the peach pie contest.

Those who want to enter their tried and true peach pie should have it dropped off at the court House between 9 and 11 a.m. Saturday, with the pie-tasting beginning at noon.

Judges will be Chris Smythe, chef of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Coun. Gary Burroughs, who has been judging since the pie

contest was first held, says Cripps.

The day will also feature live music and entertainment throughout the day, beginning at 10 a.m. with the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps parading down the street. The Toronto All-Star Band will be back, as will the Caribbean Steel Band, Melodie Italiane, and the St.Catharines Pipe Band. The Ben Show will be back for kids.

Cripps says "it's going to be an amazing day, and an amazing turnout — everyone been looking forward to this for two years."

The Peach Celebration runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 13, between Victoria Street and King Street.



# Peachy weekend continues on church grounds Sunday

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

St. Vincent de Paul Church, the originator of the Peach Festival, will hold its 32nd annual event Sunday.

For Terry Choules, organizing the event after the two-year COVID cancel-

lation, says he is doing his best to follow past years of the popular festival.

There will be peaches for sale, donated by local growers, and 500 peach pies that will disappear quickly Sunday morning.

As in past years, and even more so leading up to

this event, it's been increasingly more difficult to get the volunteers needed for all the activities, but "this week people have come out of the woodwork," stepping forward to help.

There will be "peach everything" in the treat department, including pies to be cut up and sold

as slices with ice cream, he says, peach crepes, sundaes and punch. "Anything with peaches, we'll have it," says Choules.

There will be live entertainment throughout the day, including guitarist and singer Jon Libera, face-painting and balloons for the kids, and the white

elephant, jewelry, and used books tables will be back.

The barbecue will feature hot dogs and burgers, PigOut will be there, and the popular corn on the cob will be available.

And the annual raffle has three terrific prizes, including two nights at the Prince of Wales Hotel,

breakfast included: second prize is a spa treatment at 124 on Queen, and dinner at Treadwell's; and the third prize a selection of local wines.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 14 at the St. Vincent de Paul Church, at 73 Picton Street.

# Kinsmen classic car show back on commons Sunday

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Kinsmen are holding their 22nd annual Classic Car Show and Shine this Sunday, Aug. 14, and are expecting a great turnout.

"This will be the same show we've had other years," says Kinsman Ken Slingerland, and judging by other events that have attracted great attendance after two years of cancellations, "we're hopeful this will be a big crowd," although, as always, it will be weather-dependent.

"A lot of people are looking for things to do it town. And we're just thrilled to be able to run this again."

The fee for classic cars is \$10, and \$3 for spectators, kids under 12 free, "still a good deal in this day and age," he says.

The event is the club's major fundraiser, the money raised going to the many

community projects the club supports, including cystic fibrosis research, which Kinsmen are committed to.

They typically have 300 to 400 classic cars, which start arriving at about 7:30 a.m., although the show doesn't start until 9 a.m., finishing at 4 p.m., although some of the cars will begin to leave earlier.

"There are a lot of locals who come to the show, a lot of cars in garages they're waiting to bring out. I would say about 75 per cent are local."

The first 300 cars to arrive will receive a dashboard plaque and there will be six prizes awarded of \$50 each.

The Kinsmen will be offering their usual barbecue, including the popular back bacon on a bun, and an enclosed shaded area where beer and wine is being sold.

The event is at the Kinsmen Scout Hall, on King Street at Mary Street.



Expect to see 300 to 400 classic cars at the Kinsmen Car Show Sunday. (Photo supplied)



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## Bee therapy available at B-Y's



The Unger family celebrated the grand opening of their Apitherapy Wellness Centre at their B-Y's Honey Farm on Concession 2 Saturday. On hand for the opening were Julie Horton, Gabriela Unger, Grace Unger, Ed Unger, Stella Unger and Terry Unger. One of the first such clinics in Canada, their facility offers a number of honey- and bee-related therapies, including venom treatments and honey facials and massages. As well, they sell various honeybee products and supplements for depression, anxiety, stress reduction, healthy aging and the battle against lyme disease. The clinic is open Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day of the opening included craft vendors, music, food and drinks, winery booths, special speakers, and honey tasting. On Saturday, doctors and apitherapists from around the world held hands-on learning apitherapy workshops, sharing the natural alternative to healthy living through honey bees and their products. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



Grace and Ed Unger show off the interior of the Apitherapy Wellness Clinic, where many therapies will take place.

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# What do you see? Take a second look

**Maria Klassen**  
The Local

At the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre, the work of local artist Lynne Gaetz is being showcased in a solo exhibition this month.

What catches the eye immediately in these paintings are the vibrant colours and the col-

lages. In a closer second look, one is taken aback by images such as faces, heads, antlers, wings, fire, and tall hats. Gaetz says she wants people to view her work and imagine a story. She remarks, "I invite viewers to ask questions".

Many of the paintings on display come from her *Human Nature* collection. The exhibit is

entitled *Allegories*. The Oxford English Dictionary defines allegory as a piece of art that uses symbols to convey a hidden or ulterior meaning.

Symbols such as horns and antlers can represent many things, something different to each viewer, and she doesn't want to influence the viewer's interpretation by sharing her own. There is complexity in the way her figures interact on the canvas. The words and images, which she finds randomly in magazines, seem to fit right

into the collages, and add an extra dimension to the interpretation and meaning. "I want the viewers to have an emotional response to my work," she says.

Integrating mixed media into her work came about by accident, she says. Several years ago, while she was painting a fallen buffalo, she decided to add some torn images and a gold leaf to the horns. This gave an extra measure of interest to the painting, a style she has continued to use.

Art has always been part of her life; she began drawing as a young child, she says. Growing up in Alberta brought the buffalo to her paintings.

Gaetz has a Masters degree in literature, and a minor in art. She worked in the field of writing textbooks, never thinking she would make art her full-time career. She studied at universities in Calgary, Quebec City, Montreal, and an international university in India.

Gaetz travelled to many parts of the world; Kenya, Tur-

key, Morocco and Chile, sometimes staying a year or two. Having family in Mexico took her there many times. These cultures influenced the use of vivid rich colours in her work.

She is passionate about painting; seldom does a day go by when she is not in her studio. She wants to express truth about human nature in her work, inspiring people to question her work, and their own experiences.

What will you see in the paintings?



Lynne Gaetz, with her painting *Imaginary Wars of a Solemn Man*, was at the Pumphouse Sunday for the opening reception of her exhibition. (Photos by Maria Klassen)



Look closely, and what do you see, in *Sanctified*, a painting by Lynne Gaetz.



*Longing for Experience*, by Lynne Gaetz, at the Pumphouse.

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# Palliative care Shred-it event this Saturday

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

Shred-it, an annual fundraiser supporting palliative care, returns this Saturday.

Bonnie Bagnulo, executive director of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Palliative Care Service, says she was fortunate to be able to hold the event even during COVID, when so much else was cancelled.

Although the Meridian Credit Union continued to sponsor the fundraiser, as it has from its earliest years, they were unable to offer their usual volunteer help or hold it at the credit union due to their internal COVID precautions.

Instead, Sean Simpson offered Simpson's Pharmacy's Niagara Stone Road parking lot, where a safe and easy plan for drop-offs was organized. It was a great set-up, with an entrance and exit, and space for people to stop, and allow their boxes of material to be taken from trunks with no physical contact necessary, says Bagnulo.

"It was great for us all to get together, and have some fun," she adds, "and the more opportunities we have to spread the word and raise awareness better."

Not much has changed about the event — the cost for shredding is \$8 per bankers box of documents, and \$20 for three boxes. And the same set-up will be used in the Simpson's parking lot this year.

The support and sponsorship of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Meridian Credit Union also continues.

It's happening this Saturday, so it's time to go through the boxes of old documents piling up and taking space in your basement.

The number of boxes and the revenue from shredding the documents in them have stayed pretty steady, says Ba-

gnulo, partly because people who are aware of the fundraiser choose to hold on to their boxes so they can support palliative care programs.

The goal of the event has always been two-fold — it gets rid of important papers safely, avoiding the possibility of identity theft, while helping a very important local organization.

This year, she says she has heard from one local company that expects to drop off about 100 boxes. "I'm beyond excited," she says, thinking of the many services palliative care offers.

Meridian Credit Union pays for the Shred-it trucks, so all money raised can go directly to serving palliative care clients, their families and caregivers, as well as the services it offers.

If there has been change during the pandemic, it is that the services the palliative care organization offers has increased.

Their mission and goal remain the same: To offer community support volunteers and services free of charge to help achieve optimum quality of life for their clients and their caregivers, and to ensure every individual and family living in NOTL with a life-limiting illness will have access to high-quality, coordinated hospice palliative care.

There are about 50 volunteers who visit residents in Upper Canada Lodge, Niagara Long Term Care and Radiant Care Pleasant Manor, with almost 70 clients currently in those homes, says Bagnulo.

Volunteers are also seeing community clients — about 77 currently — in the privacy of their own homes, with illnesses such as dementia, cancer, heart disease, stroke, renal failure, pulmonary fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, COPD, HIV and other auto-immune diseases, as outlined by Bagnulo in a recent presentation



Boxes of documents to be shredded can be dropped off in the parking lot of Simpson's Pharmacy, as in 2021. The fundraiser helps to pay for the many programs and support services offered free by the NOTL Community Palliative Care Service. (Photo supplied)

to the Rotary Club of NOTL.

Palliative care volunteers offer "emotional support, compassionate listening, companionship and caregiver relief in their own home and in the three local long-term care facilities."

Volunteers are educated through Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, explains Bagnulo, completing a 30-hour training course. They are also required to have a police screening as they are working with the vulnerable sector.

Volunteers go into homes from two to four hours once a week, or on an agreed-upon schedule with the client and caregiver. They can provide transportation to hospital appointments, "and provide

a great deal of comfort, thus matching our motto - You are not alone."

The palliative care organization also offers bereavement services, including one-on-one companionship. Volunteers offer support while loved ones are adjusting to their new loss, and can provide them with coping skills and guidance if necessary.

If requested, phone bereavement support can be provided for up to a year following the death of a loved one, with a volunteer calling on the phone or through Zoom if preferred.

As well, community wellness support is offered, through community events and workshops held through-

out the year, with a trained facilitator conducting a group that can run once a week for three consecutive weeks.

These community events are a way to "celebrate, mourn and work through the passing of a loved one in the way of grief walks, memory boxes, celebration of life, workshops, life-legacy" and other ways of supporting those grieving.

They recently started a bereavement walking group that is open to anyone grieving a loss, says Bagnulo, meeting at a designated spot in NOTL, and facilitated by bereavement support volunteers. They currently walk for 45 minutes, and meet at the end of the walk for a brief discussion if they choose.

The palliative care lending library is full of titles that help loved ones grieve, and children understand the grief process. There are devotionals such as Grief One Day at a Time, and many other titles to choose from, as well as CDs and DVDs.

Equipment available for lending to clients includes walkers, wheelchairs, transfer chairs, canes, raised toilet seats, commodes and shower benches, ROHO-brand cushions, sheep skins and mattress covers.

The Shred-it event is this Saturday, Aug. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until the two Shred-it trucks are full.

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# Music meets art at St. Mark's Church Sunday

**Mike Balsom**  
The Local

After earning a Bachelor's, Master's and a Licentiate (PhD) of Arts degree from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, and then moving on for further studies in music in both Paris, France and Hamburg, Germany, Victor Paukstelis felt he had something more to express.

"All my life, whenever I started to draw or paint something, it felt very natural to me," the pianist tells The Local from his home in Lithuania. "When I came back from Paris, I just decided to apply to the Vilnius

Academy of Arts, and they accepted me."

Paukstelis spent six years studying art at the academy, adding a Master's degree in that discipline to his academic accomplishments in music. This Sunday, Aug. 14, he brings both art and music to a Music Niagara Festival performance at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Paukstelis has had a long relationship with Music Niagara, and an even longer one with festival co-founder and artistic director Atis Bankas. Bankas, also from Lithuania, studied the violin under Paukstelis' grandfather, Victor Radovich, who

had learned from legendary Russian violinist Igor Oistrakh.

"Atis was a very close friend of my mother's," Paukstelis says. "My mother (Tatjana) was a pianist and a teacher as well, and they had a great friendship. She often told me stories about Atis and other students of my grandfather. Atis was one of his best."

Though he undoubtedly encountered Bankas many times when he was younger, it was when Bankas came to one of his concerts that they developed a mutual admiration of each other's work and a friendship of their own.

As a musician, the

39-year-old enjoys performing the music of the masters. He considers his admiration for the works of Mozart, Bach and others as a natural influence on his drawings and paintings.

At the same time, Paukstelis says pursuing his art opened up his creativity at the piano.

"When you are performing, you are playing something that is already written," he says. "It's important to find new things. When doing my art, I began to understand that I could find that same freedom in piano performance in small nuances that are very important. Even in the silence between notes you can find your own position."

A visit to his website shows modern paintings that are at times reminiscent of the work of famous London street artist Banksy. As well, much of his art brings to mind the work of the Romantics in its use of iconic images from bygone eras.

It was a natural progression for the multi-talented Paukstelis to combine the two disciplines in his performances.

"Music is movement," he explains. "I thought that to bring them together, the paintings also have to move. I started to make moving drawings on my iPad. It's not traditional animation, it's my drawing recorded on the iPad."

Projected on a screen or a wall as he performs on the piano, it's fascinating to see

Paukstelis' visions come to life inspired by the music. It's more than a mere display of his works. Beginning with a blank or semi-finished "canvas", lines emerge and faces take shape. Backgrounds fill in and transform at a rapid pace, enhancing the musical experience.

It leaves the audience with a deeper understanding of Paukstelis' inspirations and creative process than one would get from simply listening to him perform.

And he takes time to successfully curate each of the images with the music.

"It has to be a good combination," he says. "Very often when I create I am thinking of specific music. All music tells a story. Very often it is abstract. And live drawings are often abstract as well. But both are about deep feelings, about loneliness, love, fundamental things."

For Sunday's program, attendees will experience about 20 minutes of his art, as Paukstelis himself understands that for many, a classical music performance is a personal and solitudinous experience.

"The other part of the concert will be a solo performance," explains Paukstelis. "It's very difficult for people to concentrate when you have two arts at the same time. Very often, I close my eyes when I listen to music, to go much deeper into the music."

His animations will be

accompanied by music from Bach, Pärt and French composer Jean-Philippe Rameau. The remainder of the recital will include Bach's French Suite No. 5 as well as music by Chopin and Italian composer Domenico Scarlatti.

"It's a combination of clear, light pieces with some dramatic things," he says. "Some melancholy as well. It's a very, very nice program."

Paukstelis is also booked for a performance in Toronto at the Lithuanian Society this month. He is planning to stay in Niagara-on-the-Lake for about a week, catching up with Bankas, creating some drawings, and running along the Niagara Parkway.

"I am preparing for a marathon, either in Amsterdam or Frankfurt, in October," the avid runner explains. "I've run five or six marathons, and I try to do one a year. Running is a time to think, to be with myself, to have ideas come to me."

He continues, "the life of the artist is very stressful, because you are always not believing in yourself enough. If you believe in yourself too much, it's not good. You have to have your doubts, then you will find something new. When I'm not being social, I become calm, and I can decide where to go with it."

Sunday's program begins at 4 pm. Tickets are available at [musicniagara.org](http://musicniagara.org).



Victor Paukstelis brings both art and music to a Music Niagara Festival performance at St. Mark's Anglican Church this Sunday. (Photo supplied)

# Bridge lessons for beginner, intermediate players

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

If you can play any card game, and you enjoy playing cards, duplicate bridge could be for you.

That assurance comes from Muriel Tremblay, a

long-time member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre, an American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) sanctioned club with games held at the community centre.

Muriel and her husband Claude Tremblay have been

members of the bridge club since its earliest days. Both competitive people, she says, once they began playing bridge they improved their skill level to a point that allows them to teach others, both at the bridge club and on the cruises they enjoy, as passengers and

as bridge instructors, where they have taught many players, some just beginners.

"You have to enjoy playing cards," she says, "and have some understanding of cards. Bridge helps develop inductive thinking skills, and develops your brain."

Dr. Chandi Jayawardena says he played his first game

at the age of 60. In addition to a doctorate in philosophy, he now has a diploma in duplicate bridge, and is a bridge director and instructor. You can learn to play at any age, he says, "and it's not unusual for people begin when they retire. It uses more parts of the brain than other games, and develops strategic thinking."

He has played bridge with other clubs, and is a huge fan of the NOTL club and its community centre venue. "It's well-lit, clean and the people are friendly here."

Muriel agrees — it's a small club, with a zero tolerance policy — members must

Continued on page 19



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Lorraine Horton, Riley Heer, instructor Chandi Jayawardena, Freda Burgess and Yvonne Heer play bridge at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Duplicate Bridge Centre. (Heather Beckman)



# ‘Spectacular’ Hauber brothers to play at Bethany Sunday

**Mike Balsom**  
**The Local**

Brothers Simon and Malcolm Hauber are bringing beautiful music to Bethany Mennonite Church this Sunday morning.

Congregation member Dave Dick says he heard the violinists play at the church last year and couldn't wait to have them back to complement the service.

"They are spectacular," says Dick. "To see and hear these young boys play is really something. You can tell they put a huge amount of practice into what they do. They are like the Olympic athletes of music."

That's more of an apt description than Dick probably even knows, as 17-year-old Simon and Malcolm, 14, have been booked to play music on a number of occasions at Niagara Place, the new central gathering spot

during the Canada Summer Games.

Malcolm recently performed with his École Secondaire Catholique Saint-Jean-de-Brebeuf school band at the Francophone Hub, and they will be teaming up to perform a mix of French Canadian and Celtic music, with Simon on fiddle and Malcolm on keyboards, over the two-week-long sporting event.

The brothers have been studying violin since their early years. Simon took up the instrument when he was just four years old, and Malcolm began at age seven.

"I saw Simon playing and I got a bit jealous," Malcolm says. "So I wanted to do it myself."

Both credit Niagara Symphony Orchestra violinist Mary Beth Doherty for their proficiency on the instrument. As well, attendance at the symphony's

Summer Music Camps and their membership in the Niagara Youth Orchestra has allowed them to hone their skills and further develop their ability to read music.

In conversation, Malcolm and Simon often finish each other's sentences. Their shared enthusiasm and joy for both classical and traditional folk music comes across as natural.

Simon, who will graduate from Brebeuf in June, 2023, plans to study violin at either McGill University or the University of Toronto, in hopes of eventually earning a spot in a major orchestra and possibly hanging out his shingle as a violin teacher himself one day. He also leaves open the possibility of conducting in the future.

Simon also plays piano, and is equally adept at both classical violin and fiddling. He says he loves and enjoys the balance the two differing disciplines bring.

"It's a very nice change to go from classical to fiddling," he says. "Fiddling is very much by ear for me. The approach to learning the music is fundamentally different. Classical comes from the page, and with fiddle music, you learn it with whoever is playing it with you. You're less bound by the music."

Simon loves to collaborate, and says some of the most important musical experiences he's had thus far have come from making connections at the Interprovincial Music Camp in Parry Sound. Also, this summer he spent a month at the Camp Musical des Laurentides near Saint-Sauveur, Quebec.

"I highly suggest to anyone who's thinking of going into music as a career to branch out and meet people," says Simon. "They (the camps) are full of other musicians. It's a great place to grow and learn."

The brothers are both fluent in French and English. In fact, Malcolm says he recently wrote that he

was "professionally fluent" in French on a part-time job application to a St. Catharines fast food franchise.

Though Malcolm has also branched out to learn piano, bass guitar and even the drums, at his age he's not sure where it will all take him.

"I think music will always be a part of my life," he says. "I'm only going into Grade 10, so I have a lot of time to figure these things out."

Their mother, Michelle, says Malcolm also enjoys singing, and will often be asked to sit in with bands on various instruments. She's clearly proud of the musical accomplishment of her two youngest (of four) boys.

The Haubers will be playing a prelude at Sunday's service at Bethany, accompanying the choir for hymns, and providing some quiet, meditative classical music during reflective moments.

Says Dick, a former member himself of the Niagara Youth Orchestra, "I like to see young musicians encouraged to play before an audience. I want the public to hear them. Everyone is welcome at the Sunday morning (10 a.m.) service."



Malcolm Hauber, 14, recently performed with his École Secondaire Catholique Saint-Jean-de-Brebeuf, and he and his brother are also performing at some Summer Games events. (Photos supplied)



Simon Hauber, 17, will graduate from École Secondaire Catholique Saint-Jean-de-Brebeuf in June, 2023, and plans to study violin at either McGill University or the University of Toronto.

## Club goal is to be 'friendliest'

Continued from page 18

be treated with respect, and games will always be friendly. The club's stated goal "is to have the friendliest game in town."

Heather Beckman, another bridge club member, says "it's a stimulating game, and challenging. And it's also a lot of fun."

Muriel says since it's played with partners, it helps build communication skills. And unlike other games such as golf or tennis, you can play against stronger players. "It's a game that you can play against others at any level. In bridge, you can end up sitting across from

the best, and learn from them."

Regular games are Tuesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m., with some social events also scheduled.

Jaywardena will be teaching an Introduction to Bridge, a 10-lesson ACBL certificate course, beginning Aug. 26.

The introductory classes run for 10 Fridays, to Oct. 28, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The cost is \$135, which includes the ACNL official text book. The first session, an open house, can be attended free, and if players want to continue, can pay their fee at noon.

It's intended for beginners, he says, and as players become more confident, they can join

the 1 p.m. game.

Players don't have to come with partners, to classes or any of the games – there will always be someone to partner with, Muriel adds.

She will be leading Play of the Hand and Defence workshops for intermediate bridge players. Contact Muriel Tremblay at [muriel@cmtmc.ca](mailto:muriel@cmtmc.ca) for more information. For information or to reserve a place in the Introduction to Bridge sessions call 905-941-1676 or email [chandij@sympatico.ca](mailto:chandij@sympatico.ca). For general information visit <https://www.bridgewebs.com/niagaraon-thelake/links.html>

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# NIAGARA 2022 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

## Tennis officials impressed with local volunteers

**Penny Coles**  
**The Local**

Canada Summer Games tennis competitions began at the Memorial Park courts Sunday, and will wrap up with finals Saturday, Aug. 13.

It's taken a mammoth effort and two years of planning, says tennis club member Rosemary Goodwin, who is in charge of sports operations, one of 18 committees ensuring the games run smoothly. She has the largest contingent of volunteers required, with 25 to 30 needed to cover two daily shifts.

When she's not run-

ning home to wash and dry much-needed towels for the players, she's ensuring there is lots of ice and water and electrolytes for them, and that everything "is perfect for them on the courts. Heat mitigation is the biggest issue. We make sure there is a cooler for them court-side. They're out there playing in incredible heat for an hour and a half. Those supplies have to be replenished every 10 to 15 minutes."

Marilyn Francis, vice-president of the tennis club has also been a "brilliant organizer" of the games, she says, doing an amazing job of all the adminis-

trative details.

Goodwin says she's been "dreaming about this event, and working toward it" for a long time. But also worrying about it — there is no roadmap to follow, and so many details to be sure are looked after.

But it's all worth it. "This is something so special," she says. "This is the Canada Games."

The tennis officials have been very complimentary of the volunteers, she says. Their job is to make sure it's the best possible competition experience for the young athletes, who are excited to be competing at this level, but who can also be emotional, es-

pecially when their games don't go well.

"Our volunteers are very respectful of the athletes. The officials keep telling us they've travelled across the country and to international events, attending many competitions, and without exception, they say our volunteers are amazing."

Leading up to the start of the games, in the midst of preparing for Sunday, Goodwin was invited to last Friday's Hall of Honour ceremony, where she represented her husband, the late Don Goodwin, who was one of the inductees.

The long-time sports

broadcaster was instrumental in the early days of the Canada Games, playing an active role in getting the inaugural event off the ground in 1967.

Tennis is a huge part of Rosemary's life, and she candidly says everything she has learned about the game, her involvement, the people she has met and the friends she made, would never have happened if she hadn't met and married Don.

Friday night was an example of what he brought into her life, she says. There on his behalf, "I was on the receiving end of so much kindness, and so much warmth, beyond anything I've

ever experienced. So many people came up to me Friday night, and at the opening ceremony Saturday night, and were so kind — I feel very fortunate. I have a wonderful life," she says. "It's been a deluge of kindness and graciousness, all because of Don."

She says he strived for excellence in everything he did, and she has tried to follow his example, especially for the summer games.

"This event is about creating experiences for people's lives. Don was the supremo of that. He would have loved this event. His voice, his manner, he could have taken it to another level."



Rosemary Goodwin was overwhelmed at the kindness she was shown during and after the Hall of Honour ceremony, which she attended on behalf of her husband, the late Don Goodwin. The ceremony was emceed by sports broadcaster Ron MacLean. (Tim McKenna)



In their matches Sunday, Ontario team members, which included Ray Xie (left) and Anna Raphaelle Sergi (right), played Alberta and beat them four matches to two. There are games morning and afternoon, sometimes going into the evening, and lots of tickets left for spectators to watch. Volunteer Rosemary Goodwin says she has seen some amazing matches on the courts. (Mike Balsom)

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# NIAGARA 2022 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

## Games bring country together in our backyard



The Fife and Drum Corps from Fort George carried the Canadian flag along the "Welland Canal." (Ashley Northcotte)



Accomplished hoop dancer Myranda Spence performing with DJ Shub. (Howie Adams)



Shelly, the games' official mascot, entertains on Turtle Island. (Ashley Northcotte)



The Canada Games flag was carried in by Games alumni that included NOTL's Rosemary Goodwin, (front, centre). Her late husband, Don Goodwin, who was inducted into the games Hall of Honour Friday night. (Howie Adams)



St. Catharines resident and country superstar Tim Hicks (right) closes the show with *No Truck Song*. (Ashley Northcotte)



Kristen Kit, on the gold medal-winning women's eight at the 2020 Olympics, lights the cauldron with the Canada Games torch. (Ashley Northcotte)

Continued from page 1

A giant Canadian flag was ushered along the "Welland Canal" toward the Turtle Island stage by the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps, followed by Waterdown's Simone Soman singing the National Anthem.

With 19 venues being used across the region, it's clear that the Canada Summer Games are meant to bring Niagara together. Each of the mayors from the region's 12 municipalities paraded onto the floor. Niagara-on-the-Lake Lord Mayor Betty Disero took her place in front of Team Ontario and enthusiastically waved to the crowd when she was introduced.

When federal Minister of Sport Pascal St-Onge officially declared the games open, the entire audience roared.

That was followed by a musical performance of *Steel Heart*, the anthem of the games sung by Toronto artist Poesy, accompanied by a group of dancers from the Brock Badgers Dance Pak.

The Roly McLenahan Torch then arrived at the Meridian Centre to complete its months-long journey, brought in by Louis Martel, CEO of Canada Steamship Lines, who was accompanied by the crew of the CSL Welland.

Martel passed the torch to Host Society chair Doug Hamilton, who in turn passed it to a group of Ridley College rowers entering the arena in a rowing shell.

Finally, Olympic gold medalist Kristen Kit of St. Catharines, winning her medal for her role in the Canadian women's eight rowing crew in Tokyo, received the torch. With great enthusiasm, she stepped up to the cauldron and ignited the Canada Games flame to loud applause.

The ceremony ended with two songs from St. Catharines-based country music star Tim Hicks, with aerial performers, gymnasts and dancers from the Zacada Circus School performing stunning feats all around him.

Patrick Roberge Productions created and designed a stunning program that perfectly captured the spirit of the games and reflected all communities across Niagara.

No event has brought this many people from this many provinces and territories into the Niagara region prior to this. It was easy to sense the pride in the Meridian Centre to be hosting this event and showcasing Niagara on a national scale.

The Canada Games, both winter and summer, are designed to leave a legacy in

smaller communities such as Niagara. Here, the new Canada Games Park and improvements to various sporting venues across the region will have that lasting effect.

But I would opine that another legacy left behind will be the inspiration, the sense of wonder, and the feeling of the entire country coming together right here in our backyard that anyone in attendance or watching on CBC streaming services surely felt Saturday.

Count me in for the Closing Ceremony on August 21.

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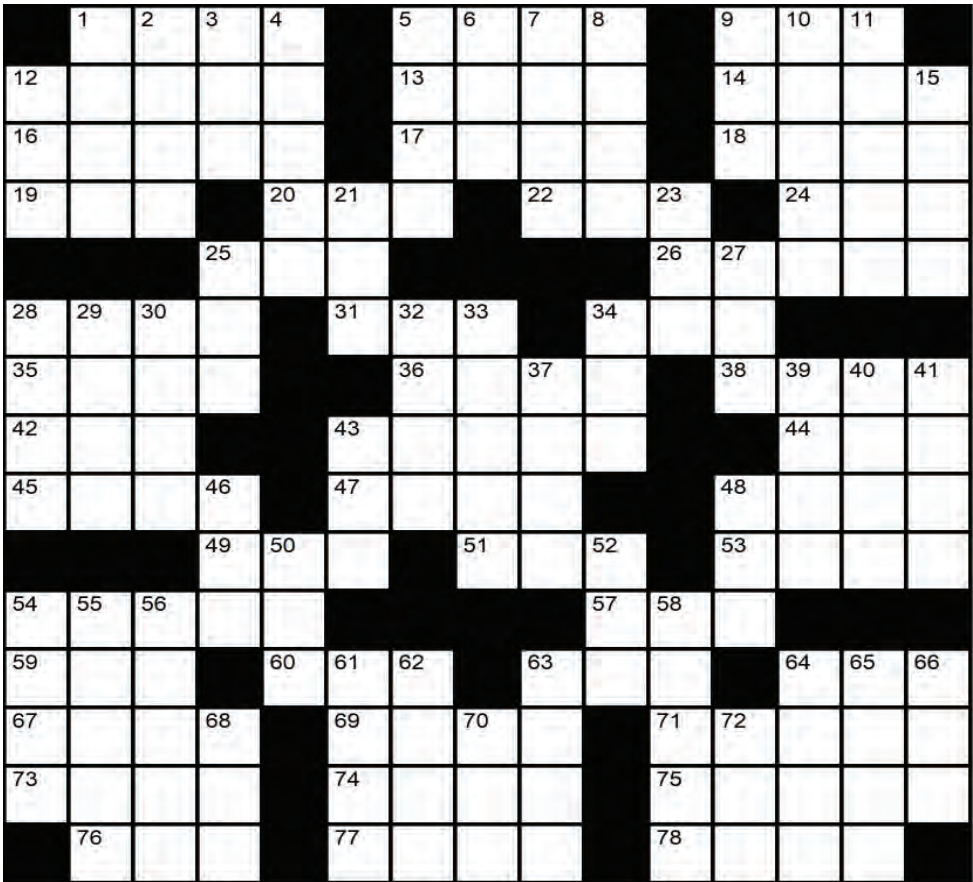


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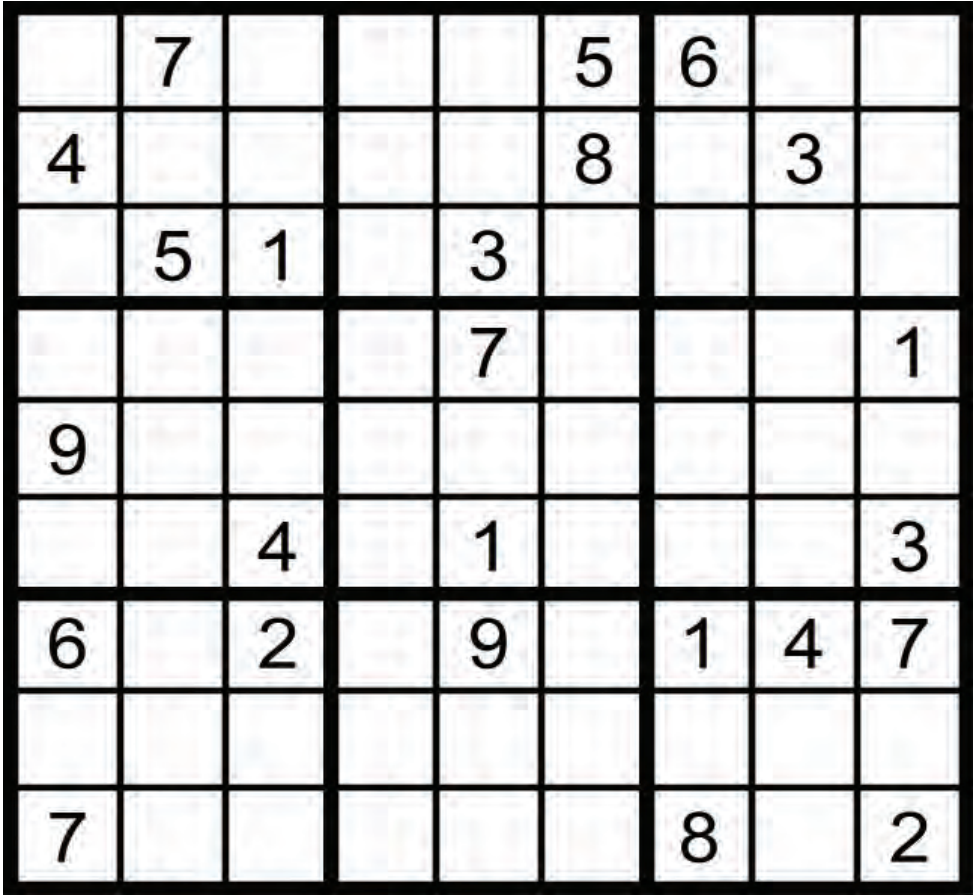


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- Across:
- 1 Not strapped
  - 5 Mining passage
  - 9 Welding flash
  - 12 Disgraced comic
  - 13 U2 lead vocalist
  - 14 Major health scare of 2002-03
  - 16 Chip dip
  - 17 1 for H, or 2 for He
  - 18 "Yo!"
  - 19 Anger
  - 20 Teeny amount
  - 22 Hearst kidnap org.
  - 24 Observe
  - 25 Dough dispenser
  - 26 Fingerboard bars
  - 28 Hobble
  - 31 Not-for-profit TV spot
  - 34 Angel dust
  - 35 In which two dozen merles were found
  - 36 Run at low speed
  - 38 Kernel
  - 42 CD- ---
  - 43 Type of bottle with one surface
  - 44 Owing
  - 45 Afloat on the ocean
  - 47 Touchdown forecasts
  - 48 Big brute
  - 49 Whey-faced
  - 51 Type of joint
  - 53 TV host --- Seacrest
  - 54 49-er
  - 57 "--- Love You" (Beatles hit)
  - 59 100 square meters
  - 60 Sir ---, Arthurian knight
  - 63 Now let me think ...
  - 64 Small snub-nosed dog
  - 67 Smurf in red
  - 69 Kvetch
  - 71 --- ear and out ...
  - 73 Visit
  - 74 Doctor imprisoned on the Dry Tortugas
  - 75 Stay still, at sea
  - 76 Catastrophic occurrence
  - 77 Approximately
  - 78 Patron saint of sailors
- Down:
- 1 Laugh loudly
  - 2 The Apple --- (Tasmanian nickname)
  - 3 Parent company of Simon & Schuster
  - 4 Big hotel name
  - 5 --- hair day
  - 6 --- Lemon, female barnstormer and navigator
  - 7 Getaway places
  - 8 Utensil
  - 9 Bat wood
  - 10 Hike
  - 11 Undercroft
  - 12 Forensic TV franchise
  - 15 "Simon ---"
  - 21 Signal booster
  - 23 Home of one Super Bowl team, briefly
  - 25 Emulate
  - 27 Turntable speed measure
  - 28 Yuri Zhivago's love
  - 29 NASDAQ debuts
  - 30 Silent actor
  - 32 It's not quite as fine as clay
  - 33 "A weasel hath not such --- of spleen ..." (Shakespeare, "Henry IV" Pt. I)
  - 34 Author
  - 37 Brightest Simpson
  - 39 Nervously irritable
  - 40 Ambience
  - 41 Typical Hunger Games devotee
  - 43 Range of knowledge
  - 46 Wonderment
  - 48 "Either you do it --- will!"
  - 50 Presumably unicorns missed it
  - 52 Air-pollution measure
  - 54 Hikers' helpers
  - 55 In a snit
  - 56 Land between China and India
  - 58 "... ---, though your heart is aching ..."
  - 61 Magazine contents
  - 62 It's --- move
  - 63 Reverse
  - 64 "The United States themselves are essentially the greatest ---" (Walt Whitman)
  - 65 "... and --- dust shalt thou return." (Genesis)
  - 66 Bygone GM brand
  - 68 Bridge agreement
  - 70 Lifeblood of TV and the web
  - 72 "--- sine numine" (Colorado's motto)



OBITUARY



SAURIOL-BRUCE, CHRISTINE 1971 – 2022 —

On July 24th, Christine Sauriol-Bruce passed away into God's graces after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born on March 7, 1971 in Ottawa. After graduating from Carleton University, she set her sights on the finance industry, where she finished her long career as Chief Administrative Officer in the compliance department of capital markets at RBC. On July 23rd 2005 she married her husband Michael at the Riverbend Inn and went on to have 2 amazing children, Malcolm and Madeline. Christine was a kind, loving and giving person who always put the needs of her family first. When Malcolm was born, she decided to dedicate her life to her children taking numerous breaks in her career for the benefit of her family, supporting them in their many passions and activities. Christine was an avid runner, cyclist, gardener and enjoyed spending time with friends when she wasn't filling her home with warmth and kindness. She demonstrated so much strength and fortitude both in life and in her journey with cancer. In addition to Mike, Malcolm and Madeline, Christine is survived by her mother Michelle, father Roger, brother Marc and sister Stephanie. Arrangements have been entrusted to MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls. A memorial will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2022, from 2:00 – 5:00 pm, at Ravine Vineyard. In lieu of flowers donations to Hamilton Heath Sciences Foundation, Juravinski Cancer Centre would be appreciated <https://www.hamiltonhealth.ca/memorialgiving> Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at [www.morseandson.com](http://www.morseandson.com)



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Sudoku solution from December 24, 2020

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

Across: 1 Rich, 5 Adit, 9 Arc, 12 Cosby, 13 Bono, 14 S A R S, 16 Salsa, 17 At No, 18 Hiya, 19 Ire, 20 Tad, 22 S L A, 24 Spy, 25 A T M, 26 Frets, 28 Limp, 31 P S A, 34 PCP, 35 A pie, 36 Idle, 38 Meat, 42 R-O-M, 43 Klein, 44 Due, 45 Asee, 47 E T As, 48 Ogre, 49 Wan, 51 Lap, 53 Ryan, 54 Miner, 57 PS I, 59 Are, 60 Kay, 63 Umm, 64 Pug, 67 Papa, 69 Moan, 71 In one, 73 Stay, 74 Mudd, 75 Lie to, 76 E L E, 77 Or so, 78 Elmo.  
Down: 1 Roar, 2 Isle, 3 C B S, 4 Hyatt, 5 A bad, 6 Dot, 7 lms, 8 Tool, 9 Ash, 10 Raise, 11 C S I, 15 Says, 21 Amp, 23 A F C, 25 Ape, 27 R p m, 28 Lara, 29 I P Os, 30 Mime, 32 Silt, 33 A deal, 34 Pen, 37 Lisa, 39 Edgy, 40 Aura, 41 Teen, 43 Ken, 46 Awe, 48 Or I, 50 Ark, 52 P p m, 54 Maps, 55 Irate, 56 Nepal, 58 Smile, 61 Ammo, 62 Your, 63 Undo, 64 Poem, 65 Unto, 66 Geo, 68 Aye, 70 Ads, 72 Nil.



# Thunderhawks cap season undefeated provincial champs



The NOTL U22 Thunderhawks had a great season and ended it provincial champions. (Photo supplied)

**Andy Boldt**  
Special to The Local

The Niagara-on-the-Lake U22 Thunderhawks participated in the annual Ontario Lacrosse Festival in Whitby in games that began for them Aug. 2, tying their first game, and going on to win those that followed.

The tournament sees all age divisions from every minor association across the province participate for their respective championship. For the U22 team this was A level competition, the highest division.

Launched in 2004, the Ontario Lacrosse Festival is a 10-day event that hosts more than 500 box lacrosse teams and almost 10,000 athletes, featuring competitions for 42 provincial and national lacrosse championships for six to 21-year-olds.

The Thunderhawks started the tournament facing an unknown Gloucester Griffin team. After falling behind 3-1 starting the third period, they clawed their way back to a 4-4 tie, technically not a loss.

The second game of the contest wasn't until the next morning versus a known opponent, Kawartha Lakes. The Thunderhawks stepped on the floor with a little more fervour and handled the weaker team for a final score of 11-3.

However, this created some over-confidence as they met their next opponent, Newmarket. The Thunderhawks fell behind 2-0 before tying the game,

2-2, moving into the third period, when calmer heads prevailed and they were able to outscore Newmarket 4-3 at the final buzzer.

Achieving first place in their pool, the Thunderhawks next met their toughest opponent of the season, the Guelph Regals. The competition was fierce and the end of their season looked closer than they wished as Guelph entered the third period up 5-2. Tough defensive play and extensive scoring opportunities allowed the Thunderhawks to score the tying goal with just 11 seconds left in the third period, sending the teams into overtime.

It was the overtime period where the Thunderhawks of the regular season shone through. Smothering defence and offensive pressure allowed for a few posts to be rung, before the game-winner twisted the twine behind the Guelph goaltender's back, hurling the Thunderhawks into the finals.

Their final was against their initial opponents, Gloucester. However, the results were much different this game. The Thunderhawks came out with the same intensity as they had finishing the previous game, something which the Griffins were unable to match. The Thunderhawks dominated the game from beginning to the end, scoring four times to the Griffins' one.

Congratulations to the U22 Thunderhawks for an incredible, undefeated season and being the Ontario lacrosse A champions.

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*Local*  
The Trusted Voice of Our Community



# New flag celebrated in Queen’s Royal Park

**Penny Coles**  
The Local

When Jim and Tom Caldwell decided they would like to work with the town to have a Canadian flag flying in Queen’s Royal Park, they were hoping it would be in time for the start of the Canada Summer Games.

And there they were Fri-

day on a bright and clear afternoon, at the park, celebrating a beautiful new flag at the crest of the hill looking across toward Fort Niagara.

Although there had been some discussion with the town initially about it being closer to the gazebo, Tom Caldwell said when he climbed the stairway that leads to the new flagpole, he felt it was where it should be.

Jim thanked the town staff, and a small committee of friends who came to him with the suggestion. “I told them I’ll see what I can do. I’ll have a chat with my brother Tom. He likes flags, especially Canadian flags, and this was a great spot to put it.”

The committee helped get the project off the ground, led by Ross Robinson, who spearheaded it, was passionate about it, and went to town council with the request for it, said Jim.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero was also a great advocate, he added.

Tom called the flag-raising “a great project to be involved in,” and said when he walked up the stairs to the top of the little hill and saw the flag, “I thought of it as a triumph. It’s the perfect spot for it.”

He mentioned the number of courageous new Canadians who come to this country to find safety and comfort in a new land, and for the possibilities they will find as they start a new life.

He gestured to a large group in the park Friday afternoon, organizing a picnic while the kids played, and watching the raising of the flag.

“It’s really fortuitous,” he said, “having a group of

new Canadians here for this event.”

And to make them feel welcome, he encouraged

them to join the celebration and pose for a photo — they had come from Brampton to NOTL to celebrate with a

relative who had just arrived in Canada for a visit, and were quite delighted to be invited to join in.



With the help of parks department supervisor J.B. Hopkins, the Canadian flag was raised on a new flagpole in Queen’s Royal Park, with Lord Mayor Betty Disero and Jim and Tom Caldwell, who financed the pole and flag, to raise it. (Photos by Penny Coles)



Ross Robinson, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, and Jim and Tom Caldwell unveil the new plaque at the foot of the flagpole.

Tom Caldwell encouraged a group of new Canadians to join supporters, friends and family in a photo and celebrate the raising of the flag.

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