



Polo event makes for exciting afternoon

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Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1973, for the Shaw Festival opening. (NOTL Museum)

A community in mourning for Queen Elizabeth II

Mike Balsom
The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake is mourning the passing of Queen Elizabeth II last Thursday in Balmoral. The flags are flying at half mast at the town offices on Four Mile Creek Road in honour of the late monarch, who held the throne for 70 years.

In an official statement from the town issued Thursday, Lord Mayor Betty Disero said, "The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake offers its deepest condolences to the Royal Family, the people of the United Kingdom, and those

that unite the Commonwealth during this time of grieving."

"As the community mourns this devastating loss," she continued, "the town invites residents to remember and reflect on Her Majesty's profound global accomplishments, unquivering devotion to service, and the unprecedented stability she provided the British people."

The statement says that Queen Elizabeth epitomized the essence of public service.

"As the first Capital of Upper Canada, The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is eternally grateful for its rich ties to the British Crown," said Disero.

The statement makes reference to the 1973 Royal Tour, when Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Niagara-on-the-Lake.

On June 28 that year the Royal Party was met at Fort George by Lord Mayor J. P. Froese and the Fort's superintendent at 6:25 p.m. There, they watched a short historical presentation before departing to the Pillar and Post Inn for dinner.

Local resident Rick Meloen remembers that visit well. He was 19 years old that day, a student enrolled in Toronto's Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's Hotel and Restaurant Ad-

ministration program. He had been working at the Pillar and Post for several years.

"To my astonishment I was selected to be one of the servers (called waiters way back then) for the head table," he writes in an email to The Local. "There was a ton of preparation to be done and I am sure the chefs and other management were feeling the stress. The staff had to undergo numerous health checks as well as background checks with the police forces involved."

Staff were issued passes that allowed them to enter the

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Consultant, lawyer explain Cole Drain clean-up operation

Penny Coles
The Local

Monday night's committee meeting included two presentations about the Cole Drain clean-up operation — one from an environmental engineer with GHD, the company that provided staff to help direct the clean-up, the other by an environmental lawyer, whose job it was to warn councillors what they could and could not say.

Or, as Coun. Norm Arseneault reminded councillors when he wrapped up the discussion with a warning: take the lawyer's caution to heart, be careful what you say when talking to residents, and if you're going to put anything in writing, have it vetted by the CAO.

Will Armes, the environmental engineer with GHD, explained the company was hired to advise the town of the actions that needed to be carried out once a spill was reported to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

He spoke to councillors about the steps taken and decisions made beginning Aug. 17, the evening material of a dark colour, with an odour and an "organic sheen" on top, was reported in the Cole Drain. He explained the town was directed by the MECP to hire a contractor to remove the material in the ditch, and an environmental consultant to supervise and advise on the clean-up "24/7."

The town followed ministry policy for a spill from the time it was reported to the time when the clean-up was halted, and the material had been trucked away, he said.

There was a total of 1.8 million litres pumped from the

drain, and of that, 1.1 million litres was trucked to Mors, a waste management company in Beamsville, and another 700,000 litres to the Port Weller and Niagara-on-the-Lake sewage treatment plants once the lab analysis was received.

In response to a question about the cost to date, CAO Marlene Cluckie replied that it is up to about \$873,000. Armes added that appropriate steps were taken to reduce those costs, including shutting down what he called dewatering — pumping out the drain — at the right time.

"With any emergency there are ways to reduce costs," he said, including "don't clean up more than you need to. That was certainly done well in this case."

Faced with repeated questions of identifying the material and its risk to residents, Armes said "to prove something is not a health risk can be difficult to nail with a certainty." It was an organic pollutant that had high levels of e-coli in it — it was not something you would want humans to swim in. A different approach might have been taken if it was discovered at a splash pad or beach, he said, but "the water is not going to come out of the drain and get you."

Lawyer Dennis O'Leary told councillors the town's response was appropriate in satisfying its requirements for handling what he said was properly considered a spill, by its broad definition under provincial legislation — "a discharge into the natural environment from any structure, container or vehicle, of a pollutant that is abnormal in quantity or quality," and that the ministry came to the conclusion it was a

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No new information provided about source or content

Continued from page 1

spill. Looking at it in hindsight, he said, he would have no problem describing it as a spill.

O’Leary, of Aird Berlis in Toronto, also spoke to the difference between a ministry directive and order, and said when a ministry representative arrived onsite, he could have issued an order, but that could have included doing a number of things that didn’t need to be done. A verbal directive, as the town received, and that followed in an e-mail, allowed the town to retain control of the operation while continuing discussions with the ministry.

His caution was aimed at limiting discussion of a source — the owner of the pollutant can be ordered to pay costs, but the source has not yet been identified, and that investigation is ongoing. He warned against talking about “possibilities” that could be defamatory.

“The time to name and point fingers” is when there is proof of the individual or company responsible for the material in the drain, he said. He also reminded councillors insurance policies “are complicated and lengthy,” and recommended the town’s insurance policy not be discussed in public.

Coun. Erwin Wiens repeated his concerns about the lack of information for residents, and that “after four weeks you don’t know what it is.”

“That’s correct,” said Armes, repeating that they know the “family of the organic material,

but we don’t know what it is.” When Coun. Wendy Chero-pita pressed for a description of the contents of the spill, referring to a discussion at an earlier council meeting that the lab results were “too complicated” to release to the public, she was told that question had been asked and answered.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero remains concerned about communications with the public, and asked Cluckie about efforts to answer residents’ questions. Cluckie estimated she spent “at least 20 hours talking on the phone.” Acting operations director Kevin Turcotte and drains superintendent Brett Ruck also spent considerable time talking to residents, and other staff were given a script to provide information to those who called.

“We don’t have a very large workforce,” she said. “Staff have done their level best to not speculate and just get facts out,” specifically about the content of the material in the drain.

Disero encouraged councillors, members of staff and media to “just ensure when we’re talking about this we’re not stirring people up to a frenzy,” to be calm, “explain what we’re doing and explain the new rules, and that we can’t do things as we did in previous times.” She added she would be doing a video for the public Tuesday.

Coun. Erwin Wiens said the problem wasn’t that staff wasn’t talking to the public, it’s that residents “don’t believe they’re get-

ting answers.” He remains perplexed about the lack of information, he said, and that “we have no idea four weeks out what it is, and we’re into this for \$900,000.”

“I’m not used to situations when everything gets vetted through consultants and lawyers and at the end of the day we don’t get any answers,” he continued. “It doesn’t sit right with me at all.”

Both Armes and Cluckie spoke of next steps that will include a report that will summarize the situation, and that will give more information about the contents of the material in the drain, although Armes said it won’t necessarily identify the source.

The CAO, when asked by Disero whether in hindsight she would have done anything differently, but was also cautioned not to say more than she should, replied there will be a debriefing of staff. “We will reflect on it at the appropriate time, so that we can get better and better.”

A neighbour of the Cole Drain told The Local she was disappointed to hear there was a discussion Monday evening that residents could have listened to but were not told about.

She was specifically asked if she wanted to be on a list of residents the town would use to communicate updates to those in the area about the situation, which she did.

“I have not received any communication from them. I sent my email address Sept. 1,

asking to be included on the distribution list as they suggested. And no response. Any updates we are receiving have not come from the town but rather media.”

Ron Simkus, resident and retired mining engineer who has been commenting on the drain clean-up through weekly e-mail blasts to more than 100 people, continues to maintain the town and MECP were not dealing with a spill, and nothing he heard Monday night has changed his mind. The source has not been found, and the investigation has not shown that anything was “discharged” into the drain. The 1.8 million litres pumped out during the clean-up would have been massive, he says, and impossible to miss.

Although the lawyer said in his definition of a spill that



Ten frac tanks held the contents pumped from the Cole Drain until it could be pumped away. (Screenshot)

the discharge would have to be a pollutant that is “abnormal in quantity or quality,” Simkus says there has been nothing released to say it was hazardous to humans or wildlife — in fact it was stated there were no dead fish in the drain. He maintains it was swamp water, and believes what

follows will be litigation behind closed doors to determine who is going to pay for the clean-up that to him was unnecessary from the start. While that’s not what was reported by the the environmental lawyer or consultant Monday, he says, “I guess we’ll have to agree to disagree.”

Regional update on drain

Penny Coles
The Local

At the request of Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, the region has prepared a report on the Cole Drain clean-up operation that was close to the Line 5 landfill site.

Zalepa told The Local he wanted it made clear the region looked at the possibility of it being caused by a leachate spill from the dump, and quickly eliminated it as a source.

The region’s report, prepared for a public works committee meeting Tuesday, said the nature of the material was unknown at the time of the spill, although regional waste disposal staff “observed NOTL staff take samples of the material,” and described it as being “somewhat viscous compared to landfill leachate, which is generally brown in colour and more liquid in nature.”

Regional staff were on-site by about 1 a.m. Aug. 18, and “remotely turned off the landfill leachate collection system pumps” as a precautionary measure in the event that the landfill was the source.

After meeting with an MECP representative and NOTL staff on-site, regional staff went into the landfill and

“as a precaution turned off the pumps manually, just in case the pumps were turned back on by staff.”

Regional staff “drove along the path of the force main line to check if there were any breaks, inspected chambers along the force main and ditches but did not detect anything out of the ordinary during the inspection. Staff’s impression was that the spill was not landfill leachate due to its appearance, quantity and direction of flow. At approximately 2:30 a.m., staff informed the MECP and NOTL staff that they could not find any issues at the landfill or anywhere along the leachate collection system infrastructure.”

The collection system pumps within the landfill remained turned off until about 2 p.m. on Aug.19, the report said.

Regional staff were not asked and did not participate in the clean-up activities, which were being managed by NOTL staff, according to the report.

However, public works staff did assist the town “with determining disposal options. Before disposal of the material at a Niagara Region wastewater treatment plant would be permitted, the ma-

terial needed to be tested and those results reviewed,” Peter Criscione, communications consultant with the region, said in an email to The Local last Thursday.

Although the region had to know the contents of the drain before accepting the material at its Lakeshore Road and Port Weller treatment plants, it was not about to disclose it, saying the town “had the testing performed and would be the best source for this information.”

Niagara Region staff “reviewed the test report and concluded that the material contains substances that would be accepted and treated by a sewage treatment plant.”

The material would have received “full treatment” at both treatment plants, but the cost had yet to be determined, the region told The Local.

“The volume will be used to calculate any charges to the municipality,” but the region didn’t have that information at that time and had not calculated any charges.

Zalepa explained according to regional policy the company dropping off the material pumped from the Cole Drain would be charged by volume, and that cost would be passed on to the town.



Porch Pick-up Food Drive

Newark Neighbours, together with our partners from the NOTL Rotary Club, are once again holding a **porch pick-up** food drive.



We were so grateful for the tremendous community support of our food drive held last year - it was overwhelming. Thank you all very much.

We're asking for your generous support once again, this time to assist us in filling our Thanksgiving hampers for our clients.

On **Saturday September 24, 2022**, teams are available to pick up your food donations anytime between **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**


If you wish to donate food in support of our Food Bank, please call **905-468-7498** or email us at **newarkneighbours1@gmail.com** to register your address for pick-up. **We appreciate your support!!!**


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• Cranberry Sauce	• Applesauce or Canned Fruit	• Canned peas
• Cranberry &/or Apple Juice	• Canned Corn	
• Canned Pineapple		

GENERAL ITEMS REQUIRED ON AN ON-GOING BASIS


• Canned Tomatoes or Tomato Paste	• Tomato (Pasta) Sauce	• Beans (kidney, chick-peas, lentils, black, white, dried pea, other) canned or bagged
• Canned Tuna	• Canned Ham, Corned Beef or Spam	• Canned Salmon
• Canned mixed vegetables	• Flakes of Ham, Chicken or Turkey	• Canned chili or spaghetti or ravioli
• Habitant Soups	• Canned beef or chicken stew	• Canned Baked Beans
• Chunky Soups	• Campbell's Soups - any kind	• Kraft Dinner Mac and Cheese
• Soda (Soup) Crackers	• Bottled Juice/Juice boxes - any kind	• Sidekicks & Mr. Noodle packets
• Snack Crackers - any kind	• Cereal - any kind	• Cookies - any kind
• Granola Bars	• Jams - any flavour	• Oatmeal
• Peanut Butter	• Ketchup/Mustard/Mayonnaise/Relish	• Cake Mixes (any kind)
• Rice	• Soap / Shampoo / Conditioner	• Coffee/Tea (any kind)
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Fundraising begins for Negro Burial Ground project

Penny Coles
The Local

James Russell will be spending a month in Niagara-on-the-Lake, arriving this Friday with his wife Marilyn.

The Toronto man will be continuing his research to discover the names of those interred in the Negro Burial Ground, and to replace the uprooted and faded flags he placed on the graves found through the use of ground-penetrating radar earlier this year.

Russell says his next research challenge will be to visit the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, and to go to the NOTL Library to study newspapers from the 1950s and 60s.

And while he is doing that, a fundraising steering committee, led by George Webber and Niki Walker, is planning their next steps, hoping to raise \$150,000 to pay for the long-term project, the first phase of which is \$5,000 for a Kitchener company, ARA, to conduct the research needed before any digging can begin.

Russell is hoping for approval for an archeological dig to excavate what are thought to be 18 gravestones that lie beneath the grass on the Mississagua Street site of where once stood a Baptist meeting house, established in 1830. But first, he needs to have the funding in place.

He has been working with the town — the owner of the cemetery property — on

what is expected to be a three-stage project to be undertaken by ARA, explains Russell. He was told by the town that if the estimated cost for the research stage is less than \$5,000, it should be able to move forward without having to go out to tender for the work, and could go directly to council for approval.

ARA's first quote came in at \$5,900, he told The Local, but then the archeological company "was kind enough" to lower their cost to \$5,000 to meet the town's threshold.

However, the town will not give the okay to proceed with the research until the fundraising committee has raised \$5,000 to cover the cost, says Russell — he was told by acting operations director Kevin Turcotte "no funds are available in the town's operating budget."

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

The fundraising steering committee also includes Sarah Kaufman, Jamie and Betty Knight, Keira Sangster, Cheryl Morris and Russell.

The committee is hoping to raise \$150,000. In addition to paying for the work of ARA, it would fund a specialist to restore and remount the headstones, purchase new headstones if necessary, hire a landscape architect to configure the NBG to make it more accessible and improve its look, and create educational material and programs that

speak to the lives of NOTL's black settlers.

Webber and Russell are planning on speaking to NOTL Rotarians at their next meeting about the burial ground, hoping for support for their project," financial and otherwise," says Webber.

The town has set up a dedicated account for people to donate to the project and receive a tax receipt, Webber explains.

"We don't want to ask the town for money. We want to raise it ourselves."

He doesn't see any problem with raising the first \$5,000 quickly, he adds.

The project is long-term, he says, and includes a vision of linking the cemetery with the Voices of Freedom Park. He has already been in touch with Tom Ridout, the designer of that park, who is excited about adding some of its elements to the Negro Burial Ground cemetery.

"It will be costly, but that is our vision for the burial ground," says Webber.

A report prepared for the town by ARA describes the first stage of their work as "comprehensive background research into the property," through an examination of the archaeology, history, geography, and current land conditions nearby.

In addition to looking at other archaeological digs in the area, their research includes archival sources such as historical publications and records, current academic and archaeological publica-

tions, modern topographic maps, recent satellite imagery, historical maps and atlases, and the Ontario Archaeological Sites database.

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

The next stage includes an archaeological assessment, conducting hand excavation in the location of each headstone, which will be extracted

and retained for laboratory analysis and conditions assessment. Following analysis, a recommendation will be made as to the cultural heritage value or interest of any identified sites, and further work may at that stage may be recommended.

The third stage will address conservation of the headstones. Before headstones are removed, a temporary storage plan will outline methods to limit deterioration in the short-term. An assessment of each headstone

will be recorded to show the type and degree of deterioration, and will be used to determine appropriate strategies to ensure preservation, the ARA report says.

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

Anyone interested in making a donation should call the town at 905-468-3266.



George Webber is part of a fundraising steering committee hoping to raise \$150,000 for Negro Burial Ground research, an archaeological dig for headstones, and the eventual restoration and preservation of the monuments. (Penny Coles)

Project could eventually include all 'inactive' cemeteries

Penny Coles
The Local

George Webber's immediate task is raising money for the first step toward an eventual archeological dig to excavate what are thought to be 18 gravestones that lie beneath the grass of the Negro Burial Ground.

The cost of the research that is needed before the dig of the Mississagua Street site begins is \$5,000, and Webber says he doesn't expect to have any problem raising that.

However his long-term goal, his vision for the future,

goes much further than that.

The fundraising steering committee's target stands at \$150,000. That would fund three stages to be carried out by ARA, and archaeological company from Kitchener, from preliminary research, to a dig if research shows it is warranted, to a conservation plan for the gravestones, as well as some extensive work beyond that.

But Webber has a vision not only for the Negro Burial Ground, but other inactive cemeteries in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including two in Virgil, the United

Church Cemetery and the Baptist Cemetery, each near the corners of Niagara Stone Road and Four Mile Creek, across the street from each other.

Niagara Lake Shore Cemetery is the only active cemetery in NOTL, and there are 10 considered inactive — the Negro Burial Ground, the two in Virgil and seven others scattered throughout town.

Webber says the two in Virgil are in "marginally better condition" than the Negro Burial Ground. Their gravestones are visible, but

many of the names are illegible, he says.

He would like to eventually see a concerted effort — admittedly an expensive one — made to clean and restore some of the headstones in those two, and "all the other neglected cemeteries."

He hastens to add that's not a criticism of the town — the parks and recreation staff do their job maintaining the cemeteries, but he is looking at restoring the headstones.

The project would be long-term, but he is optimistic that as with fundraising for the Negro Burial Ground,

residents will be "interested and generous."

The town, which owns the inactive cemeteries, has been very supportive of James Russell's work to name the early settlers in the Negro Burial Ground, and Webber is hoping for the same if he is able to proceed on the restoration of stones in the other cemeteries.

The Baptist meeting house that stood on Mississagua Street was established by a White pastor, and it is believed some early members of the church, White and Black parishioners, pos-

sibly including relatives of the pastor, are in the Negro Burial Ground, Webber says, "but we don't have all the exact information at this point."

His goal is to have the gravestones of all early settlers in NOTL restored, so that all have names easily identified today.

"We believe this is a project NOTL residents will be proud of. We want to take things slowly and do things right, showing respect to the graves of all early settlers in NOTL," says Webber.

"They could all use a little bit of love."

#1

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Heritage Trail fundraising run, dog walk coming up

Mike Balsom
The Local

A fundraising campaign for the second of four phases of plans to rehabilitate and improve Niagara-on-the-Lake's Upper Canada Heritage Trail kicks off Saturday, Sept. 24 with a fun run and dog walk.

Heritage Trail Committee chair Rick Meloen and vice-chair Tony Chisholm haven't yet set a financial goal for the event, as it's the first time they have organized such a fundraiser.

"We don't really know what to expect," Meloen says. "This is a whole new experience. If it works out well, this could be an annual thing."

The pair had a tent and table set up at Saturday's Niagara Polo games to promote the run and to increase awareness about the trail itself. Numerous polo fans dropped by to find out more.

"I met a couple of people I know who said they would be there (for the run)," said Meloen. "There's been a tremendous amount of positive comments about the trail."

Phase one of the improvements were completed and celebrated last year with a ribbon-cutting and the unveiling of a plaque recognizing contributors to the previous fundraising campaign.

The 10-kilometre trail follows the footprint of an abandoned



Rick Meloen and Tony Chisholm are hoping for a good turnout for their Sept. 24 event to help fund the second of four phases of plans to rehabilitate the Upper Canada Heritage Trail. (Mike Balsom)

donated railroad right-of-way winding from the Dock Area south from the Old Town to King and John Streets and running parallel to Concession 1 Road, ending at York Road. There, it connects with the Bruce Trail.

Phase one involved the removal of some trees and underbrush along two stretches of the trail, between John Street through to Charlotte, and from Charlotte out to East and West Line. Many of those trees were replaced with new plantings, and improvements were made to the trail surface, making it accessible for all activities, including walking, running, biking, and horseback riding.

Between 2019 and 2021, \$100,000 was raised, most of that via local residents, dubbed "trail blazers", who each sponsored one metre of trail for \$100. Other contributors included the Wise Guys Charity Fund, Canopy Growth and Canadian National Railroad.

Phase two of the trail improvements covers the length from East and West Line to Line 3. The third phase will focus on the stretch from Line 3 to Line 9, while phase four will involve improvements from Line 9 to York Road.

The trail has been difficult in recent years for many accustomed to using it. Erosion and washout between Line

9 and York Road have made that stretch difficult to traverse. Vegetation and long grass have been growing on the 66-foot-wide (three metres) corridor, resulting in a loss of the trail's visibility in both a physical sense and in the overall consciousness of the town.

Identifying the trail from John and King Streets all the way back to the Dock Area in the Old Town is also a priority. That project may be undertaken following the completion of the fourth phase.

"Train aficionados would be able to follow the train path all the way from the dock," said Meloen. "It would make it more of a destination for those

people. We want to celebrate the heritage of the train in Niagara-on-the-Lake."

Both committee members see the trail as a great way to provide a route for runners, walkers and bikers that allows them to pursue their activities away from traffic. And that is part of the beauty of the upcoming fundraiser, as it actually is taking place on the Heritage Trail.

"We are starting at Memorial Park, so it incorporates part of the trail on Parks Canada land," explained Meloen.

"We're off the road," Chisholm added. "People won't have to worry about running alongside the road or along sidewalks. It's all on the trail, it's

all easy on your feet, and it's all dog-friendly."

The routes for the five-km run and the two-km dog walk will diverge at one point, in an effort to ensure that the dogs don't interfere with the runners.

"A lot of people in town have dogs, and we wanted to include them in this," said Chisholm. "They might not want to run or walk the whole trail. There's a great social aspect of walking 50 dogs all at once. It should be a fun, interesting experience."

Cost to participate as a runner or dog walker is \$45 with pre-registration at heritagetrail.ca until Sept 21. After that, registration can be completed at Memorial Park the day of the event, but the cost increases to \$60.

Each registrant receives a backpack, water bottle, medal, refreshments and other items for participating. Other prizes will be awarded for the top runners and for the top donation totals.

Numbers will be limited to 150 runners and 50 dog walkers. Runners are asked to check in between 7 and 7:30 a.m., with the run starting at 8 a.m. Dog walkers will check in between 8 and 8:30 a.m., with a 9 a.m. start time.

"We hope to raise enough money with this event to at least start the work," Chisholm said. "The bill for this phase is going to be a big one."

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Local BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Niagara Symphony Orchestra

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New NSO season one of the most ambitious to date!



Photo by Robert Nowell

The Niagara Symphony Orchestra is ready to open its 2022/23 season this Sunday, September 18 with the Canadian premiere of Timothy Adams' **Harriet: A Journey to Freedom**. Niagara's own Juliet Dunn narrates this new work, co-commissioned by the NSO, that honours the life of Harriet Tubman and our local history of the Underground Railroad. The concert opens with Stravinsky's **Firebird Suite** and ends with Tchaikovsky's

thrilling and much-requested **Symphony No. 4**.

Canadian talent flourishes this season: Jared Miller's **Shattered Night** is the composer's emotional response to the 18th anniversary of Kristallnacht; Rising star conductor Dina Gilbert (Kamloops Symphony) makes her NSO debut, leading us through Dvořák's rousing **Symphony No. 8**; Niagara Falls native, Jarred Dunn returns home as featured soloist on Mozart's **Piano Concer-**

to No. 24. Other concerts also showcase **Mahler's Fourth**, **Brahms' Second**, and **Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2**.

And this season truly has music for all tastes: Classic cinematic moments will be brought to life in **The Music of John Williams**; travel around the world this holiday season with three-time JUNO Award nominated **Sultans of String**, with special guests the **Laura Secord Secondary School Choir**; 20th

Century jazz and swing will put you **In the Mood** at NSO's Big Band bash featuring guest conductor Jeffrey Pollock and NSO's principal clarinetist, Zoltan Kalman; and explore the beloved songbook of **The Music of Phil Collins and Genesis** – reimagined for full orchestra and an all-star band!

And if that's not enough, the NSO is bringing back their tribute to the **Tragically Hip**, which was an instant sell-out in 2020.

Capturing the hearts of Canadians everywhere, the Tragically Hip have written some of the greatest Canadian rock anthems of all time. Tragically Hip "evangelists", The Strictly Hip, reverently recreate the music of "The Hip" everywhere they go. Experience hits like *Ahead by a Century*, *Bobcaygeon*, and *At the Hundreth Meridian* with The Strictly Hip backed by the full power of the NSO!

"The upcoming NSO season is by far one of its

most ambitious to date," says Bradley Thachuk, NSO's music director. "This season aspires to welcome all musical tastes, present the most beloved classics, reflect upon significant issues in our history, and features the best of Canadian talent."

Music gives us joy and brings us together. The Niagara Symphony Orchestra is committed to keeping that honoured tradition alive. See you at the Symphony!

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 2:30PM

Juliet Dunn,
narrator

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EDITORIAL

Inspired by Terry Fox, and surrounded by reasons to run

Everyone who takes part in a Terry Fox Run has a story, and it isn't just because they like to run. In a small town, we often talk to and see the same people taking part year after year, because they are committed to the cause. Or, as Bill Pristanski joked when he spoke to The Local, "because I should be committed." He's referring to the fact that he has run every single year, in many different locations, since 1981.

He's only 67, so that tells us how old he was when he stood with his mother, who was battling breast cancer,

and his father, watching Terry Fox run through Sault Ste. Marie. She died of cancer three years later. We know why he runs. And he is not alone in having lost someone very dear to him to cancer.

This year, family members of John vanderZalm are running. They watched their father fight cancer for seven years, and for those seven years, he walked in the Terry Fox Run, the last year with a cane, hoping that others wouldn't have to.

We know people who run because they are inspired by Terry's strength, by his determination, by his simple, heart-felt words about not giving up. Sean Wright raises money for the Terry Fox Foundation because Terry was a young man who wasn't a quitter, who wouldn't give up, who wanted to make the impossible possible. Sean is a young man who suffered a brain injury as a teen, and has taken those lessons to heart. When something is difficult for him, he does everything he can to overcome it. Terry wouldn't quit, he says, and neither will he.

We all know about Joe Pillitteri and his determination to support Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope. He learned about Terry at a challenging time in his life. Terry's story, his courage and heroism every day he got up and faced running a marathon on one leg, with a prosthetic on the other, and in the

final days, when he was sick, made Joe realize, and many of us, that most of what we face daily pales in comparison. So we move forward, with Terry as our inspiration, and Joe helping to spread that message, year after year.

The best reason for taking part in a Terry Fox Run, the most important, is the cancer research and the improvements that have been made in treatments since he started his Marathon of Hope.

Bill Pristanski has witnessed that first hand, with the reversal in statistics for surviving breast cancer — from 20 per cent in the '80s to 88 per cent today.

Forty years ago, those were the odds for his mother, my mother and many other mothers, and the numbers didn't work in their favour. Today, women — grandmothers, mothers and daughters — not only have a much better chance of survival, but they have a better quality of life while they fight for it. And that's just one kind of cancer.


So run, walk, roll or ride if you can, this Sunday, beginning at 9 a.m. in Simcoe Park. Organizer Joan King is making it easy for us.

And if you can't, or choose not to, the Terry Fox Foundation makes it easy to donate. Just go to <https://terryfox.org>

Penny Coles
The Local

Understanding the War of 1812

The Friends of Fort George have created a short campaign chronicle about the Battle of Queenston Heights will be sharing it over the coming weeks, beginning this week and leading up to the week of the battle itself. It is intended to help the public better understand the War of 1812. This is the first of the series. (Supplied by Amanda Gamble, executive director of The Friend of Fort George)



Issue No.1

WAR DECLARED

September 5th, 2022

The Battle of Queenston Heights


A Campaign Chronicle

June 18th, 1812. As of this day, following a declaration by US president James Madison, a state of war exists between the young United States of America and the aged and steadfast Empire of Great Britain, and by proxy, the colonial provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Two countries closely intertwined by family ties, friendships and trade routes were suddenly at odds with each other. At once the sleepy Niagara frontier is permeated with many foreign sounds. The rhythmic marching of men, the sharp notes of the fifes and droning of the drums, the distinct clicking of flints striking steel, and the thumping fusillades of musket fire.

War has come.


Blockades & Boardings

The British at this time were actively blockading trade routes to France due to the ongoing Napoleonic conflict, stopping and seizing cargo bound for French ports. Even neutral countries such as the United States were subject to this, and furthermore the British were "impressing" their sailors. Under the guise of reclaiming deserters, the British were taking American sailors at will, disregarding naturalized citizens of the States and forcing them into service in the Royal Navy to fill the ranks on their expansive navy. This was viewed as an insult to the validity and authority of the United States.




A Show of Strength

In the American government there existed a group known as the "War Hawks", whose goal was to steer the country into a war with Great Britain. This was for a few reasons. One of these reasons was to attempt to relive American success and glory gained fighting against the British in the Revolutionary War. More important was to prove the United States was no backwater, nor rebel state as the British and many European countries viewed them. Instead, hopefully solidifying them as a powerful country worthy of respect and recognition on a global stage. The group wanted a war to prove what Americans could achieve.



Wandering Westward

The American idea of "Manifest Destiny" was also dawning currently. As a result, the American government and settlers wanted to continue their Westward expansion and acquire more territory for their new country. However, this was predominantly land occupied by the various Indigenous peoples who were actively resisting their incursions. The British also had a hand in this as they attempted to diplomatically block the States from expanding where possible and were trading arms and other goods to the Indigenous populous. Arms that aided them in their resistance. This made another reason to go to war with the British to overcome this.



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The British are undeniable good story tellers, but are the best when crime and detective tales are to be told, as in *McDonald and Dodds* (Prime, 2020). The highly ambitious officer, McDonald, is paired with the cautious, shy officer, Dodds. They are a clever partnership as they

take on puzzling cases all in, or near the historic city of Bath.

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*.

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

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COMMENT

Local

LETTERS: Where is open and transparent communication?

I appreciated your recent editorial, If it isn't swamp water, what is it? (The Local, Sept. 7.) Well done!

Your statement, "Not that long ago we (media and councillors) could pick up the phone and talk to the CAO, any of

the department directors or relevant staff" is a well-known fact. Yes, as you stated so well, it now feels like we have a small town

operating like it's the GTA, protecting itself . . . from what?

Perhaps there is something going on that res-

idents can't know about. Our town needs open, honest and timely communication once again. It should have been the con-

tinued go-to policy, not a relic from the past.

Cindi LoForti Lepp
NOTL

Reporter Mike Balsom walking a mile in her shoes

Mike Balsom
The Local

The annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser for Gillian's Place returns to the Pen Centre on Saturday, Oct. 15 for the first time since 2019. I'll be there as an official ambassador for the event, and I am hoping that you can join me in the walk or support my efforts to raise funds for the charitable organization.

I'll be donning a size 10 pair of four-inch pink high heels for the symbolic walk that gives men the chance to stand against the societal restrictions placed on women and non-binary individuals, specifically to help end violence against women.

The roots of Gillian's Place as a safe haven for abused women and children began on Salina Street in St. Catharines in 1977. Thirty years later they moved into their current space, the old Victoria School on Niagara Street. At that time, a new name was chosen in honour of former executive director Gillian Dooley, who led the organization from 1980 until the move to the current home.

Today, Gillian's Place runs a 34-bed emergency shelter and a 24/7 phone or text support line. They also offer safety planning, one-on-one and group counselling, legal advice and court support. They visit schools to assist with education and violence prevention programs, provide child and youth programs and counselling, and offer transitional housing and support.

The first Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event was held in California, and since then it has grown to 140 walks held internationally. Gillian's Place organized their first local version of the walk in 2006. More than \$1.2 million has been raised through the event over 16 years.

The past two years Walk a Mile in Her Shoes was done virtually, with just over \$100,000 raised both years. That's a very impressive amount for virtual efforts, speaking highly of the Niagara community's dedication to and support for the cause.

As you might imagine, the pandemic has had a significant effect on the need for Gillian's Place's services. Since March, 2020, staff there have been responding to a 150 per cent increase in crisis calls, a 91 per cent increase in need across all of their programs and services, and a 98 per cent increase in community outreach services.

During that time, 379 survivors of abuse have lived in the Gillian's Place shelter, 8,304 crisis calls and texts have been answered, and 1,709 clients have been helped by the organization's lawyer to navigate a legal system that rarely understands the insidious nature of abuse.

As well, isolation during COVID-19 lockdown periods made it more difficult for women experiencing intimidation, threats, neglect or sexual, physical and emotional abuse to seek help. With their abuser locked up in the same house, it could often be impossible for them to make a call or send a text.

Over the 29 years of my teaching career I periodically saw the effects of abuse witnessed by students in their own homes. Violence against women in the home often has the effect of leaving children quiet and reserved, displaying the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Alternatively, they could lash out and become violent themselves. It affects their emotional, physical and intellectual development during key growth periods of their lives.

The statistics, by the way, are staggering.



One in three Canadian women have experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner. In 2020, 160 women and girls were killed by violence, an almost 35 per cent increase from 2019. Half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence by the age of 16. And 64 per cent of people in Canada know a woman who has experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse.

When executive director Nicole Regehr reached out to offer me the chance to be an ambassador this year, I was honoured and elated.

The first order of business was to sign the Men's Pledge.

It's a simple process. I pledged to no longer participate in the patriarchy, to actively work to reveal, know and overcome our gender biases. I promised to actively work to end men's gender-based violence, and to deconstruct toxic masculinity and work toward gender relations that are supportive of a more ethical relationship to the earth and fellow living beings.

And I'm doing the walk, because I want to live in a world where our wives, girlfriends, mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, nieces and granddaughters, and all who identify as female or non-binary, feel free from

potential abuse.

I know that I can be comfortable as a male to take a stroll in Niagara-on-the-Lake or St. Catharines or Toronto, just about anywhere, late at night after dark and not fear for my safety or my life. I would like the women in my life to feel equally as comfortable.

And I want all children to be free from experiencing abuse in their homes, and for those that do experience it, to continue to have the safe haven that Gillian's Place provides to turn to escape their tormentors.

This year's goal for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes is \$120,000, and my personal fundraising goal is \$2,000. I am hoping

you can get involved by walking alongside me, or contributing to my fundraising page.

I'll see you at the Pen Centre on Oct. 15. Look for the guy in the pink heels teetering dangerously on the tiles. Then again, it might be hard to pick me out of the crowd with that description.

For information on Gillian's Place and Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, visit: <https://gilliansplace.com/walk-a-mile-in-her-shoes/>

To contribute to Mike Balsom's campaign, visit:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/gillians-place/p2p/walk-a-mile-2022/page/mike-balsom/>

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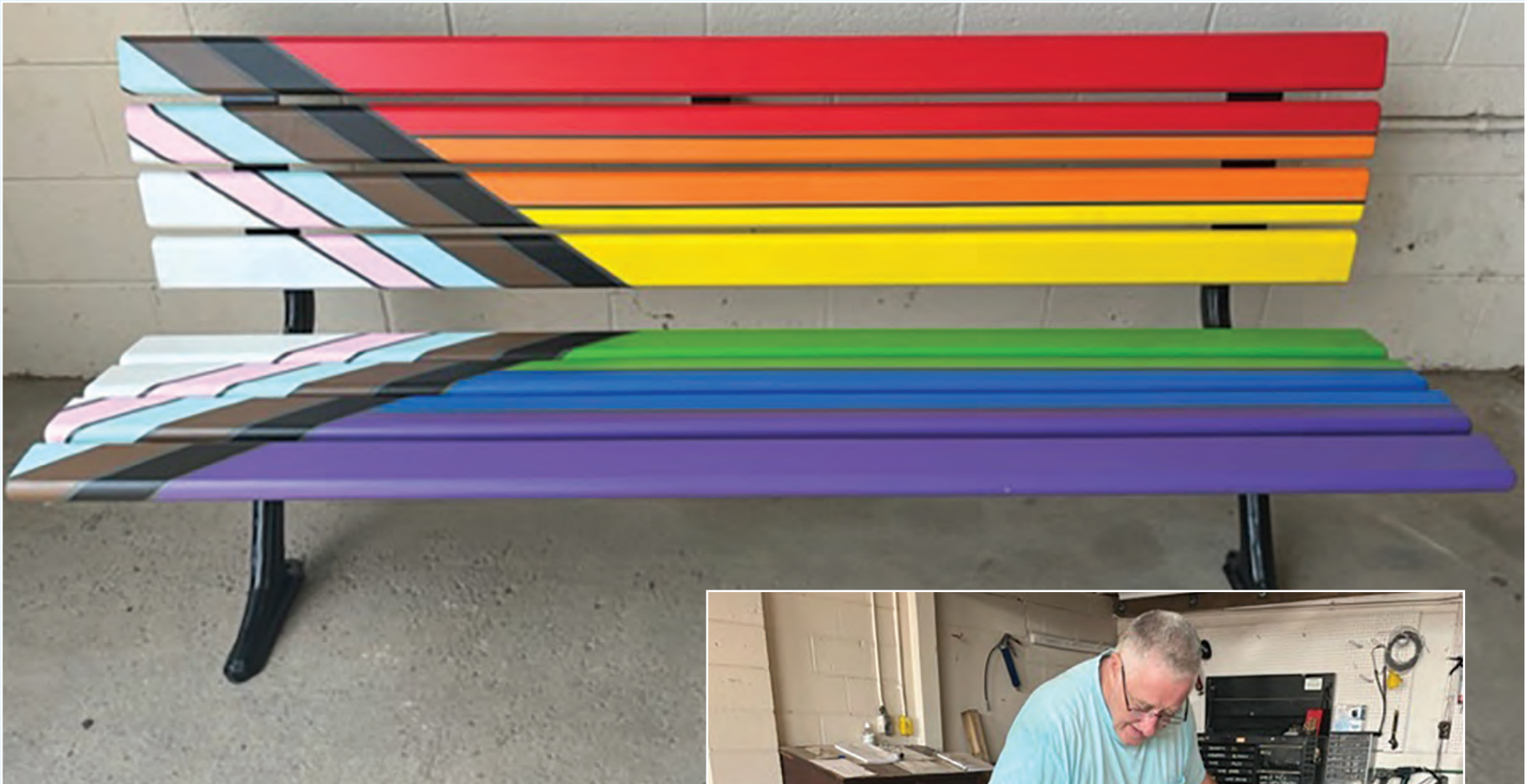
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Pride of place in Virgil sports park



Coun. John Wiens, a member of the town's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, helped paint the first of five rainbow benches to be placed around town. Creek Road Paints was very helpful doing the prep work, and John and some of the other members painted the slats, while his wife Jill was instrumental in touch-ups to make it look perfect. On the bench is the Progress Pride flag, which celebrates the diversity of the LGBTQ community and calls for a more inclusive society. The bench will be placed in the Centennial Sports Park in Virgil, but no date has been announced. *(Photos supplied)*





First in a Series!

Let's talk facts about Niagara-on-the-Lake's finances:

We are in better shape now than when we started:

1. Increased the Capital Reserve Fund from approx. \$24.7 mil in 2017 to approx. \$26 mil in 2020; it sits at approx. \$27 mil today. The Capital Reserve Fund helps protect the taxpayers of Niagara-on-the-Lake from unforeseen expenses in the future.
2. Created new revenue streams through increased grant applications (\$3.5 mil received in 2022) and the introduction of a Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT). MAT will contribute 2 per cent of accommodation costs in 2022 and will add 3 per cent in 2024 and 4 per cent in 2025 to the town revenues. This will generate savings for taxpayers. Overnight stays will be contributing to required capital costs. TO DO next term: Complete implementation.
3. Required business cases from all 4 departments for all new Capital and Operating requests for any expenditures over \$50,000; purchased new budgeting software for \$60,000 which allowed Council to see trends in spending by department. TO DO next term: get to zero based budget.
4. Froze all Operations Department fleet purchases over the last two years until a Needs Review is completed. Utilizing a Provincial Grant, this Council reviewed all departments for process and savings. TO DO next term: continue to revise performance indicators for service improvement.
5. The town's total legal expenses are approximately one percent of our total budget but the town has been awarded costs by the courts on both major cases thus far. TO DO next term: Remain determined to defend town against overdevelopment.

Together we are on a good path. Continue on this journey with me. I am asking for your support on October 24th. I will continue to be your full time Lord Mayor!

STAY TUNED, NEXT WEEK, MORE TO COME....

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Stratus celebrates life of long-time employee

Penny Coles The Local

Devon McKenzie was just 44 when he died of a stroke on Aug. 13 at the Niagara Falls Hospital, with his family far away, at home in Jamaica.

Known by his co-workers at Stratus Vineyards as Rocky, a very emotional and moving service was held for him Saturday morning in a stunning setting outdoors, behind the winery and overlooking the vineyards, attended by about 60 people. The men who worked with him were given the day off to grieve and celebrate his life, first at the service at the winery and then continuing at their East and West Line residence with a barbecue for all who could attend.

Although Rocky's six children — one as young as three, and up to the age of 25 — are in Jamaica, his brother Sean, his sister-in-law, nieces and nephews and other relatives in Ontario came to the service.

Other than Rocky's children, most of his family is here in Canada, Sean said.

Stratus winemaker Dean Stoyka worked closely with Rocky, and said he considered him one of his best friends.

The Stratus foreman had worked for the winery for 20 years, and Stoyka, who came to Stratus in 2010, said he and the other men "were like a brotherhood. They're our family, and we take care of our family."

Rocky had been work-

ing year-round in Niagara-on-the-Lake the last three years, so lived alone during the winter months. He spent a lot of time with Stoyka and his family, and was hoping for permanent residency in Canada to work full-time for the winery, which Stratus was helping him with.

That was one of the last things he said while he was able to talk, the day after he had his stroke, says Stoyka. When he visited Rocky in the hospital, he said he wanted to come home to complete his application for permanent residency, and Stoyka said, "that's great, we'll help you."

That wasn't to be. His condition worsened, he was sent to Hamilton to relieve swelling on his brain, and then back to Niagara Falls when he seemed to be recovering. Instead, he died shortly after.

Stoyka and director of wine-making, J-L Groux both spoke of Rocky's contribution to the success of Stratus wines, by ensuring they had the best grapes.

"You don't make great wine without a great vineyard," said Groux. "We made the wine, he made the grapes."

"He was a great leader," said Stoyka, "and the most distinctive, happiest guy. He made the hours go by like minutes."

He also had a passion for farming, an impressive knowledge of viticulture as well as a love of driving the tractor, a skill for looking after vineyard equipment, and also wood-working and carpentry. "Any-



At Stratus to honour Devon 'Rocky' McKenzie (his picture is on his favourite tractor) at his celebration of life, were friends and co-workers Oral Walters, Sabado Townsend, Linton Beale, Kevin McDonald, Devon Reid, J-L Groux, Dean Stoyka, Liam Reeves and Travert Williams. In the tractor is Raidon Elvie, his nephew. (Penny Coles)

thing that needed to be built at the farm, he would build it."

Pastor Albert Dawkins asked those gathered to be "very intentional in your grief," and to remember "the life Devon has lived, and the legacy he has left behind. He has done his tenure here, and he has fought the good fight."

He said it wouldn't be easy for the men to go back to work, knowing Rocky wouldn't be there, but encouraged them to be strong, saying the greatest gift from Rocky would be "permission to keep on living. He would be cheering you on, and his intention for you would be to keep on keeping on."

No matter how much this hurts, he said, "you will always

look back and learn from your struggle. You will find a way to carry on. And remember all you are trying to do is to make your world a world of peace, without Devon."

Stoyka said to honour Rocky, "care for your friends, call them, tell your friends and family you love them. You never know when your last moment is going to come. Cherish your loved ones and tell them every single day."

There wasn't a dry eye in the crowd when a video was shown of Rocky's children at home, several of them saying although they didn't get to see a lot of him while he was away working, they knew it was for them.

When he was at home, he made the most of his time with them, and each said how much they loved him and missed him.

The celebration closed with photos of Rocky and the Bob Marley song, "don't worry about a thing, every little thing's going to be alright."

Speaking after the service, Dianne Hughes, a volunteer who first met Rocky she was dropping off welcome kits for farmworkers, described Stratus as one of the best employers, adding organizing and paying for the day-long celebration of life, and giving the men the day off to grieve, "is unheard of."

She recalled a time when a Jamaican gospel singer was go-

ing to give a concert at a nearby church, and said she would like a tour of a winery led by farmworkers. Stratus agreed, "and it was done beautifully. It was a delightful tour."

When it came time to end the tour with a tasting at the winery, "staff included Rocky and one of the other men from the house, treating them just like they were any other guests of the winery."

She also mentioned that once a week Stratus brings tutors to the winery to help the men with English, math, and business skills, helping them qualify for a high school equivalent.

Jane Andres, also with extensive knowledge of the lives of offshore farmworkers, knew Rocky, and how well the winery treats their employees.

"Stratus has really been exemplary in building a tight team, including the Jamaican employees, and giving them a voice," she says, mentioning a meal that was prepared for a group of magazine writers visiting to write about wine pairings with food.

"The Jamaican employees suggested that they do the cooking. Stratus took them up on their offer and they created an authentic Caribbean experience complete with the Stratus wines they paired with the meal."

They were all excited as a team to make it happen, Andres said, calling it just one example of the core values of Stratus, "and the respect they have for every employee."



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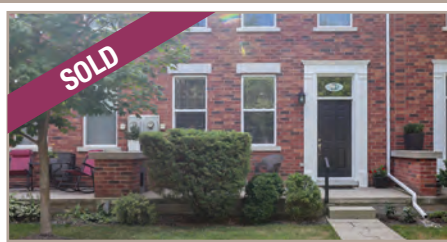
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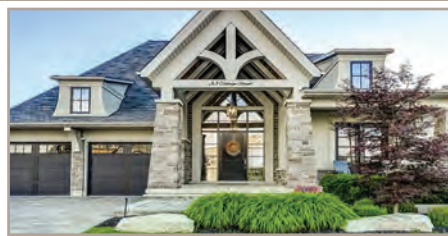
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‘Biggest and best ever’ polo event



It was an afternoon of fast action, skilled riders and beautiful horses on the Common Saturday. (Photos by Mike Balsom)



The Most Valuable Pony award was given to Mandarin, with King Ward, sponsor Nancy Bailey, and trainers John Froeman and Mitch Ward.



British sports cars paraded across the Common, including one with the family of Camilla, John, Elise, Annabella and Lesley Yoxall.



Sarah Olsen and Olivia Berezoski of Beau Chapeau show off their hats.



The crowd takes to the field for the traditional divot-stomping, while enjoying a glass of champagne.



Claudia Airlie and Richard Andrews stomp divots in style. (Dan Skeoch)

Mike Balsom The Local

More than 24 hours after the return of Niagara Polo to the Niagara-on-the-Lake Common, George Dell was still riding a natural high.

“That was the biggest and best ever,” the affable NOTL resident raved about the event. “I’ve been involved in every one of these since 1993 and we’ve never had this many people here. I don’t think the Toronto Polo Club has ever hosted this many people, either.”

Dell told The Local they held back the start of the first game to accommodate the many interested last-minute walk-ups who were still approaching the entry gate facing John Street East.

“The cars were lined up and down the street,” he said. “We pre-sold all the tables, but they were still coming in at the last minute. We actually had to lengthen the field to accommodate the crowd.”

Indeed, the goal posts on the south side were set at least 20 metres behind the end line as guests, decked out in their Sunday best and topped with their finest hats and fascinators, found space along the sideline.

Dell, who moved to town about 10 years ago with his wife, Wendy Irving-Dell, a former Olympic equestrian, acted as emcee and sage for the event, calling the play-by-play and explaining the intricacies of the game to the neophytes.

Before the games could start, though, the afternoon began with the requisite pomp and circumstance. That included a tribute to the recently departed Queen Elizabeth II, a major horse enthusiast and polo fan. The estimated 3,000 in attendance were encouraged to raise their glasses to the late monarch, and then a parade of British cars - Jaguars, Morgans, Triumphs and more — encircled the Common.

The cars were followed by a fife and drum trio, then a pipe band. Mona Babin, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum’s board of directors, thanked the guests for their support. Then Lord Mayor Betty Disero disembarked from a Sentinel Carriage to address the crowd and welcome them to the first polo match on the grounds since 2018. The anthem was sung brilliantly by local teen Hannah Otta.

Museum managing director and curator Sarah Kaufman was

also amazed with the turnout.

“We didn’t know what to expect. It’s been four years since we have done this,” said Kaufman. “We wanted to pack the sides because the players love to see a full crowd. It’s a fun event, so the more the merrier. There’s nothing like this in Niagara.”

A team of more than 100 volunteers helped the day go smoothly, along with Mother Nature who cooperated with a perfect day weather-wise. That was a relief to the organizers who were worried after early week forecasts predicted rain as a possibility Saturday.

Funds raised will support the operations of the NOTL Museum.

“It’s to keep the lights on, to keep those heritage buildings intact,” added Kaufman. “It helps in preserving the collection itself, and it provides funding for us to host our kids programs, our lecture series and other things like that.”

Kaufman was quick to give credit to Dell, whose connection with players out of the Toronto Polo Club has been the impetus for the event that has become a highlight of the summer in NOTL every second year.

The players, who each bring six horses with them for competition, donate their time to play in the charity fundraiser.

“This is a real treat, almost a reward for them to come down here,” Dell explained. “They love to get out and spread their love for the game.”

Local realtor Nancy Bailey threw out the first ball for each of the two polo games, an honour she said made her just a bit nervous.

“It was scary,” Bailey laughed. “And the second time, I hit the guy on my own team, the Nancy Bailey team I sponsored. It was great, and it’s so much fun to present the winners their trophies. It’s such a well-run event that I’m happy to support. It brings so much of the community together.”

The first game was an exciting match between two teams of experienced, high-handicap polo players. The action went back and forth and from end to end as the lead alternated between the Niagara B ‘n’ B (in white) and the VRG Capital (in blue) teams. Skilful moves and shots from either side left things tied 3-3 after the second chukka (or period).

The horses, their sinewy muscles displaying their strength, were a marvel to watch as the eight riders led them into on-a-dime turns in their efforts

to better position themselves to strike the ball with their mallets. The ball used Saturday, Dell explained, was actually a softer, inflated indoor ball to ensure the safety of spectators sitting close to the sides.

Niagara B ‘n’ B quickly went up 5-3 in the third chukka, while VRG, on the strength of a late goal by Jennifer Buchan, the lone female rider on the field, tied it up at 5-5 with just over a minute left in the final chukka. Niagara B ‘n’ B bounced back with the final marker to win the game 6-5.

Between games, Brian O’Leary, referred to by Dell as “Mr. Polo”, led an information session shedding light on the equipment, rules and techniques of the game. Two young riders, who were to compete in game two, were happy to show off some of their equestrian skills.

Then awards were handed out to the Most Valuable Player (Ben Weir of Niagara B ‘n’ B) and Most Valuable Pony (Mandarina, who was ridden by Mitch Ward of VRG). As well, the crowd was invited onto the polo field for a glass of champagne and the traditional divot stomp.

“I think that is my favourite part of the event,” Kaufman told The Local. “Everyone gets to come out with their free glass of champagne and they go out and stomp. These are the things people see in the movies. They get to go out and enjoy it, all dressed up. They really love to get involved in the event.”

A little bit of cloud cover rolled in to cool down the spectators before the start of game two. That match featured more inexperienced, low handicap riders, with less end to end action and fewer fast breaks. It ended in a tie between the two teams.

At press time, Kaufman and the organizing committee were still tabulating the results of the silent auction, ticket sales and sponsorship, so a total amount raised for the event was not yet available.

Dell, who ran Norbram Group Insurance in York Region before moving to Niagara, is looking forward to the next Niagara Polo event.

“We can’t believe how successful it was this year,” he said. “You know, polo was played right on that field as far back as the 1830s. Today, Parks Canada with their new equipment keeps the field in excellent shape. I hope that this event continues for a long, long time.”

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SCHOOLS



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Royal Oak off to a great start

Julia Murray
Head of School
Royal Oak
Community School

It has been a truly incredible start to the new school year at Royal Oak, with 13 new students and four new talented staff members.

Week one has already seen new friendships develop, and children showing comfort and familiarity with new spaces and faces.

The first week of school is all about ensuring children feel safe at school, while teachers assess and develop plans to respond to students' new skills

and academic capacity.

Royal Oak has two wonderful offers for our Niagara community to share this week. One of these is one remaining full-year scholarship that is still available for the Grade 3/4 classroom to a student interested in STEM and hands-on learning through Royal Oak's Inquiry approach to learning.

The other is the opening of PD Day Camps to children from schools around Niagara for PD days in the upcoming school year.

We know childcare is difficult when schools are closed and are opening our doors to help families on Oct. 24, Nov. 25, Jan. 20, May 19 and June 9. To take advantage of either of these offers, please email admin@royaloakschool.ca



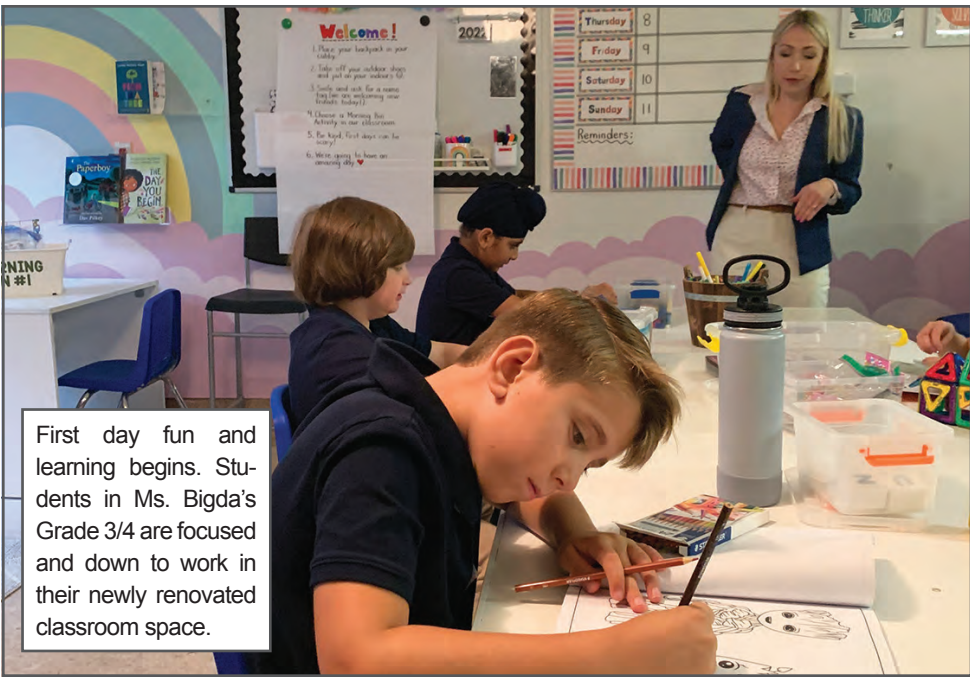
Early Years students doing a number hunt in their jelly bead sensory bin — hands and minds were very engaged.



This year's teachers at ROCS are Lauren Dennis, Kelly Satran, Morgane Chaudoreille, Robin Forlin, Jason Walloschek, Jessica Bigda, Ireri Espinosa-Boily, Krista McMackin and Brittany Nyenhuis. Missing are head of school Julia Murray and physical education teacher Jack Addams-Williams. (Photos supplied)



The Grade 1/2 students read a book about how much one million jelly beans is! They then used jelly beans to construct their school and followed this activity by writing about their own school, Royal Oak.



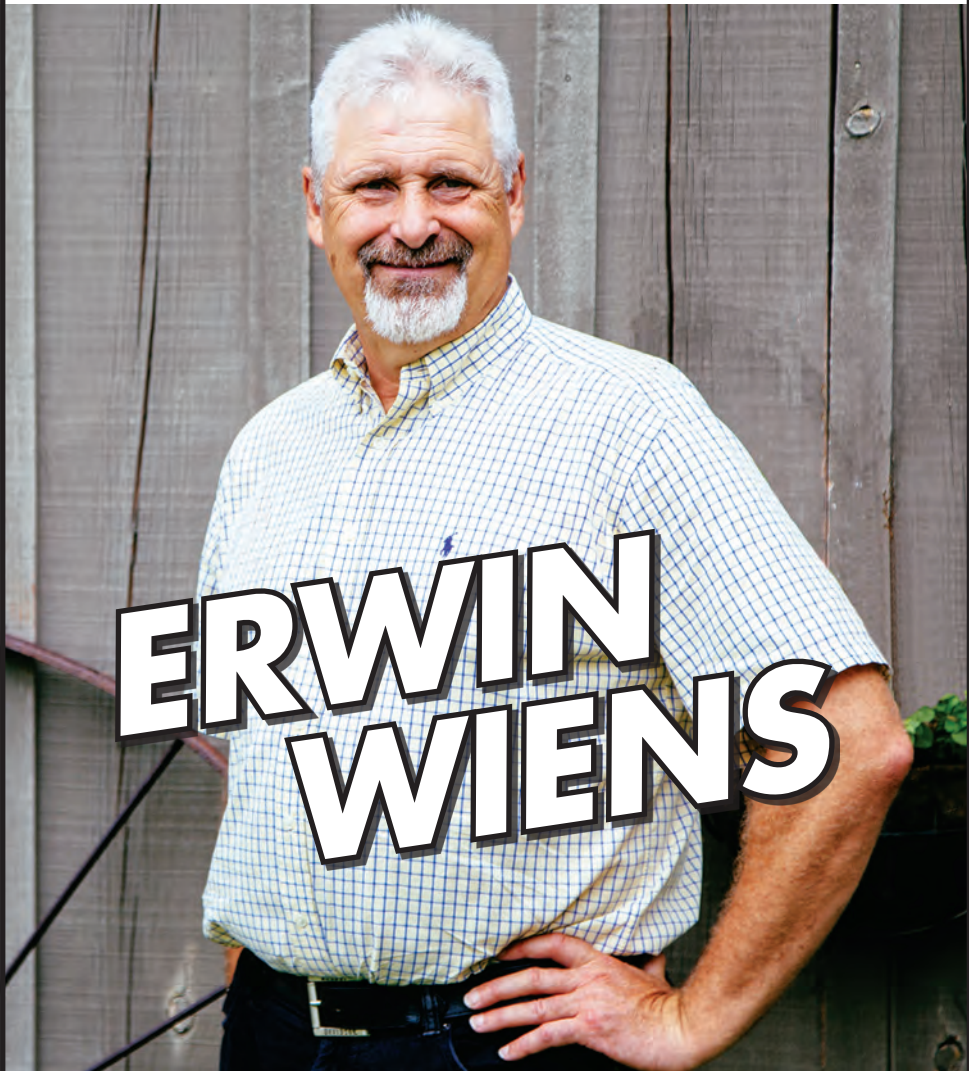
First day fun and learning begins. Students in Ms. Bigda's Grade 3/4 are focused and down to work in their newly renovated classroom space.



JK student Laya, enjoys her first recess in the greenspace and trees at Royal Oak. She is one of 10 full-time Early Years students at Royal Oak.

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Candidates meetings starting soon

Penny Coles
The Local

Opportunities to hear from those running in the Oct. 24 municipal election are being planned, including the traditional Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce meeting for

all candidates. It will be held Wednesday, Sept. 28, and breaking with tradition, it is taking place in the Royal George Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting will get underway at 6 p.m. It is open to the public. The

theatre has a capacity of 300, and seating will be on a first-come-first-served basis. Although chamber meetings have been held at the community centre, president Minerva Ward says it was difficult to get a date that would work, thus the switch. FocusNOTL, a group of resi-

dents who organized meetings at the Royal Canadian Legion Hall on King Street in 2018, is holding a series of meet and greets at the same location, beginning Tuesday, Sept. 27, for mayoral candidates Betty Disero, Vaughn Goettler and Gary Zalepa. Their format four years ago

was just to include new candidates, excluding incumbents, but this time all candidates are attending — the numbers are more manageable with fewer candidates than in the 2018 election, when there were more than 30 people running for mayor, council and regional council.

ratepayers first in all issues, unlike those who vote with developers and special interests, such as what went on during the MAT (municipal accommodation tax) discussions and votes.”

He adds they hope residents elect councillors that practise sound fiscal management. Rather than the seemingly automatic tax increases that happen year over year, “elect councillors that have MAT dollars allocated to resident taxes first.”

Other issues he cites are seeing “a functional council, and not the dysfunctional, child-like behaviour that we have seen.” His group is also interested in what candidates have to say about “NOTL getting the short end of the stick from the Region. . . . police costs, return of taxes for NOTL projects, etc.”

Although Accardo has his own opinions, he says, “the meet and greets will allow every resident to hear the candidates’ platform, the way they answer questions from residents and how they conduct themselves — things residents cannot assess just from seeing lawn signs and attending traditional all-candidates meetings.”

All of the FocusNOTL meet and greets at the legion hall will be from 7 to 9 p.m.

The St. Davids Ratepayers Association is holding a candidates meeting at the Lions Hall on York Road Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m.

Lemons2Lemonade



Hunter, Mom Krystle, Max, Preston, Dad Martin, Jacob, and Thanna, a family friend, raised money for Pathstone Mental Health with their lemonade stand, which was doubled by the Meridian Credit Union. (Photo supplied)

Four brothers from Niagara-on-the-Lake have become the inspiration for Pathstone Mental Health’s L2L (Lemons 2 Lemonade) program across the region. Last year Hunter, Max, Preston and Jacob raised \$1,410 serving lemonade, and raffle tickets for prizes donated from generous local businesses. This year any money raised for Pathstone through any youth event (18 and under) will be matched, dollar for dollar by Meridian Credit Union. The boys, with help from parents Krystle and Martin, set a goal of \$2,500, “and after six and a half hours of hard work, and countless cups of freshly-squeezed lemonade, the boys were able to raise \$2,800, for a grand total donation of \$5,600,” says Krystle. “You can only imagine how proud they are of their efforts,” she says. “We are all so happy to be a part of this community, and look forward to continuing to make a difference in the years to come.” Pathstone offered a kit to walk kids through the steps of planning an event, and provided videos with tips on how to plan a successful event and to help students in high school with the volunteer hours they need, says Pathstone’s Kim Rossi. “The boys were the poster kids” for Pathstone’s L2L, says Rossi, who points out it’s a different program than the lemonade stands arranged for FACS earlier this year. Pathstone’s program includes any event youth want to plan, which will be matched by Meridian for up to \$10k annually, Rossi explains.

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Wreath-laying ceremony at cenotaph Monday

Continued from page 1

property on the big day. They were to arrive early and could not leave the property.

"It was both tense and exciting," Meloen continues. "The kitchen staff were particularly busy, with health officials hovering around. The kitchen was to be spotlessly clean and empty of everything but the essentials necessary for the banquet. The head servers were briefed on what to do and what not to do — like don't speak to the royals unless they speak to you."

Meloen remains thankful to this day that none of the royals took the initiative to do so, as he is certain he would not have replied properly.

When the royals entered the dining room, he remembers being struck immediately by how small Queen Elizabeth was.

"This sort of unnerved me and it took me a while to figure it out," he says. "Then I realized that during my school years a portrait of the Queen was always high above the blackboard or above the door. So you were always looking up to the Queen. But when you see her in person, you would be looking down at her."

He also felt that she was far more attractive in person than she was in photographs.

Meloen didn't catch much of the conversation at the head table, but did notice that the Prince and Lord Mayor Froese were discussing peach farming.

"Back at Ryerson I gained a bit of notoriety with my classmates," he recalls. "And in the aftermath, business was brisk for the Pillar and Post since there were many who were interested in the visit and were eager to be in the same room where the Queen had been."

Next, the entourage moved onto the Shaw Festival Theatre, where they took in a performance of *You Never Can Tell* and visited with the cast on stage following the show. At 11:10 p.m., they departed for St. Catharines, where they boarded a train.

Another NOTL resident has fond memories of the Queen going back to her Coronation on June 2, 1953.

Realtor Sis Weld was 21 years old and just about to get married when she set sail with a friend aboard the *Franconia* from Montreal to Liverpool. There, they boarded a boat train that brought them to Paddington, where her future mother-in-law was waiting.

Weld has lived a life fascinated by and in admiration of the royal family, instilled in her by her family.

"My father was the Colonel of the Governor General's Horse Guards," she tells *The Local*. "In the First World War, he was in the Artillery. We all loved the Royal Family. I was young enough to collect all the pictures of Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret. I collected them all."

Weld remembers listening

to the Royal Wedding of Elizabeth and Phillip under the covers on Nov. 20, 1947. And when the future Queen visited as a princess in 1939, she hustled to the train tracks to leave a dime for the train to flatten.

"It was outside of Oakville, where I was brought up," she says. "It was important to me to have that squashed down by the Queen and King's train."

Weld arrived in London just a day before the Coronation, and people were already taking up their positions along the parade route. She and her friend, Mary Anne Currie, tried to sleep in their hotel but it was next to impossible.

They got to their seats at the Mall by 6 a.m., directly across from Clarence House, where they could see the carriages being prepared for the parade. Rain was falling when they arrived, but the sun soon came shining through the clouds.

She recalls Canadians along the route cheering madly when the RCMP appeared, and the Queen of Tonga capturing everyone's heart. She says the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret looked radiant in their carriages as they emerged from Clarence House.

The roar of the crowd grew louder as the top of the Golden Coach became visible near Queen Victoria's statue. Weld was nearly breathless when Elizabeth passed by her, on her way to being crowned Queen.

"People were snapping pictures," she remembers, "screaming with delight and waving their flags. It was extremely moving."

She snapped a photo of her own, and proudly displays that in her Old Town living room, along with one of her daughter Wendy and her son-in-law David's meeting with Prince Charles on one of his visits to Toronto.

Weld, by the way, also attended the Queen's Silver Jubilee in February, 1977 with her daughter Leanne. Though she never had the opportunity to meet the Queen, she was presented to the Queen Mother at Woodbine Racetrack in the 1970s.

Reflecting on Elizabeth's 70-



Branch 124 Of the Royal Canadian Legion will hold a wreath-laying ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 19 at the Queen Street cenotaph for Queen Elizabeth, who visited NOTL in 1973, and there is a Book of Condolences to be signed in the town hall lobby. (Photo supplied)



Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Fort George in 1973 with then Lord Mayor J.P. Froese. (NOTL Museum)

year reign, Weld says, "I think she was incredible. I was a great, great admirer. She never said a word or took a step out of line. She did it all so beautifully."

Branch 124 of the Royal Canadian Legion will hold a wreath-laying ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 19 at the Queen Street Cenotaph. Branch president Al Howse says the service will be similar to their Remembrance Day ceremony.

It will be open to anyone in the community that wishes to acknowledge the Queen's 70 years of service to Canada.

In addition, the town invites residents to drop into the Virgil Town Hall to sign a book of condolences that has been placed in the lobby. The book will be sent to Buckingham Palace in time for the Queen's funeral, to take place at Westminster Abbey on Sept. 19.



Sis Weld was a young woman when she snapped a photo at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, now proudly displayed in her Old Town living room. (Mike Balsom)



Sis Weld's daughter Wendy and her husband David met Prince Charles, now King Charles III, on one of his visits to Toronto. The photo is displayed in Sis Weld's home.



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41-year Terry Fox participant running in NOTL

Penny Coles
The Local

Bill Pristanski participated in his first Terry Fox run in 1981. He hasn't missed one since, and he won't this year either.

That kind of deep commitment doesn't come lightly. In 1980, he says, he was with his mother and father in Ste. Saint Marie when Terry Fox passed through town on his run that was intended to cross Canada. When he

stopped to speak at city hall, Pristanski's mother, who was fighting breast cancer, heard his story and was inspired by his words.

The following year, Pristanski signed up to run the 10-kilometre event, for

his mother. "We had another three years with her," he says, and when she died, he pledged to continue each year. "I run for her."

Although he lives in Ottawa, he has participated in many different locations, and will take part in the NOTL event for the second time this Sunday.

In 1980, he says, the survival rate of women with breast cancer was just 20 per cent. Now, thanks to the Terry Fox Foundation and other organizations funding cancer research, the numbers have flipped — the five-year survival rate statistics from the Canadian Cancer Society show it's now 88 per cent.

While the Terry Fox annual run can't help but make him think of his mother, the good news is, he says, "many, many years later my father

got cancer. Now he's cancer-free, and at 91, living a good life. He's a survivor, and it's the fact that we've done so much to understand the disease that's helped him."

In 1983, Pristanski moved to Ottawa to work as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's executive assistant.

He met with Fox family members several times, working with them to organize events, and in 2013, he was elected chair of the Terry Fox Foundation board of directors, a position he held until recently, when he handed it off to his vice-chair.

He speaks of an exciting \$150 million project, the Marathon of Hope Cancer Centre, supported by the federal government and now in the works to create a federal network of cancer foundations, all helping to raise funding for research, working together to further improve technology, treatments and outcomes.

Unlike the U.S., where great research is done but not shared, "we'll share ours with the world."

Pristanski, founder of consulting firm Prospectus Associates in Ottawa, has run in locations across the country, helping to boost community totals.

He ran once in Maui, and once in Nantucket, when he had to map out his own route, his wife and son riding alongside him on a moped.

Last year, he ran with his son in New York's Central Park — Canada wasn't hold-

ing group runs, but the U.S. was.

He has raised more than \$900,000 for the foundation, and hopes to eventually top \$1 million.

He comes to town every year with a large group of people— this year 27 of them — to see Shaw plays, and fortunately for NOTL, this year the trip coincides with the run weekend.

Although his group members don't necessarily run with him, he says, they do contribute.

Pristanski has already raised more than \$35,000, putting the NOTL run seventh of communities across Canada.

Now 67, he says "the runs seem to get longer every year, but they keep telling me it's still 10 kilometres."

It will be a busy few days, in town from Thursday to Monday, and will include a massage that's already booked at the Oban Inn, where he's staying, after his run.

In his group is a doctor who always accompanies him, checking his pulse at the half-way mark, and so far his training has kept him in good shape. "I do run, but I only run 10K once a year," he says.

To register a team, or to donate to the Terry Fox Run, Pristanski or any team registered, go to <https://run.terryfox.ca/3635>.

The run is this Sunday, Sept. 18, beginning in Simcoe Park at 9 a.m.



Bill Pristanski of Ottawa (far right, with a team of University of Waterloo students) will run for Terry Fox in NOTL this Sunday, for the second time — his last run in town was 2014. (Photo supplied)



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In the advertisement published on September 7, the name Kris Vrcek was spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling of the name is Kris Vrcek. The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake regrets this error and it will be corrected in future publications.



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Walk, run, ride or roll five or 10 kilometres for Terry Fox, this Sunday, beginning in Simcoe Park

Lord Mayor Betty Disero, with D.J. vanderZalm, Matt vanderZalm, Malcom vanderZalm, Bre Lemay, and Terry Fox run organizer Joan King, raise a flag in recognition of the run this Sunday, Sept. 18, in Simcoe Park, beginning at 9 a.m. The vanderZalm brothers lost their father John on May 8, after a seven-year battle with cancer. Speaking for the family, Matt said they will participate in the walk for their dad, "a pillar in the community," who walked in the event for the last seven years — his last walk with a cane — for a cause that was important to him, as he hoped to put an end to cancer for others who come after him. "He passed the torch to us," says Matt. (Penny Coles)



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Terry Boulton to speak of fishing industry at museum

Barbara Worthy
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake sits beside one of the great fresh-water resources on the planet. And for more than 70 years that resource provided the town with a massive fishing industry that rivalled anything in the world.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum's next in-person lecture, presented by Terry Boulton on Thursday, Sept. 15, at 7.30 p.m., will cast a net on this colourful and often controversial history.

During the mid 1800s, the

supply of fish in Lake Ontario appeared to be inexhaustible. Local fishermen harvested sturgeon, whitefish, herring, pike, trout, lake salmon or pickerel, in massive amounts. Sometimes the catch was so large, hundreds of fish carcasses were simply piled on the beaches. The industry served the town's hotels, restaurants, the local population, as well as many from Upper New York and beyond. More than 30 families played a significant role in the development of this industry, but also in its ultimate demise.

Boulton shows how the story of commercial fishing in

Niagara is one of conflict. The fishermen and local officials were constantly in dispute over fishing quotas and practices, which many fishermen ignored. But the lives and colourful characters who made up Niagara's once booming industry are a major part of local history. And while their contribution to the growing economy of the town may be controversial, Boulton illustrates how they made an undeniable contribution to Niagara society.

Boulton is a direct descendant of one of those fisherman families. His two most recent publications - Destroyed -

Commercial Fishing in Niagara (2022), and Smuggling on the Lower Niagara River (2021) - uncover many untold stories of living beside this massive water resource. For more than a decade Boulton has been researching and compiling these stories, not only to search out his own family history, but also to ensure that a significant aspect of Niagara's history is revealed.

Registration is required. Call 905 468 3912. Tickets are free for members, \$10 for non-members.

For more information: www.notlmuseum.ca



Local men, including the Ball family and Terry Boulton's father, made a good living in the fishing industry — until there were no more fish. (Photo supplied)

Ride4Paws helps rescue dogs



It was a great day for a ride with the Niagara Dog Rescue's Ride4Paws Poker Run, which started from the Husky Travel Centre on York Road Saturday morning, ending at Willoughby Firehall in Niagara Falls. Ride4Paws raised more than \$8,200 with a generous rider community and wonderful sponsors and donors, says organizer Cheryl Beland. Bones came out from the Niagara Ice Dogs, and a young girl from NOTL presented the organization with a cheque for \$905. Ishani Ayona Pal, just six years old, held a lemonade and popcorn stand in front of her Old Town home Sept. 3, and wanted to donate all her proceeds to Niagara Dog Rescue, the place which helped her family find their rescue dog, Spot. (Photos supplied)

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LocalSPORTS

Otters vs. Ice Dogs a great community event

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Erie Otters may have been the official home team Friday night, but someone obviously forgot to mention that to the 800 fans who packed Virgil's Meridian Credit Union Arena for a pre-season game with the Niagara Ice Dogs.

The spectators in the stands and lined up along both ends at ice level were awash in a sea of red Niagara Ice Dogs jerseys and hats. If that didn't make it obvious who they were backing, the near-silence in response to Otters right winger Sam Alfano opening the scoring nine minutes into the first period might have been a clue.

But two minutes later, when Brice Cook, left alone to the left of Otters goaltender Marshall Nicholls during a power play, tallied one for the Dogs, the eruption of the crowd was a dead giveaway.

Otters general manager and executive vice president Dave Brown, the Virgil resident whose efforts brought reportedly the first-ever Ontario Hockey League game to town, took it all in stride.

"We're okay with that," Brown laughed. "We've had some really good years. You get used to people not liking you that much. When you're successful, you get used to not being liked."

To add further insult to the home team, when Noah Sedore scored the second goal for the Otters in the third period, some Ice Dogs fans actually booed the left winger.

"They knew that coming in," added NOTL Minor Hockey Wolves president Peter Flynn about the bias of the fans. "It's an Ice Dogs crowd. This is part of their area where they draw people. You have to give the Ice Dogs credit. They make sure they take care of their fan base across the Golden Horseshoe."

Pano Fimis added a pair for the Ice Dogs, while Aidan Castle, Rodwin Dinicio, Daniel Michaud and Matthew Papais added singles. Goalie Owen Flores, acquired from the London Knights just two days before the game, stopped 22 Erie shots en route to a crowd-pleasing 7-2 Niagara victory in front of the sold-out crowd.

The game was the brainchild of Brown, who was the Niagara team's first GM. He approached new Ice Dogs owner Darren



The crowd at the Meridian Credit Union Arena cheered for the Ice Dogs instead of the Otters, the home team at the fundraising event organized by David Brown, but it was fun for all, especially minor hockey, which benefited from the proceeds.

DeDeobelaer with the idea of a home-and-home exhibition series with both games played in the region.

Brown then contacted the Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves Minor Hockey Association with the proposal of holding the game in Virgil as a fundraiser for the local kids.

As much as the night was about hockey, it was also about community. People who hadn't been to the arena in years showed up to cheer on the Ice Dogs. All 800 tickets at \$10 each, distributed through Phil's Your Independent Grocer, were sold out before the game.

Wolves vice-president Joe Pagnotta said the club kept the ticket price that low to make the game accessible for all families.

"It's not about the money," Pagnotta told The Local. "It's about bringing everyone together."

At press time, the club could not provide a final tally for the amount of money raised. Flynn explained that the proceeds will be put toward creating a development program aimed at younger Wolves, both for rep teams and local league players.

Between periods, lineups at the concession stand were 20 to 30 people deep. A 50/50 draw conducted by board members and volunteers paid out \$650 in the middle of the third period, raising an equal amount for the club.

Hockey fan Devon Botbyl was chosen to drop the puck for the ceremonial first faceoff.

He was accompanied by Niagara-on-the-Lake Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, wearing his own NOTL Wolves hockey jersey from his days playing in the bantam division. Yes, it still fits him, but remember, he wasn't wearing his shoulder pads Friday.

The club approached Devon's father Scott on Tuesday with the invitation for the puck drop. Scott kept it a secret until Friday morning as he knew his son wouldn't be able to sleep until the big night.

"From the moment we were asked if we were interested," Scott said, I felt so honoured and humbled to be part of a community that is so accepting and has such a great heart. This event was a triumph for the community, and we were so proud to be part of it."

Adding another local element to the game, NOTL native Chris Weier, a member of the National Lacrosse League's Toronto Rock, was one of the officials on the ice Saturday.

The members of the hockey association's board worked closely with Brown and the Otters to put the evening together. Planning began early this summer.

"They had a checklist," said Flynn. "They told us what they needed. We had to have the ambulance crew here, which my brother (Terry Flynn) helped with. We had to have a doctor and dentist on site. We have to feed the (Otters) after the game. They came and checked out the arena and it was good to go."

Like probably everyone

in attendance, Flynn had never seen the arena filled to the level it was Friday night.

"We did have a couple of midget teams who filled the stands," Flynn remem-

bered, "but not like this. I would love to see a Junior C team here some day. I'm pretty sure we could get as many as 250 people to a game. And Dave Brown said if we ever did, he could

send (Erie) players down to play here."

Flynn would like to see an Otters-Ice Dogs pre-season game become an annual event, perhaps even a bigger full-day festival with events taking place on the grounds of the Virgil Sports Park.

Brown seems open to the idea.

"I think we would do it in a heartbeat," said Brown, whose Otters exacted revenge with a 4-3 win in Saturday's follow-up game. "It's nice to see this many people all in one place. It makes sense to us. Niagara is our closest rival. We're excited to be here, that's for sure."

The excitement was evident on the faces of the crowd, as well as on those of the many volunteers and board members who contributed to the success of the event.

"We appreciate that the Ice Dogs agreed to come here for the home-and-home series," Flynn concluded. "And we really appreciate Erie stepping up and Dave Brown getting the game here. The arena hasn't been this alive in a long, long time."



Hockey fan Devon Botbyl dropped the puck for the ceremonial first faceoff, with his father Scott and Regional Coun. Gary Zalepa, in his minor hockey jersey, helping him.

LocalWORSHIP

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OBITUARY



MANDEVILLE, FELICITAS—Passed away peacefully with her family at her side in her centenary year on September 2, 2022.

Nurtured in her formative years to cherish the arts by her mother in the city of music, Vienna, Felicitas was destined to become a pillar of the Shaw Festival in her beloved town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Felicitas’ energetic support of the theatre from its earliest days onwards was recognized by the Shaw Festival Guild in 2018 when she received three awards from the Canadian Federal Government, the Province of Ontario and the Shaw Festival Guild to celebrate the 50 years of her contributions. “Through the donation of your time and talents you have realized the dream of creating a cultural destination in Niagara-on-the-Lake, you have made a real difference in the lives of the residents and health and vibrancy of the community”.

More recently, on April 8 of this year, Felicitas was delighted to receive a congratulatory message celebrating her 100th birthday from Her Majesty The Queen, also reminding her of the years she spent in London, England first at boarding school and later at Guys Hospital where she graduated with a nursing degree.

Married to Frank Mandeville in 1947 just 3 months after their first encounter, Felicitas and Frank took their love to new shores and fulfilled their new world dream working hard to raise their family and build successful careers while always finding time to volunteer in the community. Frank passed away in 2002 after 56 years of marriage.

Felicitas leaves behind her family of three generations, son and daughter Robert and Nina and her husband Harry, her grandchildren Claire and her husband Ezequiel, Thomas and Max and great-children Noam and Teo and her many dear friends in Niagara-on-the-Lake and beyond all of whom will miss her and her warm, infectious charm.

A celebration of her life will take place at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Memories, photos, and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com



CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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			25		26				27		28			
29	30	31					32	33						
34						35				36		37	38	39
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44				45		46				47				
			48		49				50					
51	52	53					54	55						
56				57		58				59		60	61	62
63			64		65				66		67			
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

- Across:

1 Arabian ruler

5 Following

10 Some providers of wood for furniture

14 Prepare

15 Larry --- in "The Iceman Cometh"

16 Largest island in the Marianas

17 Stage accessory

18 Fire prodder

19 A single time

20 Abandon

22 Overhaul

24 Aeronautics group.

25 --- Lama

27 Round Table leader

29 Baseball official

32 Lowest of the low

34 Eye defects

36 Notes

40 Heel

41 Sheltered spots

43 Short written reminder

44 Ethiopian capital --- Ababa

46 "The --- Dancers" (Jean Thesman)

48 About the eye

50 Did, once

51 "--- and her Sisters" (Woody Allen movie)

54 Intriguing group
- Down:

1 Smartphone programs

2 Brandy made from pressed fruit

3 Matinee idol --- Novello (d. 1951)

4 Disavowal

5 Egyptian cobra

6 Roman flower goddess

7 Consider

8 Garden west of Nod

9 Go over again

10 Self-esteem

11 Middle meal

12 Former Portuguese territory in China

13 Slander

21 Comedian Roseanne ---
- 23 Warrant

26 Bony

28 Deceptive decorative paintwork

29 Where the Wizard of Westwood coached

30 One of three in "The Mikado"

31 Formerly known as shell-shock

33 Inquires

35 Escherichia ---, potentially dangerous bacterium

37 Dweeb

38 Give off

39 Alone

42 Counterfoil

45 Irritating email

47 Straight --- arrow

49 Melted

51 Underworld

52 No longer a minor

53 Type of metal or gas

55 Debate

58 Country singer and actress --- Kramer

60 Japanese heavyweight contest

61 Subdivisions of eons

62 Male heirs

64 Plant juice

66 Not hers

IN MEMORIAM

DR. JOSEPH E. POHORLY - SEPTEMBER 12, 2020



Remembering the life and legacy of our father who left us two years ago. Not a day goes by when we wish you were still here with us. We will always remember your great passion for the art of winemaking, your inspiration you have brought to others as a wine legend in the industry and your innovative grape seed oil. You showed kindness in helping others whether it was engineering design, building, educating or volunteer work. You are greatly missed and never forgotten. Love from the twins, Barbara and Caroline xoxo

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Sudoku solution from
September 7, 2022

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

Across: 1 Amir, 5 After, 10 Elms, 14 Pave, 15 Slade, 16 Guam, 17 Prop, 18 Poker, 19 Once, 20 Scrub, 22 Renew, 24 C A A, 25 Dalai, 27 Arthur, 29 Umpire, 32 Nadir, 34 Cataracts, 36 Tones, 40 List, 41 Nooks, 43 Memo, 44 Addis, 46 Last April, 48 Optic, 50 Used to, 51 Hannah, 54 Cabal, 56 Ado, 57 Major, 59 Noses, 63 Dubs, 65 Waugh, 67 Euro, 68 Ella, 69 Ennu, 70 Iman, 71 Step, 72 Dates, 73 Loss.

Down: 1 Apps, 2 Marc, 3 Ivor, 4 Repudiation, 5 Asp, 6 Flora, 7 Take into account, 8 Eden, 9 Reread, 10 Ego, 11 Lunch, 12 Macau, 13 Smeat, 21 Barr, 23 Wit, 26 Lean, 28 Trompe l'oeil, 29 U C L A, 30 Maid, 31 PT S D, 33 Asks, 35 Coll, 37 Nerd, 38 Emit, 39 Solo, 42 Stub, 45 Spar, 47 As an, 49 Thawed, 51 Hades, 52 Adult, 53 Noble, 55 Argue, 58 Jana, 60 Sumo, 61 Eras, 62 Sons, 64 Sap, 66 His.

LocalSPORTS

Preds take to Virgil ice to prepare for season

Mike Balsom
The Local

The Niagara Predators hit the Memorial Credit Union ice in Virgil for the first time this week since being eliminated in the second round of the playoffs last March.

Head coach Kevin Taylor and assistant coach Connor Shipton ran a group of 15 returning players, draft picks and prospects through a series of one-on-one, two-on-one and corner-to-corner drills in their first session on their home ice on Tuesday.

The Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) team's first-year general manager and vice-president

Kevin Ferlatte is excited about the Predators opening their season on the road Sept. 18 against St. George, a team for whom he holds the same two roles.

"I'm feeling confident that we'll be able to develop these kids into a championship team," Ferlatte told The Local. "We're young and we're big. We just have to fine tune some junior-level skills."

A complete roster hasn't been announced yet, but the team has signed a few new players recently.

Nick Savoie, who played for the Niagara North Stars AAA team last year, signed with the Preds this week. Forward Guy Manco of Ni-

agara Falls signed last week, as did Russian forward Leo Savin.

Savin will be joining three other Russian players in Niagara, including returning defenceman Georgi Kholmovsky, though their arrival in Canada may not happen until October or as late as November.

Thunder Bay native Thomas McGrath is another recent addition. At 6'3" and 205 pounds, the 18-year-old will join draft pick Will Krogman in bringing some much-needed size to the team.

In early August Ferlatte swung a trade with the Northern Alberta Tomahawks for 6'0", 181-pound

forward Michael Santini of Waterdown. Ferlatte had been eyeing Santini during the GMHL draft but was beaten to the punch by the Tomahawks.

"He's a leader," says Ferlatte. "He has a high-level hockey IQ and brings the ability to score. He's pretty much like Dante Massi was with the Predators last year. He put up 70 points for the team. We're looking to have a bigger version of Dante. He digs into the corner like Dante, and his size makes him an even bigger threat."

The Predators are a much younger team this year, having lost a number of 21-year-olds who aged out of the GMHL after last year's successful season. That means that returning players such as Reese Bisci, Dawson Walker and Max Bredin will all have to take a leadership role.

While watching Tuesday's practice, it was clear that St. Davids resident Bredin, a defenceman who joined the Predators last November, may be a leading candidate to wear the C for the team.

Like Ferlatte, Taylor is new in his role as head coach

this year with Niagara. Ferlatte has been impressed watching Taylor work with his young squad.

"He's a player's coach," the 24-year-old general manager said. "It's important that he gets very well with the players. At the end of the day our goal is to develop all these kids to get them where they want to be as hockey players. I'm very happy with his approach to the year so far."

On the staff side of things, a new head athletic trainer will be helping the Predators deal with aches and pains. Rachel Zeliznak has been a student athletic therapist with the Brock Badgers women's hockey team. The Brock Sports Medicine student also volunteered with the medical staff during this August's Canada Summer Games.

The team is still on the hunt for billet families able to house one or more players. They have lined up a couple in south Niagara, but are hoping to find a few closer to their home ice in Virgil.

Ticket prices have been set for home games as well. A season pass for \$180 will gain general admission to

all home games. A single game ticket is \$10, students and seniors are admitted for \$8, and kids 12 and under for \$5.

The first home game is Friday, Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. against the Northumberland Stars.

"I'm not too familiar with what the Stars have in store for us," Ferlatte admitted. "But from what I hear they are taking a similar approach to ours, a developmental approach. I think that we'll be able to be successful against them with our young guys, because they already have a lot of the fundamentals required to be successful at this level."

Besides finalizing the roster before the opening game at St. George, there's other work to be done.

"We need to find all the missing pieces, but that will come after a certain amount of games," Ferlatte said. "We're fine-tuning everyone's condition, shaking the rink rust off, getting everyone prepared for a long season. Our goal is to develop these players. I think we can have a championship-caliber team, if not this year, then next year."



Preds players hit the ice to practice drills and get in shape for the season. (Mike Balsom)

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Provincial flags stolen from NOTL Tennis Club

Mike Balsom
The Local

The excitement created by a successful end-of-summer doubles tournament on Aug. 27 was tempered somewhat the following day when Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club members noticed something missing from the Memorial Park courts.

Six somethings, actually.

Overnight, six of the 10 provincial flags that were flying along the south fence line were stolen from the court. The zip ties that held the flagpoles to the fence were cut and strewn on the ground, along with the clips that fastened the flags to the poles. The flagpoles themselves were also left on the grass.

The flags were purchased last year by club board member Rosemary Goodwin. Vice president Marilyn Francis and Goodwin were the two local leads in preparing for and running the tennis events for the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games held at the club facility in August. Goodwin felt the flags representing the 10 provinces were a suitable addition to the courts.

When the Canada Games Council arrived to get the courts ready for competition, they brought the flags of the three territories to add to the display. Those three flags were



NOTL Tennis Club president Hugh Dow with long-time member and volunteer Rosemary Goodwin show one of the flags remaining. Six of the 10 flags purchased for the Canada Games tennis competition at the club were stolen. (Mike Balsom)

taken down by the council at the end of the games. The club decided to leave the provincial flags flying until the weather became prohibitive.

“We got so many positive comments from members and people who saw the flags,” says club president Hugh Dow. “They were going to stay up until the winter, and there was talk that we would put them back up next year because they looked so good.”

The theft perplexes both Dow and Goodwin, as the flags flew high above the courts, above the fence that is

10 feet high itself. Someone had to either climb the fence or set up a ladder to snip all of the zip ties that were securing the flag poles.

“It was a very deliberate act,” says Dow. “No question about it.”

Goodwin recalls that when she first joined the club back in 2007 the facility had been the victim of vandalism, with graffiti on the pavilion walls and the door broken once or twice.

“When that changed,” Goodwin remembers, “is when the club started becoming more active, much more affirmative about becoming the caretakers. Once the club started taking very deliberate actions that made it look like someone really cared for this place, the issues just went away. We haven’t felt vulnerable since then.”

To Goodwin, the theft represents a betrayal of the trust that the club has had, the confidence to leave the courts each night and not have to worry about damage or theft.

“That’s why it hurts so much,” she says. “I could have just gone online and repur-

chased the six flags the next day, and put them up quickly. It’s not just the flags, though, it’s the feeling this leaves us with.”

“We’ve had some discussion on the board about installing a camera,” Dow adds. “But that was primarily so members from out of town could check the weather. This certainly provides us with a reason to look at that option again.”

Both Dow and Goodwin viewed the flags flying above the courts as a very special reminder of the club’s opportunity to host the Canada Games this summer, an event that they considered very important to the club. The regalia loaned an air of professionalism to the facility, a sort of visual pomp and circumstance.

“Tennis is an important part of the park,” Goodwin says. “And the park is an important part of the community. The tennis players really care about this place and care about the park. That’s really what it’s all about. That’s why this stings.”

The thief or thieves left the flags of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Newfoundland completely untouched. Once the loss of the other six was discovered, the club removed those flags and their poles immediately.

Goodwin says the flags were not particularly expensive for the club to purchase. When it is suggested they might turn up for sale on a forum such as Facebook Marketplace, she doesn’t really see them as a hot commodity and can’t speculate about a resale value.

“It’s probably some kid who was able to climb the fence,” Dow adds. “Maybe some mother will see the flags on the kid’s bedroom wall and will contact us. Let’s hope for the best.”

Anyone with information about the flags is encouraged to email askus@niagaratenniscub.com.

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