The United Kingdom, and those the Royal Family, the people of Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Mayor Betty Disero said, “The town issued Thursday, Lord for 70 years. monarch, who held the throne is mourning the passing of Queen Elizabeth II last Thurs-

In an official statement from the town issued Thursday, Lord Mayor Betty Dsiero said, “The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is eternally grateful for its rich ties to the British Crown,” said Dsiero.

The statement makes ref-

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 Thurs-

day 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 Dsiero 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, un-

quiring 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 Ni-

agara-on-the-Lake is eternally grateful for its rich ties to the British Crown,” said Dsiero.

The statement makes ref-

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. Pro-

cese 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 Melo-

en remembers that visit well. He was 19 years old that day, a student enrolled in Toronto’s Ryerson Polytechnical Insti-

tute’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 un-
dergo numerous health checks as well as background checks with the police forces involved.”

Staff were issued passes that allowed them to enter 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 Fort Vehler and Ni-

agara-on-the-Lake sewage treat-

ment plants once the lab analysis was received.

In response to a question about the cost to date, CAO Mar-


Continued on page 13

Penny Coles The Local

Monday night’s committee meeting included two presen-
tations about the Cole Drain clean-up operation — one from an environmental engineer with GH3, 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 Ar-

senault reminded councillors when he wrapped up the dis-

cussion with a warning take the lawyer’s caution to heart, be care-

ful what you say when talking to residents, and if you’re going to put anything in writing, have it vetted by the CAO.

Will Arms, the environ-

mental engineer with GH3, explained the company was hard 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 deci-
sions made beginning Aug. 17, the evening material of a dark colour, with an odor and an “organic sheen” on top, was re-

ported in the Cole Drain. He ex-

plained the town was directed by the MECP to hire a contractor to remove the material in the ditch, 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 mil-

lion litres pumped from the

Continued on page 13

Peninsula Flooring Ltd.

13 Henegan Road

Virgil Business Park

(905)-468-2135

www.peninsulaflooring.ca

CARPET
Regional update on drain

Penny Coles

The Local

At the request of Regional Councillor Gary Zalepa, the region has prepared a report on the Cole Drain clean-up operations that was close to the Lime 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.

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

“I have not received any communication from them,” she said.

Zalepa 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 drain, although Armes said it won’t necessarily identify the source.

“The CAO, when asked by Zalepa whether in hindight she would have done anything differently, essentially, and was also cautioned not to say more than she should, replied there will be a debriefing of staff,” she said.

“The volume will be used as a precedent for the next steps to follow, the dispute will be handled in the usual manner of going to the local, regional or federal government, or provincial government to deal with the situation,” he said.

Both Armes and Cluckie estimated she spent “at least” 100 hours in the day "to make sure we can get it right, to make sure that we don’t make a costly mistake.

The collection system pumps "will be accepted and treated by a sewage treatment plant,“ Zalepa added.

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 the 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.

Regional Update on Drain

Ten frac tanks held the contents pumped from the Cole Drain from which it could be pumped away. (Screen shot)
Fundraising begins for Negro Burial Ground project

Penny Coles
The Local

James Russell will be spending a month in Niaga-ra-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 Buri-al 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 Nikki 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 ap-proval for an archeologi-cal dig to excavate what are thought to be 18 gravestones that lie beneath the grass on the Mississauga Street site of where once stood a Baptist church, 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 undertak-en 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 hav-ing to go out to tender for the work and could go directly to council for approval.

ARAs first quote came in at $5,000, 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 di-rector 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 estim-at-ed at about $60,000.

The fundraising steering committee also includes Sar-ah Kaufman, Jamie and Betty Knight, Keira Sangster, Chry-sty Morris and Russell.

The committee is hoping to raise $150,000. In addi-tion to paying for the work of ARA, it would fund a spe-cialist to restore and remount the headstones, purchase new headstones if necessary, hire a landscape architect to configur-e the NGP to make it more accessible and improve its look, and create educational material and programs that speak to the lives of NOTLs ancestors.

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 prob-lem 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 design-er of that park, who is excit-ed 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, ge-ography, and current land conditions nearby.

In addition to looking at other archaeological digs in the area, their research in cludes archival sources such as historical publications and records, current academic and archaeological publica-tions, modern topographic maps, recent satellite imagery, historical maps and files, and the Ontario Archaeolog-ical Sites database.

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

The next stage includes an archaeo-logical assessment, conducting hand excavation in the location of each head-stone, which will be extracted and retained for laboratory analysis and conditions as-sessment. Following analysis, a recommendation will be made as to the cultural her-itage value or interest of any identified sites, and further work may at that stage may be recommended.

The third stage will ad-dress conservation of the headstones. Before head-stones are removed, a tempo-rary storage plan will outline methods to limit deteriora-tion in the short-term. An assessment of each headstone will be recorded to show the type and degree of deterio-ration, and will be used to determine appropriate strat-egies to ensure preservation, the ARA report says.

Although agreeing to the first stage doesn't guaran-teethe work will proceed to excavation, Russell is hope-ful 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.

Project could eventually include all ‘inactive’ cemeteries

Penny Coles
The Local

George Webber's imme-di ate task is raising money for the first step toward an archaeological dig to excavate what are thought to be 18 gravestones that lie beneath the grass on the Mississauga Street site of now a Baptist church, 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 undertak-en 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 hav-ing to go out to tender for the work and could go directly to council for approval.

ARAs first quote came in at $5,000, 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 di-rector 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 estim-at-ed at about $60,000.

The fundraising steering committee also includes Sar-ah Kaufman, Jamie and Betty Knight, Keira Sangster, Chry-sty Morris and Russell.

The committee is hoping to raise $150,000. In addi-tion to paying for the work of ARA, it would fund a spe-cialist to restore and remount the headstones, purchase new headstones if necessary, hire a landscape architect to configur-e the NGP to make it more accessible and improve its look, and create educational material and programs that speak to the lives of NOTLs ancestors.

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 prob-lem 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 design-er of that park, who is excit-ed 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, ge-ography, and current land conditions nearby.

In addition to looking at other archaeological digs in the area, their research in cludes archival sources such as historical publications and records, current academic and archaeological publica-tions, modern topographic maps, recent satellite imagery, historical maps and files, and the Ontario Archaeolog-ical Sites database.

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

The next stage includes an archaeo-logical assessment, conducting hand excavation in the location of each head-stone, which will be extracted and retained for laboratory analysis and conditions as-sessment. Following analysis, a recommendation will be made as to the cultural her-itage value or interest of any identified sites, and further work may at that stage may be recommended.

The third stage will ad-dress conservation of the headstones. Before head-stones are removed, a tempo-rary storage plan will outline methods to limit deterio-ration in the short-term. An assessment of each headstone will be recorded to show the type and degree of deterio-ration, and will be used to determine appropriate strat-egies to ensure preservation, the ARA report says.

Although agreeing to the first stage doesn't guaran-teethe work will proceed to excavation, Russell is hope-ful 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.
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 Falls 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 outpouring of interest.

“Train aficionados would be off the road,” explained Meloen. “This is the first time they have or- dered a tent and tables. It’s all on the trail, it’s accessible for all activities, including walking, running, biking, and horseback riding.

“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.

“Any dog 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 to 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.”

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 one involved the removal of some trees and underbrush along two stretches of the trail, between John Street and King and John Streets all the way back to the Dock Area in the Old Town. 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 to traverse. “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 to 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.”
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 Symphony No. 2.

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 Hundredth Meridian with The Strictly Hip backed by the full power of the NSO!

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; and explore the beloved songbook of The Music of Phil Collins and Genesis – reimagined for full orchestra and an all-star band!

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!
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 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 programmed.” 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 Stult 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 battle 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, heartfelt 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 was brought up in 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 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 others, that no matter 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 John 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 1980s 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, ride or fly 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

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The British are undeniably good story tellers, but are the best when crime and detective tales are to be told, as in McDonald and Dodds (Prime, 2022). The 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 the theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through “short and sweet” exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.

Penny Coles
The Local

View from the couch

DISTRESS CENTRE
For depression, distress and crisis. 24 hour help line: 905-688-3711

MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS
Addictions (Toll Free) 1-866-550-5205

GAMBLER’S ANONYMOUS
905-351-1616

KIDS HELP PHONE
Service for youth 416-586-5437

KINDERHOPEPHONE.CA

ALCOHOLICS
Meetings every Wednesday evening 18 p.m. to 9 p.m. St. Mark’s Parish Hall 41 Byron St., NOTL or find a meeting at 905-682-2140

ASSAULTED WOMEN’S
HELPLINE
Mobile calls to: #5SAFE (7523)
1-866-863-0511
(Toll Free)

CRIME STOPPERS
1-800-222-8778
(TIPS)
niagaratips.com
Text 274637 (CRIMES), keyword: NiaGara, then your tip

Not all local.com
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) could pick up the phone and talk to the CAO, any of the department directors or relevant staff” is yes, a well-known fact. 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 residents can’t know about. Our town needs open, honest and timely communication once again. It should have been the cornerstone to the community and not a relic from the past.

Cindi LoForti Lepp
NOTL
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)
Stratus celebrates life of long-time employee

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 forearm had worked for the winery for 20 years, and Stoyka, who came to Stratus in 1990, said he and the other men were “like a brotherhood. They’re our family, and we take care of our family.”

Rocky had been working year-round in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the last three years, so lived alone during the winter months. He spent a lot of time with Stoyka and his family, and “he was a love of driving the tractor, a farming, an impressive knowledge of viticulture as well. 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 would 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 as 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 going 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 one 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 Andre, 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 Niagara-on-the-Lake with food pairings with wine.

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. Andy, stratus, calling it just one example of the core values of Stratus, “and the respect they have for every employee.”

At Stratus to honour Devon Rocky McKenzie (his picture is on his favourite tractor) at the 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 Ranson Elvie, his nephew. (Penny Coles)
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 ruminating 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 life and drum trio, then a pipe band. Mona Babin, president of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum 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 Otto. 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've had 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 collections 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 1 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. Skillful 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 Buchanan, 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."

"Here's the first game of the day..." said Kaufman. "I think that's 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 enjoy it. Some of these 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 Norsham 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."
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.

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

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.

This year’s teachers at ROCS are Laureen Dennis, Kelly Satran, Morgane Chaudiere, Robin Forlin, Jason Wallachek, 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 first week of school is 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 a 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

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.

2K 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.

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

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.

2K 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.
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 will take 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 Moirina Ward says it was difficult to get a date that would work, thus the switch. FocusNOTL, a group of residents 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, Vaughan 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.

The meetings for candidates hoping for one of the eight seats at the council table have been split into three sessions.

The first is Wednesday, Oct. 5, with Gary Burnoigh, Maria Mavridis, Richard Meld and Nick Ruller on the agenda. Next, on Tuesday, Oct. 11, will be John McCullam, Sandra O’Connor, Katherine Reid and Erwin Winters.

Wednesday, Oct. 12 will be attended by Tim Balastik, Allan Bisbuck, Wendy Cherpita, Adriana Cater (Vizzari) and Akaitar Harford.

And to wrap up the series, on Oct. 18, regional councillor candidates Pat Darty, Andrea Kaiser, Paolo Meli and William Roberts will have their opportunity to speak to the public.

The format will be the same for all three sessions, with every candidate to be treated equally, says Accardo, and candidates appreciating they will each be getting up to 25 minutes of time to speak.

“We have no specific agenda,” Accardo says of FocusNOTL, “but through the meet and greets, we hope residents will elect candidates that put residents and 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, “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, returns 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

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 previously 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.

Sandra O’Connor, Kath-
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 her. 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 Byron 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 with the Queen.”

Next, the entourage moved onto the Shaw Festival Theatre, where they took in a performance of You Never Can Wave Your Flags. “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 Queen 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 extricted 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 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 Queen 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 extricted 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 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 Queen 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 extricted 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 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 Queen 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 extricted 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 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 Queen 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 extricted 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 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 Queen 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 extricted 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 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 Queen 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 extricted 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.
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 Ontario, 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 rapped.

Last year, he ran with his son in New York’s Central Park — Canada wasn’t holding group runs, but the U.S. had 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.
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, Malcolm 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)
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)

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)

Barbara Worthy
Special to The Local

Niagara-on-the-Lake sits beside one of the great freshwater resources on the planet. And for more than 70 years that resource provided the town with a massive fishing industry that rivaled 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 have been 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

OPEN TO SERVE YOU SAFELY

BARREL HEAD

1696 NIAGARA STONE RD, NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
12PM-9PM

DAILY SPECIALS

FULL MENU AT PILLITTERI.COM/BARRELEHEAD
CALL FOR TAKE OUT (905) 468-1439
FOLLOW US @BARREL_HEAD

OUTDOOR PIZZA PATIO

LIVE MUSIC

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR MUSIC SCHEDULE

DINE IN
TAKE OUT
ICEWINE COCKTAILS
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 Meridan Credit Union Arena for a pre-season game with the Niagara Ice Dogs.

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.

The Otters right winger Sam Alfano opened the scoring nine minutes into the first period with a power play goal during a development program aimed at younger Wolves, both for rep teams and local league players.

Between periods, lineup changes to the concession stand 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.

The excitement was evident on the faces of the fans who packed Virgil’s Meridan Credit Union Arena for a pre-season game with the Niagara Ice Dogs.

“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 a little to the home team, 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 drew people. You have to give the Ice Dogs credit. They made sure they take care of their fan base across the Golden Horsehoe.”

Pano Fimis added a pair for the Ice Dogs, while Aidan Castle, Bodwin Dy- nico, Daniel Michaud and Matthew Papais added singles. Goalie Owen Flores, acquired from the Lon- don Knights just two days before the game, stopped 22 Erie shots on route to a career-best 7-2 Niagara victory in front of the sold-out crowd.

The game was the brain-child of Brown, who was the Niagara team’s first GM. He approached new Ice Dogs owner Darren DeDeoobelater 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 Regional Council, Gary Zalepa, wearing his own NOTL Wolves hockey jersey from his days playing in the band. A Yes, it still fits him, but remember, he wasn’t wearing his shoulder pads Friday.

The club approached Devil’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.

“It was just 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, lineup changes to 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.

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

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 Meridan 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. An eruption of the crowd was a triumph for the community, and we were so proud of how 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.”

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.

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.

“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.
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
25. Dalai
27. Arthur
29. Umpire
32. Nadir
34. Cataracts
36. Macau
38. Emit
39. Solo
42. Stub
45. Spam
47. As an
49. Thawed
51. --- Lama
52. ---
55. Argue
58. Jana
60. Sumo
61. ---
63. ---
64. Sap
66. His
69. Ennui
70. Hades
72. ---
73. ---

Down:
1. Smartphone programs
2. Brandy made from pressed fruit
3. Matinée idol --- Novello
4. Desawor
5. Egyptian cobra
6. Ribbon flower goddess
7. Consider
8. Garden west of Noc
9. Go over again
10. Self-esteem
11. Middle meal
12. Former Portuguese territory in China
13. Stander
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. Formally known as shell-shock
32. Inquiries
35. Escherichia... ---, potentially dangerous bacterium
37. Dweeb
38. Give off
39. Alone
40. Counterfoil
41. Intertwined email
42. Straight --- arrow
43. 99 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

Sudoku solution from September 7, 2022

```
5 7 4 6 1 3 7 2 9
8 6 3 2 7 5 1 4
2 1 9 8 7 4 3 6
1 8 5 3 4 2 8 6 7
9 2 6 7 1 8 5 4 3
4 3 2 5 9 8 1 6 5
6 5 8 9 2 3 7 4 1
7 4 6 3 9 5 8 2 1
3 5 1 4 9 2 7 8 6
```
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 Niagara Falls signed last week, as did Russian forward Leo Savin.

Savin will be joining three other Russian players in Niagara, including returning defenceman Georgi Kholtomovskiy, 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.

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.

“[He’s a player’s coach],” said general manager Dawson Walker. “He’s a player’s coach, [the 24-year-old general manager said. “It’s important that he gels 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 trainer 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 Northumber-land 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 developmenal 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 every one of our players and making sure we’re ready,” he said. “I think we can have a championship-caliber team, if not this year, than next year.”

---

**BRINGING TORONTO BUYERS TO GET TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR HOME**

496 Mississauga Street (Corner of John and Mississauga Street)

CALL OR TEXT 289-214-4394

**FREE HOME EVALUATION**

WALK-INS WELCOME CALL OR TEXT 289-214-4394

THE NOTL Local

September 14, 2022
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 tightened 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 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 snap all of the zip ties that were securing the flagpoles.

"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 deliber- ate actions that made it look like someone really cared for this place, the issues just went away. We haven't felt vulnera- ble since then."

To Goodwin, the theft represents a betrayal of the trust that the club has had, with 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 install- ing a camera," Dow adds. "But that was primarily so members from out of town could check the weather. This certainly pro- vides 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 op- portunity 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 circum- stance.

"Tennis is an important part of the park," Goodwin says. "And the park is an impor- tant 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, Saskatche- wan, Quebec and Newfound- land completely untouched. Once the loss of the other six was discovered, the club re- moved 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 informa- tion about the flags is en- couraged to email askas@ niagaratennisclub.com.