



## Fundraising hike for homeless veterans ends in NOTL

Evan Saunders  
The Lake Report

Moving from military service to civilian life can be challenging for veterans.

Lino Di Julio recognizes this and founded the organization Ruck 2 Remember nine years ago to raise money to support ex-Canadian military personnel.

"Transitioning is difficult," Di Julio said at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Legion

*Continued on Page 4*



## Restaurateur feels 'targeted' by region but supported by community

Evan Saunders  
The Lake Report

There's an odd new sight in St. Davids.

Dozens of no parking signs popped up along Four Mile Creek Road earlier this year, for several hundred metres in either direction from the Grist, the popular restaurant opened in St. Davids last year by Danielle Begin and her husband Rob.

"It sucks that they're targeting us for that because

*Continued on Page 5*

This has been a huge week for sports in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Besides the Canada Summer Games, the Niagara Thunderhawks completed a season for the ages, going undefeated and winning a provincial lacrosse championship. **Story, Page 16.**  
And the NOTL Golf Club crowned new champions after a sweltering weekend of competition. **Story, Page 17.**

# Simcoe Park hosts 13 for 13 festival

Cultural fest offers up a bit of NOTL, a bit of British Columbia



Disney character Belle sings to a young girl at the 13 for 13 festival in Simcoe Park on Wednesday. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

The 13 for 13 Cultural Festival finally made its way to Niagara-on-the-Lake Wednesday and it brought a piece of British Columbia with it.

Vendors from NOTL and

across Niagara set up at Simcoe Park in the heat, ready to meet new people and celebrate the first week of the Canada Summer Games.

The day-long festival was set to conclude with an evening performance by B.C. band Said The Whale.

During the afternoon, those

who were feeling creative had the chance to paint on one of the two canvases at the Niagara Pumphouse Arts Centre booth.

"We decided to do a Make Your Mark art event. We have the two canvases going and we're asking people of all ages to come and make their mark," said Kateri Foreman,

one of the staff members at the Pumphouse.

Each canvas represented the sports being played in NOTL during the Games.

One had tennis, the other featured sailing. Children and adults alike were encouraged

*Continued on Page 10*

# Sh-h-h! Canada Games tennis is on at Memorial Park

Ross Robinson  
The Lake Report

Do you think athletes prefer to play in front of quiet, empty bleachers? No, they don't.

I spent five hours in the furnace-like heat on Sunday and, as well as being treated to great tennis, had the opportunity to chat with several enthusiastic, courteous and appreciative young Canadian athletes.

The temporary grandstand was almost empty. C'mon NOTL folks, get off the couch.

The Canada Summer Games tennis is the best-kept secret in Niagara-on-the-Lake, except for maybe Ryerson Park sunsets.

Driving into Old Town from Virgil, we see a big sign announcing that NOTL is the International Champion. I

*Continued on Page 9*



British Columbia's Denny Bao plays against team Ontario's Nemanja Stefanovic. SOMER SLOBODIAN



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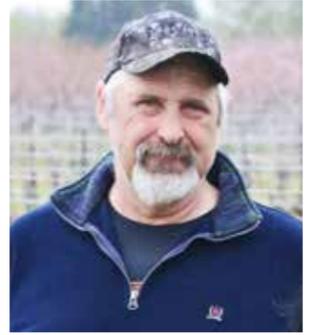
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Left: Three Rivers Regiment tanks bogged down in Italy. CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM Right: John Earl Grimstead. NOTL LEGION

## Erwin Wiens shifts gears, will seek another term

Evan Saunders  
The Lake Report



Erwin Wiens. FILE

Coun. Erwin Wiens has decided to run again for town council after previously announcing he was done after one term.

"I want to keep championing the agricultural industry in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at this point in time, I feel that I'm the best person to do that," Wiens said in an interview on Wednesday.

Besides agriculture, Wiens, a grape farmer, said he wants to focus on building a sustainable budget.

"The second you realize you're not sustainable you have to work towards that immediately," he said.

"It's not my money, it's

the residents' money and I have to be more responsible with resident money than I have to be with my own money."

He said he was encouraged to run again by his wife, Dorothy Soo-Wiens.

"It wasn't an easy decision at all but it's an important job."

## Council resumes in-person meetings on Aug. 22

Richard Harley  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's council chambers will be reopening to the public on Aug. 22 after two years of strictly online virtual meetings.

Town hall will also be open to everyone for council, committee of the whole and planning committee meetings.

Live webcasting will continue for those who want to watch meetings from home.

"(It) cannot be happening soon enough," Lord Mayor Betty Disero said in an email to The Lake Report. "I am

thrilled that we will be able to see the public in the council chamber once again."

A maximum of 30 people will be allowed in the chambers, not including council members and staff.

The capacity limits are to make sure the town's reopening efforts are safe and gradual, a town statement said.

Anyone who wants to attend must register via email to the town clerk's office at [clerks@notl.com](mailto:clerks@notl.com) by noon on the day of the meeting.

If the capacity limit is reached, those who registered will be notified via email.

## Driver charged after \$150,000 Tesla crashes in fruit orchard

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

The driver of a 2022 Tesla has been charged with careless driving after a high-speed rural crash wiped out several fruit trees and totalled the \$150,000 car, Niagara Regional Police say.

The crash occurred on Tuesday, Aug. 2, about 8 p.m. near the intersection of Scott Street and McNab Road in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Police said the driver was

eastbound on Scott Street about 200 metres west of McNab Road when he lost control, causing the 2022 Tesla XCE to leave the road and strike several fruit trees.

A new Tesla Model X retails for between \$157,000 and \$185,000.

The driver was taken to a Niagara hospital by EMS as a precaution, police said, but was not badly hurt.

Because careless driving is not a criminal charge, Niagara police refused to identify the accused driver.

# THE MONUMENTS MEN

## Trooper John Grimstead died during Italian campaign

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Niagara-on-the-Lake's iconic clock tower cenotaph. In recognition of the cenotaph's century of service through two world wars and beyond, NOTL historian Ron Dale has been researching the stories of the people – all men – whose names are engraved on it. This is one in a series of stories to document and remember the sacrifices these combatants made. Future instalments will commemorate those named on the Queen Street cenotaph and on the municipal memorial in Queenston.

Ron Dale  
Special to The Lake Report

During the Second World War Canada declared war on Italy on June 10, 1940, immediately after Italy joined Germany against the Allies.

After the defeat of the Germans in North Africa, the Allies planned to invade Sicily, then Italy. The invasion of Sicily, code named Operation Husky, was launched on July 10, 1943.

Victory in Sicily was followed by the invasion of Italy on Sept. 3. This hard-fought campaign would continue for a year and half, ending when the Germans surrendered in the spring of 1945.

More than 93,000 Canadians fought in the Italian campaign and at least 6,000 men died.

While Canadians were

fighting in Italy, the Allies finally launched their invasion of western Europe, with D-Day on June 6, 1944, two days after the Allies captured Rome.

The invasion of France overshadowed the battles in Italy and the sacrifices there seemed to have been forgotten.

A rumour reached the Allied soldiers in Italy that Viscountess Nancy Astor had stated that the soldiers fighting in Italy had "dodged" D-Day by serving in Italy. The soldiers in Italy took umbrage but also adopted the title with pride.

John Earl Grimstead was one of the so-called "D-Day Dodgers" who stayed in Italy.

Grimstead was born in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sept. 2, 1921, brought up on Picton Street. He left school early to learn the printing trade.

On Sept. 2, 1939, as war loomed in Europe, Grimstead enlisted in the Lincoln and Welland Regiment.

After receiving rudimentary training with the regiment he decided to become a full-time soldier and fight overseas. He transferred to the Canadian Active Service Force on Nov. 10, 1939.

Grimstead received more basic training in Toronto and then was sent to the Royal Canadian Regiment depot at Camp Borden on Aug. 28, 1940.

There he received infantry training with the regiment but became ill in early Janu-

ary 1941 and was hospitalized for 44 days, ending his association with that regiment.

When he recovered, he transferred to the 12th Armoured Battalion, the Three Rivers Regiment, at Camp Borden. Now a member of a tank crew, he sailed with his regiment to England, disembarking on July 1, 1941.

He was anything but a model soldier while in England. He overstayed leaves and was charged with being AWOL, losing pay as a punishment.

In December 1941, he took off and was declared a deserter but returned to camp on Jan. 7, 1942, after an absence of 21 days.

On June 13, 1943, Grimstead embarked for the Mediterranean, arriving in North Africa on July 10, the day that the invasion of Sicily was launched.

He did not join the Three Rivers Regiment for that campaign nor was he with them when they landed in Italy in September.

He was again on the sick list, hospitalized for another two weeks in August. He finally joined his regiment in the field on Nov. 1, 1943.

Grimstead fought in the bloody Battle of Ortona and, with his tank regiment, was frequently in action against a very professional German army.

It seemed that any time the regiment was pulled from the front line and sent to a rest area, Grimstead got in trouble.



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# First flag raising at Queen's Royal Park

Evan Loree  
 Local Journalism Initiative  
 The Lake Report



A flag now flies at the peak of Queen's Royal Park, overlooking Lake Ontario. EVAN LOREE

A small group of people gathered at the top of Queen's Royal Park on Friday to witness the long-awaited raising of a newly installed Canadian flag on Niagara-on-the-Lake's waterfront.

NOTL council approved the installation after a column by Ross Robinson in The Lake Report last November urged the town to fly the flag there.

Robinson then connected with Tom and Jim Caldwell of the Caldwell Foundation. The foundation offered to cover the cost of the new flag.

Tom Caldwell sees the flag as a symbol of Canadian pride.

"We've contributed massively to world history way beyond our weight, at least in the past. And it's something to be proud of," Caldwell said in an interview.

"I see so many people from other countries coming to Canada, and I'm very, very happy for them when I see these families who come to, I think, a great country," he added.

The town chose the hill overlooking the waterfront park for the flag's location.

"I'm happy that there's a flag up but I'm dismayed that they chose that loca-

tion," Robinson said in an interview.

He suggested a better place for it would have been near the park's famous gazebo, where it would be more visible. Large trees make it difficult to see the flag from some parts of the park.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero said the high point in the park was chosen for its military significance and as a nod to the community's military history.

"In military protocol, that's where the flag goes," she said.

"It is visible. It depends on where you're looking

from. Like when you're out on the water, it's hugely visible," she added.

Disero argued that placing it at the top of the hill also creates a second intimate space within the park.

The Canadian flag stands for "a lot more than a photo opportunity," Caldwell said.

"It stands for what we believe and what we see in ourselves as Canadians and that should be triumphant on high ground," he added.

As the flag was raised, some nearby picnickers and park visitors joined the assembled group in the singing of "O Canada."

Robinson said he didn't

want to raise a fuss but also wondered if the town missed an opportunity by not getting the flag up in time for Canada Day.

Kevin Turcotte, manager of parks and recreation for the town, said various logistics prevented that.

"But we were able to get it in right before the Canada Summer Games, which was something the council really wanted to do," he said.

Disero called it "a beautiful addition to the park. It is certainly a symbol for everyone that comes to this park who's a new Canadian, or even someone who was born here."

# Two peach festivals return this weekend

Maddy Gordon  
 The Lake Report



The Peach Celebration will take over Queen Street. FILE

Get ready for a peachy weekend in Niagara-on-the-Lake as two peach festivals take over the town.

On Saturday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the town's annual Peach Celebration, organized by the NOTL Chamber of Commerce, makes its return to Queen Street.

With live music, displays, vendors, food and more, it is a town favourite.

However, the peach-themed festivities don't end there.

The following day, on Sunday, Aug. 14, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church hosts

its annual peach festival at the church at 73 Picton St., from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The festival will have lots of activities for kids, such as face painting, crafts, a book

sale and more.

Food and drinks will also be available, along with live entertainment. All proceeds go toward renovating the church hall.

## THE SCHEDULE:

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Queen Street  
 Aug. 13  
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# Bruce Trail trek is halfway to its goal of raising \$576K

Continued from Front Page

on Sunday, Aug. 7.

Di Julio, along with a shifting group of people had just finished the final leg of a 900-kilometre walk along the entire length of the Bruce Trail.

He hiked from Tobermory to the trail's southern terminus cairn in NOTL to raise money for veterans experiencing homelessness.

Thanks to their blistered feet and bruised and battered bodies, over the previous 40 days more than \$267,000 was generated to fight veteran homelessness. The goal is \$576,750.

"You run into guys who have spent 10, 15, 20, 25 years in the military and there's not a great — in the past it was worse but it's certainly gotten better — just not a lot of education about what's available to them once they get out of the services," Di Julio said about the struggles service people face entering civilian life.

Knowing "what benefits are available to them and how do they access those and retraining programs. All these things have been a real struggle."

Even if these benefits and programs are readily accessible, internal struggles can prevent access.

"There's mental health struggles that you've got to navigate through," he said, "confronting a lack of meaning and purpose."

A loss of meaning is a symptom of living for years in a strict and disciplined military culture where every



Chris Kibble, Dave Ward, Jon Aldworth, Dave Ward, Joey Dimauro, Noel Gracie and Lino Di Julio end a 900-km walk in support of veterans in NOTL on Aug. 7. EVAN SAUNDERS

day is intimately structured.

"You spend your entire career knowing what you're doing every morning. Very much knowing why and what you're doing every day — you're defending your country."

"And then you get out and get into civvy world and it's like — it's just not the same. You don't have the same camaraderie."

Indeed, going from a team-based organization into a more self-concerned world can be difficult.

In the civilian/corporate world, often "everyone's just angling (to get what they want). It's very different," Di Julio said.

Like the rest of society, it can be a slippery slope on the way down when facing economic and personal struggles.

"It just takes a couple of bad bouts, like everyone else. Maybe depression or

—," Di Julio was interrupted by a Legion server with an offer of food, which he enthusiastically accepted after walking more than 20 kilometres in the blistering Sunday heat.

"It doesn't take much for mental health to turn into depression, into substance abuse, a relationship goes sideways. Before you know it, you're out on the streets," he continued.

Di Julio is not a veteran, having been denied service due to epilepsy. He founded Ruck 2 Remember as his way of giving back to Canada's military forces.

Veteran homelessness is a problem in Canada and the United States.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates there are more than 40,000 veterans living on the streets on any given night in the U.S. Roughly double that number experi-

ence homelessness throughout the course of a year.

About 7 per cent of the U.S. population have veteran status, yet veterans account for 13 per cent of the homeless population.

In Canada as of 2021, Statistics Canada estimates 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness during the course of a year, between 25,000 and 30,000 each night.

A 2018 StatsCan report states around 4 per cent of Canadians who used emergency shelter during the year declared veteran status — about 2,000 to 2,500 individuals.

A concerning metric is the hidden homeless population, which includes people who do not use emergency shelters but don't have a stable living situation. Statistics Canada estimates veterans to be around 15 per cent of this group, but no

hard count is available.

Even as access to benefits improves in Canada there are still impediments for homeless veterans, Di Julio said.

"If you don't have an address it doesn't really help you. (Veterans Affairs Canada) really needs an I.D. and an address to get you the benefits they can."

All the money the ruck raises is donated to the Royal Canadian Legion's Operation: Leave the Streets Behind. Di Julio said the Legion is very transparent with how it spends the money.

"They get these guys into temporary housing, pay for hotels or whatever they need to do while they get an apartment for them, get them a more stable place to live."

"And once that's set up the veterans service officers, which exist at every Legion, they're basically experts at getting veterans all the benefits available to them."

Diane Condon, vice-president of the Legion's Ontario command said, "This started about nine years ago to raise funds so that when we find a homeless veteran, for example, we can get him housed with the help of the region or the municipality."

"But they need everything else. Furnishings, they might need medical aid. It could be just about anything. And it's all done by donation. It's all done by volunteers. We get no government funding," Condon said in an interview at the NOTL Legion.

"We take care of them so

that if they ever have a problem they can call us."

She said the government could step in and ramp up access to affordable housing, which would be a benefit to struggling veterans across the country.

"They must be able to sustain themselves. At the rate of the rental costs in this area now they're not going to be able to afford a one-bedroom apartment or even a bachelor."

"I mean, we've got tacky motels in Niagara Falls going for \$1,200 a month."

Addressing an unsustainable cost of living would help veterans as well as the general population, she said.

There have been great successes in areas outside Niagara, Condon said. In London, Ont., for example, a private company helped fund housing for a large group of seniors and veterans.

"But we don't see that happening (in Niagara)."

"And I wish more of them would get on board," she said, noting there has been "good support" from the region and the mayors of St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

But she said she had not yet spoken with Lord Mayor Betty Disero but expects to soon. "She's good that way."

Donations to fight veteran homelessness can be made at [gofund.me/62b385f8](https://gofund.me/62b385f8).

Ruck 2 Remember is also hosting a personal virtual ruck, with participants encouraged to walk 900 kilometres over 180 days and gather donations from family and friends.

## NOTL Kinsmen car show returns to Commons for its 22nd year



Ken Bartel shows off his 1948 Dodge Business Coupe during the 2018 Kinsmen Show and Shine Car Show. FILE

Maddy Gordon  
The Lake Report

After a two-year COVID hiatus, Niagara-on-the-Lake car enthusiasts are ready for the Kinsmen Show and Shine car show to roar back into town.

The show returns this Sunday, Aug. 14, and NOTL Kinsmen Club past-president Ken Slingerland is thrilled to have it back.

For the first time ever, this year's 22nd official car show

is partnering with Parks Canada, after a long-time relationship between the two groups.

Parks Canada owns the property the cars are displayed on and the car show regularly promotes parks events, so it only made sense to work together, Slingerland said.

With this partnership, both groups will continue to support one another as they have previously.

Thousands of fans come

out to see the cars, enjoy the food, drinks and raffles. Even moreso, the show has been known to attract up to 500 cars in one day, in previous years.

"There's just something about seeing all these unique cars in one place on the same day," said Slingerland.

"If you're a car enthusiast, it's the sort of thing you look forward to."

With a \$10 admission fee for cars and a \$3 admission

fee for spectators — free for children under 12 — all proceeds directly support Cystic Fibrosis Canada and Kinsmen community projects, such as the Girl Guides and community sports.

The car show is at the Kinsmen Scout Hall at King and Mary streets from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gates are open for car registration from 8 a.m. to noon.

The first 300 cars each get a plaque and a chance for six cash prizes of \$50.



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Is Your Child Ready For The New School Year?

# NOTL Museum excited for Niagara Polo's return

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report



Professional polo players Juan Sarli and Emily Hurst pose with former director of Toronto Polo Club George Dell. SOMER SLOBODIAN

Organizers of the NOTL Museum's Niagara Polo fundraiser are excited for the return of the gathering on the Commons on Sept. 10.

"It's been four years since we've held the event here in Niagara-on-the-Lake," said Amy Klassen, the museum's director of finance.

This year marks both the 30th anniversary of the first Niagara Polo and the return of the matches to NOTL after being on hiatus since 2018.

The museum began hosting the polo games every other year in 2016 to help cover the organization's operating costs.

"We are trying to carry on the tradition of raising funds for a worthwhile charity, the NOTL Museum and historical society," George Dell, former director of the Toronto Polo Club, said in an interview.

"1992 was our first year. Now, my family loved the area so much so we moved here in 2012," he added.

Niagara Polo was originally conceived by Dell and Neil Rumble, former president of the Niagara Historical Society.

In addition to holding the two games on Sept. 10, the NOTL Museum will also be hosting local artisans, a classic car parade, pony

rides for children, a best hat competition, a divot stomp and much more.

The day's 300 VIP seats in the Engel and Volkers tent have already sold out as have the 360 seats in their Rotary Lounge, Klassen said.

General admission ticket holders are invited to bring their own chairs and picnic blankets and watch the games unfold from the sidelines.

Polo in Niagara is not as young as 30, though. The history of polo in NOTL goes back to the 1800s, when the Commons was used as a military training ground.

"The Commons was also known as Niagara Camp," said Sarah Kaufman, manager and curator of the museum.

"(The soldiers) actually played games with polo, which, interesting enough, was a way for them to practise holding multiple things in their hands while also riding a horse," she said.

Emily Hurst, a player from the Toronto Polo Club, said, "For a Canadian, the best way to explain (polo) is it is hockey on horseback."

The game is divided into four chukkers, or quarters.

The horse-mounted players each use a long-shafted mallet to hit the ball down the field toward the opponent's goal and score more points than the other team.

# Complaints prompted installation no parking signs

Continued from Front Page

it clearly feels targeted," Danielle Begin said at the restaurant last week.

The no parking signs were only installed near the Grist, she said.

"If you go (toward Niagara Falls) you can park going up to the highway," she said.

In the other direction, "You can park at the Avondale, where there's no shoulder."

The section of Four Mile Creek Road in front of the Grist has about a three-metre wide paved shoulder on either side of the road, now lined with no parking signs.

A few hundred metres down the road, heading toward the four corners, the road is void of signs in many areas and also void of an extended shoulder where people could park.

"Does it feel like a target? Yeah, it feels like a target."

Begin said support from the community has been outstanding.

"Our community, they've rallied behind us. We've got the greatest community around us," she said.



Dozens of no parking signs have appeared on Four Mile Creek Road outside the Grist brewery. EVAN SAUNDERS

Indeed, the Grist was nearly packed last Wednesday afternoon when a reporter from The Lake Report spoke with Begin.

As to what happens with the signs next? It seems there is already a definitive answer.

"They said they will not remove them," said Begin.

"But our community has rallied behind us and that's really the greatest gift."

It's not just the residents of St. Davids and NOTL that have the Begin's backs.

Nearby, Petruzzo Mar-

ketplace has allowed customers of the Grist to use its parking lot when the Grist's is at capacity, she said.

A spokesperson for the Region of Niagara said safety for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists is a top priority and noted there had been complaints about the stretch of road in front of the Grist.

One of the concerns is "sightline issues from the curvature of Four Mile Creek Road and with parked vehicles on

the Region's right-of-way," the spokesperson said.

"It is creating visual obstructions for people turning out of the residential community at Creekside Drive and David Secord Drive and from drive-ways in the vicinity of the Grist."

"This area is currently under review by staff" and a speed monitor and traffic statistics are being used by the region to determine next steps in the area.

The region also is having discussions with people in the area about transportation concerns, the official said.

But Begin said regional staff had spoken to the Grist earlier this year and the restaurant is not actively in discussion with the region now.

"Whether they're working through it on their own right now behind the scenes and it hasn't come to us — maybe they are. I don't know," she said.

"Does it feel like it? No."

"Do we have a great solution? Yeah, we have a great neighbour (in Petruzzo Marketplace)."

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**Canada** The Local Journalism Initiative is funded by the Government of Canada.

### COVID Tracker

**NOTL active cases (last 28 days): 70**  
**Region active cases: 953**  
**Region deaths: 588**  
**Region total cases: 43,828**

*\*Aug. 10 data per Niagara Region Public Health. Public health warns that "Due to the surge in COVID-19 cases, limited availability of testing, and changes to case and contact management practices, case counts shown (above) are an underestimate of the true number of individuals in Niagara with COVID-19. Data should be interpreted with caution." Case data for municipalities is also now being interpreted in 28-day cycles.*



**Contributed by Patty Garriock**

"If you need something to worship, then worship life---all life, every last crawling bit of it. We're all in this beauty together!" - Frank Herbert

### HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

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## Toronto skyline **peeks through**



People take in a cloudy sunset and the Toronto skyline peeking through across Lake Ontario. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

### Editorials

## Worthy of the Sports Wall of Fame

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

This space is not one often used to pontificate on issues of the sporting world, but one has arisen in Niagara-on-the-Lake that really deserves comment and attention.

Remarkable. Unprecedented. Astounding. Those are descriptions that come to mind when you consider the exploits of NOTL's Niagara Thunderhawks U22 lacrosse team.

As NOTL sporting legend Ted Wiens told us, "We've had plenty



Niagara Thunderhawks U22 players and coaches celebrate their Ontario championship win on Thursday. SUPPLIED

of teams win provincial championships, but never one that's gone undefeated the whole season. That's amazing."

It is a rare feat, indeed.

But as head coach Andy Boldt mentions in his special report on our Sports pages, the bloom could be short-lived. The Thunderhawks only had players

registered in two age divisions this year, so it's unclear what will happen next season.

That doesn't diminish the fabulous accomplishment of this team of mostly NOTL young men. Congratulations to them.

And to the keepers of the keys to the NOTL Sports Wall of Fame, we know you've chosen this year's inductees already. But, respectfully, we suggest you include this entire team and coaching staff in your upcoming ceremony.

They've earned it. [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

## Tennis competitors **deserve your support**

Kevin MacLean  
Managing Editor

It's sad, but probably not a huge surprise, that spectator attendance at the Canada Summer Games tennis venue in Niagara-on-the-Lake has been sparse, to put it kindly.

As Lake Report columnist Ross Robinson noted, these young athletes are our future Olympians and are putting on a great show. They deserve an audience of more than just teammates and a few keen fans.

At the Olympics, crowds

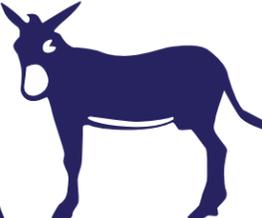
in the thousands pack venues. At the Commonwealth and Pan Am Games, crowds are sizeable but not quite Olympian. Sadly, these young Canadians giving their all on the hard court, are doing so in relative obscurity.

Is it the ticket price? If so, perhaps the Summer Games folks should just open the gates and allow in anyone who wishes to cheer on the competitors. Any audience is better than none and these athletes deserve one.

[editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com)

### We welcome your letters

The Lake Report welcomes your letters to the editor. Please, write early and often. Letters ideally should be under 400 words long. Occasionally, longer letters may be published. All letters may be edited for conciseness, accuracy, libel and defamation. Please include your full name, street address and a daytime telephone number so that authorship can be authenticated. Only names and general addresses (eg. Virgil, St. Davids, NOTL) will be published. Send your letters to editor@niagaranow.com or drop them by our office at 496 Mississauga St., NOTL.



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# A fond farewell: Sunset reflections on a little town

Evan Saunders  
The Lake Report



Evan Saunders, award-winning Lake Report reporter, is headed to Vancouver with his partner Eva. RICHARD HARLEY

Waiter, waiter — percolator!

Ah the sweet sound of Bill Kenny's voice. Oft the Ink Spots have been the background music of my days in The Lake Report's newsroom on Mississauga Street. Kenny's affinity for the java bean very much mirrors my own.

I'm not sure what it is — an old-school profession goes well with old-school sounds and bitter black coffee, perhaps?

Well, that is certainly the case today, Wednesday, Aug. 10. It is my last day with The Lake Report and my last day (for now) working in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

My byline is now a Lake Report collectors item, for anyone interested in NOTL ephemera.

And maybe that is a little arrogant of me to say but so what? As the great trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie told Charles Mingus, "It ain't arrogance if you can back it up!"

I am leaving The Lake Report proud of my hundreds of contributions since I first submitted an article in February 2021, a hungry

freelancer looking for a chance in the biz.

"Town lost \$719,000 worth of water in 2019." Good memories. I fondly recall hammering out the story on a typewriter (it seemed like the right thing to do) in my barren bachelor apartment in Oakville listening to, lo-and-behold, the Ink Spots.

My apartment was at the corner of Allan Street and Lakeshore Road. For those familiar with Oakville, that is right at the terminus of the downtown district.

Oakville had recently completed a transformation of its downtown strip. All the storefronts were pushed back so the main street could be widened and pedestrian crosswalks with

giant flashing yellow lights installed along the road.

I remember talking with a woman at my favourite coffee shop in the area, Croissant Express, who expressed her dismay at the destruction of the once-quiet downtown.

A premonition, little did I know, of many of the stories I would find myself writing about this wonderful little town and the amount of time I would spend ordering black coffee at Victoria's Teas & Coffees.

Wonderful indeed. Working at The Lake Report, interacting with and telling the stories of literally hundreds of the town's residents has been the professional highlight of my life thus far.

Whether it be that first

time going door-to-door to ask people how they felt about the now-cancelled development on Parliament Oak, countless hours watching town council, walking the empty pandemic streets to speak with store owners or finding myself publicly insulted for exposing an illegal private school, the stories and excitement seemed never to end.

But all things do.

If you have met me and we've talked about the town you have most likely heard a variation of my common refrain: "It may be a small town but it produces big news."

Our coverage of the pickleball fiasco reinforces that. Recently, a woman from a suburb of Los Angeles reached out to tell me she had been closely following my stories on the situation.

But now I am preparing for a new adventure 4,000 kilometres away, across the Great Divide, where I'll be settling with my partner Eva Rasciauskas in cloudy Vancouver.

Cloud cover never bothered me and I have a Melvillian love of the ocean, though I am sure I will miss Ontario's varied weather

and NOTL's lush vineyards and flat horizon.

These days I feel as at home in 30C as I do in -30C. Nothing a trip down the California coast or up the mountains won't remedy, though.

I can't write a goodbye screed without sharing some thoughts on the people I have worked with. As a newspaper, The Lake Report can take some flak.

It is the nature of the business — if someone doesn't like a view represented in an article they usually take it out on us. It's part of the fun.

But I can say, sure and certain, that Richard Harley and Kevin MacLean, the driving forces behind The Lake Report's quality and success, have NOTL deeply ingrained in their hearts.

They both want the paper to be a forum for the town to improve itself through honest reporting, public discussion and the juxtaposition of competing views.

I learned more from these two than I think I would have had the CBC or National Post picked me up. Not only did they push me professionally and personally to produce the best

work I could, they quickly became close friends and gave me their hospitality, kindness and confidence that I could live up to their high expectations for quality journalism.

I will miss them greatly. The same goes for my other wonderful co-workers, particularly Ross Robinson and Megan Scott Vanderlee — two veritable living institutions of NOTL themselves.

And I have to say thank you to the wonderful inhabitants of NOTL. On countless occasions you welcomed me into your homes and trusted me with your issues, tragedies and triumphs, hoping I would do them justice in print.

I hope I lived up to your expectations and I offer a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to engage with me and ensure the stories of NOTL are not left unsaid.

So, as the sun rises on this morning's paper, I hope you sit down with a nice cup of java, turn on the Ink Spots and enjoy the best local journalism the entire province of Ontario has to offer (and we have the awards to prove it).

Viva La Lake Report!

## Handling of rainbow crosswalk was bid to **appease** NOTL's conservative voters

Dear editor:

Your editorial of Aug. 4 states that our town council has "missed an opportunity" by delaying and delaying the installation of the rainbow crosswalk and further by planning to place the crosswalk "about as far as you can go from central Old Town" and still claim it's in Old Town.

I don't think that this is a "missed opportunity" at all in that I believe it's exactly what council wants.

Council is treating our LGBTQ citizens like people in the old days who hid their developmentally delayed children away in back rooms as sources of embarrassment and shame.

Furthermore, I feel it is reasonable for me to believe that their goal is to appease the sources of their votes, NOTL's conservative rural voters.

If I am wrong on these two counts, I hope to see letters to the editor correcting me.

**John Boydell**  
**St. Davids**

## Consider **mayor's actions** and her Toronto legacy

Dear editor:

I enjoyed Marlene Penner's comments (The mayor, her husband and neighbourhood complaint, The Lake Report, Aug. 4) and would like to add to them.

I would ask readers to Google the Toronto newspapers from Lord

Mayor Betty Disero's time as a city councillor 20-odd years ago.

The three dailies devoted considerable space to some questionable practices that occurred while she was a councillor.

But my favourite headline is from Now Magazine: "The rot goes deeper" ... an

article that discusses one of the more infamous escapades that happened when Disero was a councillor.

Please consider the lord mayor's recent actions and her Toronto legacy. There's an election coming. The rot stops here.

**Reid Maltby**  
**NOTL**

## \$2 million donation to Pathstone Foundation **'changes everything'**

Dear editor:

Earlier this week the Pathstone Foundation was honoured with an incredibly generous gift of \$2 million from Niagara residents Greg and Diane Slight.

Quite simply this gift changes everything. The \$2 million donation means our mental health agency can take immediate action by hiring staff to reduce the waitlist, which has grown through the last two years of the pandemic.

Pathstone now has 570 kids waiting three to eight months for mental health support. The goal is to ensure this number is reduced — and fast.

The stigma around mental health has been greatly reduced over the



past decade and more and more people are getting the message that they should "talk" when they need help.

Pathstone feels a great responsibility to be ready when kids are ready to do so. But finding staff has been difficult for us, just as it has been for many industries.

That said, with this donation, Pathstone will search beyond Niagara to recruit qualified team members and show them

what an incredible place Niagara is to work, live and raise a family.

More staff means more kids across Niagara can be helped. So we are incredibly grateful to Greg and Diane for their donation. They are truly making a difference.

If you know a child or youth who needs mental health support, Pathstone can be reached 24/7 by calling 1-800-263-4944.

More information on our nine in-person walk-in clinics can be found at pathstonementalhealth.ca/walk-in-clinic. And anyone who would like to donate can do so by contacting me at KRossi@pathstone.ca.

**Kim Rossi**  
**Director of philanthropy**  
**Pathstone Foundation**



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Left: Isabella Yan, 10, from team Saskatchewan connects with the ball on Day 3. Top right: Nemanja Stefanovic from Team Ontario plays on Day 2. Bottom left: Team Nova Scotia's Meghna Anand serves up the ball on Day 4. Bottom right: Hanna Gamracy from Team Alberta plays on Day 1. Below: Tennis scores after the first four days of matches.

# SUMMER GAMES TENNIS

## Team Saskatchewan athletes ahead after Day 4 of heated matches

Evan Saunders  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake had the honour of hosting the inaugural match of the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara.

The games officially started at 9:14 Sunday morning when Jeslyn Peng of Manitoba hit the first tennis ball at the NOTL Tennis Club. It was the first sporting event of the entire Games.

"It's amazing. I didn't know tennis was the first event but it feels so good to be here," said Peng just after her match with Nova Scotia's Meghna Anand.

Peng, 16, lost to Anand, 15, but her spirits were high as ever despite playing in humid temperatures of more than 30C.

"The conditions aren't like what we have in Manitoba. Way more hot, way more humid. It's a little

different," said Peng.

"But having a practice yesterday and learning how to deal with the courts certainly helped."

Both girls were happy with NOTL, which will be their general home over the course of the Games as it is the site of nearly all tennis matches. Some matches will be played at the Welland Tennis Club.

Anand said NOTL was a relief after experiencing Toronto traffic.

"I really like the town. It's nice. Lots of greenery (and it's) not in the city, not lots of rushing. It really makes me angry — the traffic," said Anand, who is from a small town about an hour's drive from Halifax.

For both girls, the summer games is the most high-profile competition they have ever been a part of.

"We were on TV," Peng said excitedly.

Joshua Oboniye of Ed-

monton, 18, was also one of the first athletes to compete during the Games. He lost to Ontario's Ray Xie in a lengthy match.

"It feels great — the experience. I can't lie, I was a bit nervous," Oboniye told The Lake Report after his match.

"I'm just so grateful to be here, to soak in the opportunity."

He said he had already grown fond of NOTL and had experienced nothing but great hospitality since arriving in Ontario.

"They're treating us so well and the campus is great," he said.

But for Oboniye, the opportunity to participate in Canada's biggest national sporting event was the main prize.

"This is a unique event. We don't play events like this usually, so it's great."

He said he is feeling good about the rest of the Games

and excited to push his skills to the limit.

"Trying to get better."

More than 4,000 volunteers are helping keep the Games running this year.

Volunteer Marilyn McCrea of Toronto and Grimsby said she was happy to be a part of the Games, which sees the best of Canada's young athletes compete for top honours.

"It's the training wheels, so to speak," McCrea joked about the youthful competitors. "It's good to see the kids who want to progress."

Ontario is looking to defend its 2017 tennis team mix gold medal this year.

On Sunday morning, Ontario faced off against Alberta in two matches. Ontario's Xie beat Alberta's Oboniye, while Alberta's Hana Gamracy, 19, beat Ontario's Anna-Raphaëlle Serghi, 15.

On neighbouring courts, Manitoba faced off against Nova Scotia with the mari-

Province	Wins	Losses
Saskatchewan	3	0
Quebec	3	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	0
Nova Scotia	2	1
British Columbia	2	1
Ontario	1	2
Prince Edward Island	1	1
New Brunswick	1	2
Northwest Territories	0	2
Alberta	0	3
Manitoba	0	3

timers winning two matches in the morning.

Tennis will continue in NOTL every day until the gold medal game on Saturday, Aug. 13, 3 p.m.

at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Tennis Club.

For a schedule of games go to <https://niagara2022games.ca/> and click on "Schedule" in the top right corner.

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An aerial shot of Memorial Park, which is host to Canada Summer Games tennis until Saturday.  
RENE BERTSCHI PHOTO

## You're missing out if you're not at the Games

*Continued from Front Page*

called town hall for information and was told that in much smaller letters it mentioned the category was Communities in Bloom.

Many utility poles in town are brightly adorned with banners reading, "Shop NOTL."

Tentatively navigating my car through the unique and bizarre traffic bump out at Queen and Mississauga (au?) streets, I read the large banner sign advising people that "2022 is the Year of the Garden/Annee du Jardin."

My goodness, even the public bulletin board in front of our Queen Street post office doesn't mention the Canada Games in Niagara. Nor the bulletin boards in the Avondale stores. Nor the notice boards in the two Valu-marts (oops again, Independent Grocers.)

And I saw nary a "Welcome Canada Games" sign in store windows, or a banner on Queen Street.

At a Monday meeting in the hardly historic, locally labelled "iconic Queen's Royal Park gazebo," a

friend who had seen my picture in a recent issue of The Lake Report with tennis champ Karen Rhind asked what was going on in Memorial Park.

She had noticed a lot of orange reflective traffic cones on Veterans Lane. And lots of determined people walking around in drab light-blue T-shirts.

I advised her that the best teenage tennis players in Canada were playing fantastic tennis, competing for their provinces and themselves, and that she would do well to drop by for a look.

Five sweltering hours in the hot sun on metal bleacher seats was an ordeal, but the high calibre of play, the on-court attitudes and the sportsmanship made the perspiration bearable.

After a chance encounter with Henry Ren and Leena Bennetto from British Columbia, and later their teammate Aram Noroozian and sport mission staff man Simon Cass, I have become the self-appointed leader of the Team B.C. Fan Club.

If you pass by and pay

15 bucks to get in, you will hear Simon beating his Indigenous drum loudly and often to encourage his players. With his drum and the noise created by the violent contact between tennis balls and racquets, tennis is significantly higher on the decibel scale than pickleball.

Hopefully the neighbours will be chill and enjoy the moment. Some have already been over for a look at some top-level tennis and to find out what all the commotion is about.

Simon is a piece of positive work and has been involved with five different multi-sport events. His main sporting interest is coaching wheelchair basketball. Those are athletes, competing for all the right reasons. Coincidentally, it was my favourite sport to watch at last summer's Tokyo Olympic Games.

He is a happy camper here in Niagara, telling me that everything has been perfect so far, from meals to transportation to athletic facilities to the opening ceremony to accommodation.

My goodness, how the athletes improve as the years go by. How would Rod Laver or Billie Jean King or Big Bill Tilden fare in this Canada Games competition? With their skill set, physical conditioning and coaching, I don't think they would win a set. That's the harsh reality. At least, it's my opinion. Same as Gretzky or Beliveau in the NHL now.

How many goals would six-time Stanley Cup winner Dick Duff score in a season if he played for the Canadiens or Leafs now? Maybe five or six. Don't forget, he is 84 years old.

I know that factoid because Dick was born exactly 10 years before me, in the same Kirkland Lake hospital, and we both thank Dr. Rumble for a safe arrival.

Dr. Rumble was the only pediatrician in Temiskaming County and delivered innumerable babies of gold miners and their hardy wives.

But I ramble.

Henry and Leena and Simon from B.C. and Josie Usereau and Maxime St. Hilaire from Quebec

humbly and enthusiastically asked me to get the word out, and tell Niagara folks about the level of tennis being played.

These players have competed and trained together for several years and a good number now play Division 1 tennis in the U.S. on scholarships.

I added Equipe Quebec to my fan club buttons.

These Niagara Canada Games are a pinnacle and the athletes have totally embraced the unique team format. Think Ryder Cup, and Davis Cup. Group dynamics, peer pressure, perhaps a little social interaction? Hmmmm.

Carol MacSween, a fixture on the NOTL tennis scene and a Canada Games volunteer, loves being involved. She and local tennis lady Danna McDonough learned that a Team B.C. policy is "whenever you pass a volunteer, express your appreciation."

Professional on-site racquet stringer Christian, a gregarious Wellandport resident and a longtime Montreal Expos fan, said

he has yet to meet a prima donna and all the players and coaches have been magnificent. Demanding, but respectful and appreciative.

The ultimate teenaged tennis gentleman, highly ranked Stefan Simeunovic from Oakville, is playing for Team Ontario and would love to "feel the vibe" from the home fans.

During a break in his action, he asked me several good questions about U.S. college sports, and migawd, he remembered my name two days later. Stefan is a tennis player and young Canadian to watch.

C'mon NOTLers, get off the couch. The Canada Games tennis competition, on until Saturday, Aug. 13, is great entertainment.

And, if you ramble over to Memorial Park for a look, you will feel a whole bunch more confident about the future of our Canada.

Hope to see you cheering in the bleachers. Say hello. I'll be the enthusiastic fan wearing a wide brimmed, dapper white hat from Beau Chapeau.



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Left: Team Newfoundland and Labrador gets off the plane at the Niagara District Airport in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Friday, ahead of the 2022 Canada Summer Games. Top right: One of the Boeing 737 jets lands at the airport. Bottom right: Team New Brunswick arrives to a crowd of supporters cheering them on. SOMER SLOBODIAN

## NOTL airport welcomes **first athletes** for Canada Summer Games

Somer Slobodian  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's little airport welcomed some very large aircraft last Friday.

The first of three Boeing 737 jets carrying 144 athletes from Newfoundland and Labrador landed at Niagara District Airport just after noon.

That made them the first team to arrive in Niagara

for the 2022 Canada Summer Games.

About 15 minutes later, another plane, carrying 105 of the 446 athletes from New Brunswick landed on the tarmac. The rest of the athletes from New Brunswick arrived later that evening.

"They're not landing an hour and a half away and dealing with the traffic," said Daniel Pilon, chief executive of Niagara District Airport.

"We think we're an underutilized asset in Niagara, so this gives us an opportunity also to show kind of what we can do."

Pilon said it will be nice for the competitors to be in the athletes village and in their own space within a half-hour of landing.

If they landed at one of the larger airports in Toronto or Hamilton, they'd have to make the long, often slow trek to Niagara. He said he's excited to

be able to show people how different the experience can be for people in Niagara.

As the first plane touched down, crowds waited for the competitors to descend from the aircraft. Once they did, the airport erupted with cheers.

Jenna Connolly, one of the softball coaches for team Newfoundland and Labrador, said she's really excited to be in Niagara. She's visited Niagara be-

fore for pleasure, but never to compete and said most of her team has never been to the region.

Her hopes for the team? "To just play as hard as you can."

Team New Brunswick softball player Sydney Arseneault said she is "really excited to play and just (to) see how we play compared to all the other teams."

While this is her first time in Niagara, it is not her first time competing at

the Canada Games.

As the athletes walked to their buses, four members of the Strong Water Singers Indigenous group sang to the beat their drums.

One of the singers, Cherie Bernard, said it's always a pleasure and an honour when they're asked to participate in community events.

The Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games kicked off on Saturday, Aug. 6, and run until the 21st.

## 13 for 13 festival starts with small crowd, but **fun still had**

*Continued from Front Page*

to grab a paintbrush and participate.

"They can paint a picture, splatter, jab, whatever they want," said Foreman.

For those who didn't feel like painting, they had the option to shop local at booths like Queenston Tender Fruits and 9 Acres Organic Farms of Beamsville.

"It's really pleasant. Everybody's happy to be here," said Carolyn Siebert, who co-owns 9 Acres Organic Farm with Rodney Lott.

Siebert and Lott had fruits and vegetables, honey and

wood balm for sale, all of which are organic.

The afternoon, though hot, attracted more people as time went on.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library put on a book reading featuring Disney Princess Belle.

As soon as she took the stage in her yellow ballgown, children gathered around her to sing some classics and read a fairy tale.

"We decided to bring our grandchildren here so that we could see how they were celebrating British Columbia," said NOTL resident Karen Ashley, who was sitting with



Tents and booths set up for the 13 for 13 Cultural Festival. SOMER SLOBODIAN

her grandson Brock while listening to Belle read the audience a story.

The 13 for 13 festival has been in the works since 2019 and many people were excited to see it come to

fruition.

"We're getting to see a lot of great different areas in the Niagara region," said Paula Racher, manager of events and community relations for the Niagara 2022

Canada Summer Games.

She said that the synergies of the wine regions between Niagara-on-the-Lake and British Columbia played a big part in the pairing of the two provinces.

"It's great to get out and explore our entire Niagara region by visiting these festivals, as well as getting a little taste of all of Canada without leaving," she said.

Later in the evening the Vancouver-based, Juno-award winning band Said The Whale was to take the stage. Many people, including vendors, were excited to see the band.

"I think it's important not just for Niagara-on-the-Lake, (but) for all of Niagara to come together again after two and a half years of pandemic," said Racher.

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# NOTL wrestler Zubin Gatta wins first rounds, sets sights on gold

Evan Loree  
Local Journalism Initiative  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake wrestler Zubin Gatta leaves no room for self-doubt at the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games.

After placing sixth at the cadet nationals while competing in a higher weight class just a few months ago, Gatta is fixed on his goal.

"I'm not going to go into this with the expectation of less than gold," he said in an interview.

Five days into the competition, Gatta is facing some stiff competition.

In the team match between Ontario and Nova Scotia, Tuesday afternoon, Gatta defeated his opponent, Joshua Bissett 10-0.

Team Ontario walked away from the mat with 48 points to Nova Scotia's three.

In his team match Wednesday morning, Gatta lost to his competitor, 13-12, but the team pulled off a narrow victory with a final score of 25-23, so he will continue to advance in the competition.



Zubin Gatta shows off his moves on the wrestling mat. EVAN LOREE

At 16, Gatta has been wrestling for 11 years, more than half his life.

"My dad coaches the junior Brock Badgers," he said.

Between his father Kekoo coaching the junior Brock Badgers and his siblings, Cyrus and Farrantina, competing at a high level, he was immersed in the sport from an early age.

Now the Eden High School student has the op-

portunity to represent his hometown at the Canada Summer Games this week.

"I didn't go in with the best mental readiness," he said of his experience at the cadet nationals.

About a year ago, Gatta picked up weightlifting and fell in love. He began to prioritize it and his affection for wrestling waned.

"I didn't want to go to practice, didn't want to get up early and run," he said.

Then Gatta began practicing with the Brock varsity wrestling team and things started to turn around. Wrestling became fun again.

"Make sure you're keeping in mind that it's a sport and it's supposed to be fun," he advises young, aspiring wrestlers.

Ever-confident, Gatta says wrestling isn't for everyone.

"You're in a circle mat with one other guy and

you're trying to rip each other's heads off," he said.

Some are intimidated by the thought of being put on their backs by a bigger, stronger competitor, but Gatta said he doesn't waste time worrying about it.

"I think all you can worry about is how much work you put in. And I know how much work I put in," he said.

Gatta is a quick-to-smile, lean young man competing in the 52-kilogram weight class.

He jokes about how hard it has been to make sure he doesn't exceed his weight class.

He's been cutting as much as possible leading up to the competition and was excited to finally indulge at his team dinner the night before his first match on Tuesday afternoon.

At first, training with the Brock varsity team was a challenge for the young Ontario high school champion.

"I'd go and I'd start training with the women's team and I'd get completely beat up. And just getting beat up every day is demoralizing," he said.

But after a few humbling months, Gatta was off his back. He was getting pins and wins, and with that his confidence grew.

"I started hanging out with the team outside of wrestling. And it felt more like a family," he said.

Gatta looks back on the winding journey that has led him to the Canada Summer Games and reflects on the people who helped him get here.

"Definitely my dad first," he said without hesitation.

"He'd get me up every morning when we were prepping for OFSAA (the Ontario high school championships). And when I didn't want to run, he'd run with me, even though I know he didn't want to run either," he added.

Gatta spoke fondly of his teammates at Brock and his coaches, Heather Sweezey and Marty Calder, as well.

As the only NOTL resident competing in wrestling at the Games, Gatta is thrilled to be representing his hometown as he makes his way out onto the mat, poised in his stance and focused on the coveted gold medal.

## Museums' scavenger hunt coincides with Games

Staff  
The Lake Report

Summer is the perfect time for reading that great mystery novel, but it's also time for some fabulous family "sleuthing."

So put on your Sherlock hats and join the fun with the Museums of Niagara Association's "Canada Summer Games Scavenger Hunt."

You won't need your giant magnifying glass for this one, but you will need to download the GooseChase App on your mobile phone.

Once there, enter the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum game code "BLJW91" and start sleuthing.

Full details of how to download the app and get started can be found at the NOTL Museum website, at [www.notlmuseum.ca/Whats-on](http://www.notlmuseum.ca/Whats-on).

The game is free, can be completed in your own time



Scavengers Shawna Butts and Paige Groot. SUPPLIED

and there are prizes to be won. Plus, along the way you'll learn some fun history facts, explore new locations and test your NOTL knowledge.

And without giving too much away, it's safe to say you'll also find out some local sports history, in honour of the Canada Summer Games, being held in Ni-

agara now through Aug. 21.

Keener sleuths can also hop in their cars and participate in scavenger hunt games being hosted by three other museums across Niagara – Niagara Falls Museum, Port Colborne Museum and Lincoln Museum.

All games are found in the same app, and all games

codes are available on the NOTL Museum website. Complete all games and be eligible for winning the grand prize.

The Museums of Niagara Association, known as MONA, is sponsoring this family fun and region-wide activity.

The association collectively supports Niagara Region museums and heritage sites, publicizes and promotes local events and history, and offers professional development across the region.

So don't forget that Sherlock hat as you share your favourite sleuthing moments for some fun social media moments and explore the more unusual and lesser-known sites of Niagara.

All games are available until Aug. 31.

For more information check out the NOTL Museum website, [www.notlmuseum.ca](http://www.notlmuseum.ca) and look under What's On.



## Summer Games sailing races start Aug. 17

Evan Loree  
The Lake Report

Sails are set to catch wind at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club starting Sunday, Aug. 14, as the Canada Summer Games head into the second week of competition.

Teams from nine of Canada's provinces and territories are scheduled to arrive at the NOTL club Sunday to prepare for the competition.

Races will run until Saturday, Aug. 20, with the first taking place Wednesday.

Sailing has been part of every Canada Summer Games since their inception in 1969.

Weekly passes for specific sports and all-access sport passes are sold out, but sport-specific day passes are still available at the Niagara Canada Games' tickets page.

Sports fans can also watch the action via livestream from the Niagara Canada Games Homepage.

The NOTL Sailing Club and Dalhousie Yacht Club have partnered to make this competition possible.

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# Summer Games events take over Niagara region



Left: The 41st Regiment of Foot Fife & Drum Corps helps open the ceremony for the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games. Top right: Baseball is being played at the Welland Baseball Stadium and Oakes Park in Niagara Falls. Bottom right: Wrestling is happening in Thorold at Canada Games Park. STEVE PARR/CHRISTINA APOSTOL/JAMES RUDDY

## NOTL volunteers gearing up for Summer Games sailing

Molly Bowron  
The Lake Report

As athletes travel here from across Canada, Niagara-on-the-Lake residents are participating in the Niagara 2022 Canada Summer Games, volunteering and sharing their knowledge of the town.

Jim Collard, a lifelong NOTL resident, is volunteering and using his own boat to help manage the sailing events happening Aug. 17 to 20 on the waters off NOTL.

He was asked by John Vanderperk, who is a member of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club, to help volunteer and Collard stepped up.

His job will include taking people, including media, “out to the race course and to potentially tow the sailers in when they have to work against the current.”

Collard said he thought it would be a “pretty easy” job and wanted to help out his friend and get involved.

“You know, we are a community of folks who have long been involved in welcoming people to Canada and to the town in particular,” said Collard, a former town councillor.

As a former teacher, he said he is also happy to be able to teach people about Niagara-on-the-Lake.

“I’ve always been a booster of our little town.”

While out on the water next week Collard was unsure if he would receive compensation from the Summer Games toward his boating costs but said, “I think there is a memorandum of understanding that they will supply some gas, but I don’t suspect I’ll use very much because the course is just off of Ryerson Park. So we don’t have to go very far.”

Collard has been looking forward to this opportunity since last fall and noted, “I’m certainly eager to become involved.”

To check schedules and watch the Summer Games online, go to [niagara2022games.ca/watch](http://niagara2022games.ca/watch).



Provincial flags fly at the NOTL Sailing Club ahead of the sailing matches. MOLLY BOWRON

  
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Jihu "Gina" Hyeon and her husband Sang-Il Lee moved to Canada from South Korea five years ago. MADDY GORDON

## 'Soko' Korean-style bakery opens in NOTL

Maddy Gordon  
The Lake Report

After Jihu "Gina" Hyeon and her husband Sang-Il Lee moved from South Korea five years ago, they knew they wanted to open up a business in Canada – the question was what kind of business they would pursue.

Hyeon had three years of experience working as a part-time baker in South Korea and always had a passion for baking.

"When I bake for my family and friends and I see they are happy. That makes me happy," Hyeon said.

When they realized there were no Korean bakeries in the area, the couple knew they had to be the first and opened Soko Bakery Cafe in Niagara-on-the-Lake in July.

All of the treats are inspired by Korean trends and styles, and each brings something unique to the table.

When coming up with recipes and ideas, Hyeon tunes into what is happening in Korea and what is trending, so the baked goods can stay as authentic as possible to the culture.

Her favourite treat to make is the roll cake

because of how satisfying the end result is, since the process has to be done delicately.

It was important to them that there was something for every customer, which is why the majority of their treats can be gluten-free, lactose-free or vegetarian, Hyeon said.

So, what's the best part of running the bakery so far?

"The local people who came and tried our goods first and then came back many times," Hyeon said.

The Niagara Falls couple wanted to open in NOTL because it's their favourite place in the region, she

said. They love the beautiful scenery and the friendliness of residents, she added.

"We were worried about whether Canadians would like this (the food) or not, but when we got so much positive feedback, it made us more comfortable," said Hyeon.

From pastries, cakes and buns to sandwiches and coffee, the bakery at 358 Mary St., near the Sandtrap Pub, has a wide variety of popular treats with a Korean twist.

It is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



This week's riddle is "Jeopardy!" style.  
Category: Country music

**Africa's second-longest river, it shares its name with a country formerly called Zaire.**

Last issue: In 1956 Elvis "Found a new place to dwell" when this pop hit topped the country charts for 17 weeks.

Answer: What is Heartbreak Hotel?

Answered first by: Claudia Grimwood

Also answered correctly (in order) by: Terry Nord, Bob Campbell, Pam Dowling, Sheila Meloche, Wade Durling, David Steele, Carol Durling, Gordon Yanow, Margie Enns, Jane Morris, Bert Dandy, Sylvia Wiens, Margaret Garaughty

Email answers to [editor@niagaranow.com](mailto:editor@niagaranow.com), with your name, for a chance to win a \$20 Irish Harp Pub gift card every week. (Subject line: Riddle me this)

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## Ryerson sunsets and Monet

Penny-Lynn Cookson  
Special to The Lake Report

One of the major joys of this splendid summer in “our town” has been watching the spectacular sunsets at Ryerson Park.

Every night has continued to bring a small number of spectators to quietly contemplate the changing colour, light and shadow of the setting sun across the lake.

It has been reverential, a deep connection to nature too often lost in our preoccupation with daily concerns. The “big city” has been pleasingly invisible, lost in the summer haze of the horizon.

Contentment has come with watching a stately line of eight geese paddling slowly across tranquil waters.

Wonder has come with the large resident muskrat

continuing to munch grass near the rocks, comfortable enough to be photographed by nearby curious humans.

Enchantment has come with the unexpected sparkle of fireflies flashing brilliantly through the bushes in their amorous pursuit of love. This is our world.

In 1882, Claude Monet, agreed by all to be the greatest of the Impressionists, decided to return to the coast of Normandy to paint seascapes for the summer. Dieppe being too busy, he retreated to the small village of Pourville.

Although he had grown up on the Channel in Le Havre, he began his career as a caricaturist, until he was mentored by Eugène Boudin, who encouraged him to paint outdoors. There he would remain, no matter the weather, temperature or season.

In 1886, he was on the Atlantic coast of Brittany paint-

ing versions of the rocks at Belle-Île. In a letter to his fellow Impressionist, Gustave Caillebotte, he wrote, “I’ve been here a month and I’m grinding away. I’m in a magnificent region of wilderness, a tremendous heap of rocks and sea unbelievable for its colours; well, I’m very enthusiastic.”

It was a challenge he acknowledged by saying, “I want to grasp the intangible.”

Monet’s paintings seem simple but try to copy a Monet. Can his art be described or is it what art historian James Elkins calls alchemy, “art that knows how to make a substance that no formula can describe.”

Let’s try by looking at his colour, light, brushstrokes, composition and structure. In the dazzling “Sunset at Pourville,” a boldly streaked sky of fuchsia, purple and yellow takes precedence and is reflected brilliantly in the gentle movement of the Channel waves.

The brushwork is energetic and visible, forceful then suddenly gentle.

In the “Rocks at Belle-Île, Port-Domois,” a soft orange



Claude Monet, “Sunset at Pourville,” 1882, Oil on canvas, Private Collection.

sky with pink clouds slides into the horizon line of the sea. Brushstrokes are shorter and more layered, making it impossible to see what paint is on top, what beneath, shifting tints of light, marks going in all directions, yet balanced.

A serpentine “S” line of the sea moves through the rocks until the inbound choppy waves turbulently crash against the rocks.

An artist cannot paint light but can create an illusion of light.

Monet does it by strong contrasts in colour temperature: warm pinks and oranges against darker, cooler colours. Such contrasts in light and dark and gradations of colour, deep blue of water linked with dark rocks, create depth and structure.

In Monet’s work we see continuous mutations of

texture, colour and intensity. The compositions may seem simple but are exceedingly complex.

And so, as we dream of idyllic shores of the past or those longed for in our pandemic world, evident joys remain here, still waiting to be discovered.

*Penny-Lynn Cookson is an art historian, lecturer and writer living in Niagara-on-the-Lake.*

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## When life gives you lemons

Liam and Landon Archibald held a lemonade stand on Shakespeare Avenue last week to raise money for the Lincoln County Humane Society. With the help of generous and thirsty customers, they raised \$420 in four hours. Top: The boys hold some cats in need of homes while dropping off the donation. Bottom: Last week’s scorching weather made the lemonade stand’s freshly squeezed juice a big hit. ALANNA MCDONALD/RICHARD HARLEY



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# U22 Thunderhawks end dream season as **undefeated** Ontario champs

Andy Boldt  
Special to The Lake Report

With most of their goals for the season already achieved, the undefeated U22 Niagara Thunderhawks focused last week on the final mission of their outstanding season: winning the 2022 Ontario "A" provincial championships in Whitby.

Game 1 matched the Thunderhawks with a new rival, the Gloucester Griffins. The Thunderhawks were taken aback by a fast, strong and aggressive team and ended the first period scoreless.

Although they were able to beat Gloucester's goalie, they hit five posts during the second period and were down 2-1 going into the third.

Gloucester went up 3-1 in the third and for the first time in the season the Thunderhawks were in unfamiliar territory, needing to come from behind. They rallied to tie the game at 4-4 with two minutes left.

That tie would be the closest Niagara would come to tasting defeat all season.

In Game 2, the Thunderhawks faced a weaker Kawartha Lakes team, scoring in the first 30 seconds and romping to an 11-3 win.

The final round-robin game was against another unfamiliar team, the Newmarket Redbirds.

The Thunderhawks came out somewhat unfocused and ill-prepared for the level of effort needed to win and were down 2-0 after the first period.

That lack of focus sent a number of the Thunderhawks into the sin bin racking up penalties for half the second period, however they were able to tie the game at 2-2 heading into the third.

Luckily, Newmarket followed suit by earning over half of the third period as penalty minutes. With fewer opponents on the floor, the Thunderhawks were able to pull out a 4-3 win.

That left the Thunderhawks tied for first Gloucester in Pool A. Under the tourney's tiebreaker formula Niagara had a 0.58 average score, bettering Gloucester by just 0.02.

That meant the Thunderhawks played Guelph Regals, second in Pool B, in the semifinal last Thursday



Members of the Niagara Thunderhawks U22 lacrosse team flank coach Andy Boldt as they celebrate their provincial championship win at a party in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday. DAVE VAN DE LAAR

morning.

Considered one of the toughest teams the Thunderhawks have met this season, Guelph did not disappoint, opening the scoring 30 seconds into the match.

But NOTL answered and Guelph added another 30 seconds after, making it 2-1 at the end of the first.

The Regals came out with a fury during the second, scoring three goals and putting the Thunderhawks into a very deep hole, forcing the coaching staff to try to change things up by replacing goalies.

The change helped settle the team, but the Thunderhawks remained behind 5-2 starting the third period.

Unlike a Hollywood movie, there was no inspiring speech, anecdote or story between periods to inspire the team.

Rather there was a mostly quiet plea from the captains of the Thunderhawks to their peers to not let this be the end to their stellar season.

The team responded, scoring just minutes into the third to make it 5-3. Niagara added a fourth goal a few minutes later, but they were still behind.

Then, with the Thunderhawks down to the last 30-second possession of the game, and their goalie pulled, Niagara went up six players to five on the floor.

After hitting a couple of posts, with just 11 seconds left in regulation, the Thunderhawks buried the tying goal to force a sudden victory 10-minute fourth period.

Possession, possession, possession was all that mattered during the fourth and the Thunderhawks were up to the task.

The Regals were limited to just one scoring attempt, a shot that squeezed through the arm of Thunderhawks goalie Jack Muraca, but was swatted away by Muraca before it could end the Thunderhawks season.

The Thunderhawks dominated the rest of the overtime period, getting numerous scoring opportunities.

With 2:30 left in the fourth, Jack Parker's shot through a crowd blistered the backstop for an enthusiastic sigh of relief and catapulted the Thunderhawks into the finals.

Gloucester was again Niagara's opponent, having ousted the Milton Mavericks in the other semifinal.

This time, just like a Hollywood movie, it was the struggles to get to the finals that provided the Thunderhawks all the incentive they needed to play their best.

The all-important possession started with Keaton Boldt winning all but one face-off throughout the game to teammates Hunter Ostromecki, Jordan Wiens, Liam Dietsch and Christian Blaylock.

Gaining possession continued thanks to the defensive core of Trent Hunter, Aaron Wilson, Brett Wilson, Nathan Wilson, Jack Marotta, Noah Ostromecki, Matt VandeLaar, Colby Ostromecki, Liam Gatt and Sam VanderZalm.

They exerted their will

over the Gloucester team, forcing poor shots, bad passes and double-digit turnovers.

Turnovers allowed the offensive team to wear down the outstanding goalie from Gloucester. Boldt fired a missile to the top corner of the goal early in the first period to start the Thunderhawks off on the right foot, before Hunter Ostromecki followed suit by picking the bottom corner to put them up 2-1 at the end of the first.

Dietsch, an elite defensive player, was able to strip the ball, collect it and outrun a Gloucester opponent for a break away, picking the opposite bottom corner for a 3-1 lead.

Ostromecki capped off the scoring with 30 seconds left in the second period. Although Wiens, Parker, Kris Wilson, Nolan Price, Aedan O'Gorman, Joe Fragnito and Ethan Williams were kept off the scoresheet, they all contributed.

Without their efforts, Niagara's four goals wouldn't have been possible as their continuous offensive pressure wore down their opponents.

As the final buzzer sounded and players realized they achieved their ultimate goal, they ran to their goalie, tossing helmets, sticks and gloves aloft, embracing and reveling in their achievement.

Although the games are over, the Thunderhawks created a lifetime of memories, forged a history not previously accomplished and demonstrated all the theories behind teamwork

and family.

Many of the players this season started playing lacrosse in NOTL early, age four in some cases. Some played with each other for over 15 years, with moderate success and in previous years making it to the finals but just not quite able to reach the gold medal.

The 2022 U22 Thunderhawks were a special team who refused to let this happen again.

Players made the commitment to each other and the coaching staff to make the team a priority.

Most players, still have post-secondary school responsibilities, play as spares at the Jr. B level, have full- or part-time jobs. But they made the commitment to drive hours, take time off, put the U22 team first and sacrifice their all-important social time to achieve the goal of winning the provincial championship.

As a coach, this team was unique. Not for the final result, which was an incredible success, but the desire and willingness to be coached, follow through with their playing responsibilities and sacrificing their play time to ensure success of the whole team.

This desire to be part of history was the most special quality of these players. The NOTL minor lacrosse association was devastated by COVID-19, fielding teams in only two of seven age divisions: U9 and U22.

This means 2022 could be the last season of U22 lacrosse NOTL forever.

The goal was the championship, but the underlying, unspoken truth was we were trying to create a legacy: One that brought home a championship, gave players an unforgettable moment and provided a cornerstone of friends they will have for a lifetime.

And they made NOTL lacrosse history by going undefeated. Wow.

Thanks to the NOTL association for supporting the team throughout the season, to The Lake Report for keeping the team in the spotlight, Tim Marotta for

helping with social media and things managerial, and parents for being the cheerleaders of the whole team.

A personal thanks to trainer Dan Willms and assistant coach B.J. Trush for being sounding boards, devil's advocates and at times voice of reason.

Dan, only a few years out of completing his own Jr. B career, has given back to the U22 program for a number of years and has made himself a cornerstone member of the future of lacrosse in NOTL.

B.J. also started coaching out of Jr. B with me 13 years ago and became a key member of NOTL lacrosse coaching. He has always put "his kids" first and this year wouldn't be an exception.

He sacrificed a day, with his wife's support, with his newborn daughter, who arrived six days prior to the provincials to be with "his kids," whom he has coached since they were four years old. He couldn't miss, possibly for the last time together, the chance to win gold at the provincials.

The U22 Thunderhawks created a family in 2022. It would be great if we had more seats filled at the table in the future.

These experiences may seem small from the outside, but they changed lives for those on the inside for the better. Please join the family, my seat may be available soon.

Go Thunderhawks!

Andy Boldt is head coach of the U22 Thunderhawks.

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# New golf champs **crowned** in sweltering weekend tourney

Kevin MacLean  
The Lake Report

There are some new names atop the champions list at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Golf Club after players literally sweated through two days of humid and steamy competition on the weekend.

Ricky Watson, the 32-year-old former associate pro at the club, regained his amateur status and played his way to the men's open title.

And Louise Robitaille, a former women's open champ, defied ongoing back injuries and rallied from five shots down after Saturday's first round to eke out a one-shot victory over defending champion Yolanda Henry on the final hole.

With temperatures pushing 40C with the humidity and the greens finely tuned and running much faster than usual, competitors had their hands full.

Watson, a junior phenom who grew up playing at the club and then built a career as a club pro, was the most consistent shooter among the men, with a 77-76-153



Former club associate pro Ricky Watson is the NOTL Golf Club's 2022 men's open champion. He had to fight off two former champs. RON PLANCHE

total over the 36-hole tournament.

He edged out another former club champ, Joe Doria, by six shots. Defending champion James Grigjanis-Meusel, recovering from illness, finished third, another two shots behind.

"It feels great to be club champion at NOTL," Wat-

son said afterward.

He had been in contention back in 2005 as a 15-year-old but perennial champ Mark Derbyshire won that year.

"I always hoped to someday have another shot at it, so when I left the golf business and got my amateur status back in the

spring I marked the dates on my calendar for sure," said Watson, who now works in real estate in NOTL.

"It was definitely a comfortable pairing on Sunday playing with James and Joe, as I play with them all the time. We even played in St. Andrews together last fall," he said.

"The course played great, really firm and fast and made scoring difficult, especially on Sunday. It was really close going into the back 9."

"I look forward to trying to defend next year and hopefully the three of us will be in contention again."

The women's side provided most of the weekend's drama and the open came down to the last hole.

With Robitaille and Henry tied after 35 holes, the golf gods showed how unforgiving the game can be.

Short of the green off the tee, Henry made a brilliant second shot to within about six feet of the hole while Robitaille was still about 30 feet away near the back of the green.

Robitaille ended up with a bogey four but Henry, an excellent putter, missed twice and ended with a five.

The other excitement was in the women's first flight division, with Susan Gagne and May Chang tied after 36 holes.

In a sudden-victory playoff, they were still knotted after two tense holes until Chang pulled out the win with a bogey after Gagne got into trouble in the sand.

Other winners crowned on the weekend included:

Jon Taylor as senior men's champion, Martha Cruikshank (senior women's division), and Gary Stuggins and Lisa Allen (super senior). Marg Ketcheson took the women's second flight title.

On the men's side, Rob Reimer won first flight, Jim Garrett took second flight and Ron Planche was third flight champion.

The Legends Cup (for players over 80) consists of two nine-hole outings played on consecutive Tuesdays prior to the championship weekend. This year's legendary champ was Doug McCulloch.

First ace: The NOTL Golf Club had its first reported hole-in-one of the season on Friday, July 29, when visitor Josh Robinson aced the par-3 ninth hole. He used a 6 iron to hole it from 178 yards.



## The "REAL" Report

It's NOT all doom and gloom

The Niagara-on-the-Lake real estate market has dropped nearly 20% since the peak in March however, year over year, average property prices are still 13.7% higher than July of 2021!

### Snapshot by District:

	July 2021	July 2022	% Change
Glendale	\$874,100	\$1,001,400	+14.6
Virgil	\$912,800	\$1,041,500	+14.1
Queenston/River	\$988,300	\$1,204,900	+21.9
Lakeshore	\$1,058,900	\$1,228,200	+16.0
St. Davids	\$1,147,000	\$1,298,600	+13.2
Old Town	\$1,178,100	\$1,314,400	+11.6
All NOTL	\$1,072,500	\$1,219,500	+13.7

\*Stats provided by the Niagara Real Estate Board, based on actual sales of MLS listings and using a benchmark home price index formula.



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# NOTL musician Steve Goldberger's pandemic project **takes off**

Maddy Gordon  
The Lake Report

For Niagara-on-the-Lake musician Steve Goldberger, music is what kept him occupied through the pandemic while creating his newest solo album, "All Roads Lead To You."

The album includes some of his favourite songs and takes inspiration from artists such as Bob Dylan, Shawn Colvin and Jackson Browne.

When recording it, Goldberger wanted to take songs of importance to him and add his own unique twist.

"I just find that the more I do this, I continue learning something new on every project," he said. "It's what keeps me sane in this crazy world."

When the album was released, the first single, "Something In The Air," a cover of the Thunderclap Newman original, gained hundreds of streams across various music platforms.

It's now being played all over the world, something that Goldberger is ecstatic about.

On a similar note, he is also thrilled to finally see



The Gentle Spirits at a recent show in Ridgeway. From left, Steve Wood, Taylor Hulley, Dave Norris, Laurel Minnes, Zan Dominick, Mike Glatt, Steve Goldberger. SUPPLIED

the project come to life and be out for others to enjoy.

"To have it all come together and see it in a lovely package to get it out to people, it feels good."

However, for Goldberger the best part about being

a musician is getting the chance to collaborate with talented people with similar interests.

He's no stranger to that experience and has been in more than 10 different bands since the 1970s, when

his music career began.

"To me, it's all about the interaction between the different players and connecting with other like-minded musicians," he said.

"I'm capable of playing on my own, but I would

never do that and I've never done it. There's got to be at least one more musician with me. It's all part of the fun," he adds.

His current band, Steve Goldberger and The Gentle Spirits, features drummer

Dave Norris and guitarist Mike Glatt (both NOTL residents), guitarist Andrew Aldridge, vocalist and ukulele player Laurel Minnes, and vocalist Zan Dominick, all from Niagara.

The band members play folk and roots music, and are as gentle-spirited as their name, Goldberger said.

"It's my dream band. I love these guys. They're all such great musicians and are happy to be there," he said.

Playing locally is important to the band, said Goldberger.

Although Goldberger's regular gigs (often with the Old Winos) at the Old Winery in NOTL are paused now, they hope to get back on stage there again soon.

Nonetheless, Goldberger is still enjoying performing live and held an album release party at Camp Cataract in Niagara Falls on Saturday, Aug. 6, to celebrate "All Roads Lead Back To You."

And you can catch Goldberger with the Gentle Spirits on Sunday, Aug. 14, at 2 p.m. at the Niagara Music & Food Expo Street Party in downtown Niagara Falls.

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[niagara2022games.ca](http://niagara2022games.ca)






# Busy summer of **activities** at historic Fort George

Staff  
The Lake Report

Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Fort George, now open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday to Sunday until the end of October, is hopping with summer activities.

With expansive green spaces, interesting demonstrations and fascinating stories, it's a popular destination for visitors and residents alike.

The fort has some special events on this summer.

### The Tug of War: History of Military Sports exhibit – now till Sept. 5

In celebration of the 2022 Canada Summer Games, Fort George, the Niagara Military Heritage Centre and the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society and Museum have teamed up to bring visitors a new temporary exhibit showcasing the important role that sports and athletics played in military life.

As soldiers trained and prepared to serve their country, both at home and overseas, this training was gruelling while other duties were often monotonous and tiresome.



Fort George has plenty of summer activities planned for August. FILE/EVAN SAUNDERS

Sports were critical to bolstering spirits and improving morale. They instilled camaraderie, teamwork, dedication and served as a distraction for soldiers far from home.

This exhibit tells the story of the links between sports and soldiers through photos, original artifacts and memorabilia.

### Soldier's Field Days – Aug. 20 and 21

As the Summer Games come to an end, the soldiers of the fort vye for the coveted title of "Best Soldier."

They'll compete in such events as, The Manual of Arms, Dressed for Duty and the famous Firing Elimination Challenge.

Check out the soldiers' profiles on Fort George's Facebook page.

### Families activities

The fort's large outdoor spaces allow children to freely explore the spacious grounds and discover the rich history associated with Fort George.

Upon entry, children receive an Xplorers booklet

to guide their discovery and uncover unique stories of the fort.

Children can chat with costumed interpreters and have fun exploring living spaces, costuming and games. Featured presentations by senior staff with expansive knowledge of history offer children a learning experience that cannot be captured in the classroom.

The Agora, located just outside the fort walls, is popular for afternoon picnics and walking trails connect you with the Commons and the Butler's Barracks historic site.

### History enthusiasts

Rebuilt during the Great Depression, heritage buildings at the fort allow visitors to explore soldiers' barracks, officers' quarters, officers' kitchen and discover an incredible collection of historic artifacts.

The oldest surviving military building in Ontario, the original powder magazine, is tucked away at the back of the fort.

Hourly musket demonstrations showcase the detailed steps of firing a Short Land

smoothbore muzzle loading flintlock musket.

Costumed interpreters provide passionate knowledge on various topics such as military weaponry, clothing and food.

Visitors will also learn about the role of music in military life through performances by the 41st Fife and Drum Corp, a group of dedicated staff and youth volunteers that perform using historically accurate instruments.

Fort George is one of seven national historic sites in and around Niagara-on-the-Lake. Fort Mississauga features a refurbished brick tower and earthwork, walking paths, and viewing platform that showcases the site's strategic location across from Fort Niagara on the U.S. side.

Check out the others at Culture - Fort George National Historic Site (pc.gc.ca).

Daily admission for adults is \$12.50, seniors are \$10.75 and youth 17 and under are free.

Season passes are \$31.50 for adults and \$26.75 for seniors. Kids are free every visit.

**\$1,775,000 | NOTL**



**\$2,488,000 | NOTL**



**\$1,249,000 | NOTL**



**\$1,200,000 | NOTL**



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# GAMES

**Across**

- 9. Inverted slow-mover (5)
- 10. Hyped too high (9)
- 11. Carton containing other cartons (5)
- 12. Exciting experience (9)
- 13. Teetotal (3)
- 14. Once the subject of a financial bubble (5)
- 15. House of worship (9)
- 17. Explode (5)
- 19. It's white for a new Pope (5)
- 22. Construction sites with slipways (9)
- 24. Informal greeting (3,2)
- 26. Temporary home for many serious cases (1-1,1)
- 27. Most employees think this of themselves (9)
- 29. Goes for gold? (5)
- 30. Lofty (9)
- 31. Military subdivisions (5)

**Down**

- 1. Dates (7)
- 2. Backpackers' stopover (6)
- 3. Neither you nor me but the other guy (5,5)
- 4. Sudden attacks (6)
- 5. Portions (8)
- 6. Left behind after a cat vanishes (4)
- 7. Conflict (8)
- 8. Stuck redhead goes crazy (7)
- 16. Pleasant mood (4,6)
- 17. Beneficiary of a Biblical miracle (5,3)
- 18. Corrida star (8)
- 20. Soften minced sausage (7)
- 21. Hold (7)
- 23. The "Ice Age" 9 Across (6)
- 25. Advantageous to both sides (3-3)
- 28. Harassed persistently (4)

*Have some fun*



### Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10			
11				12			
		13					
14				15			16
		17		18		19	
20							21
22					23	24	25
					26		
27			28			29	
30						31	

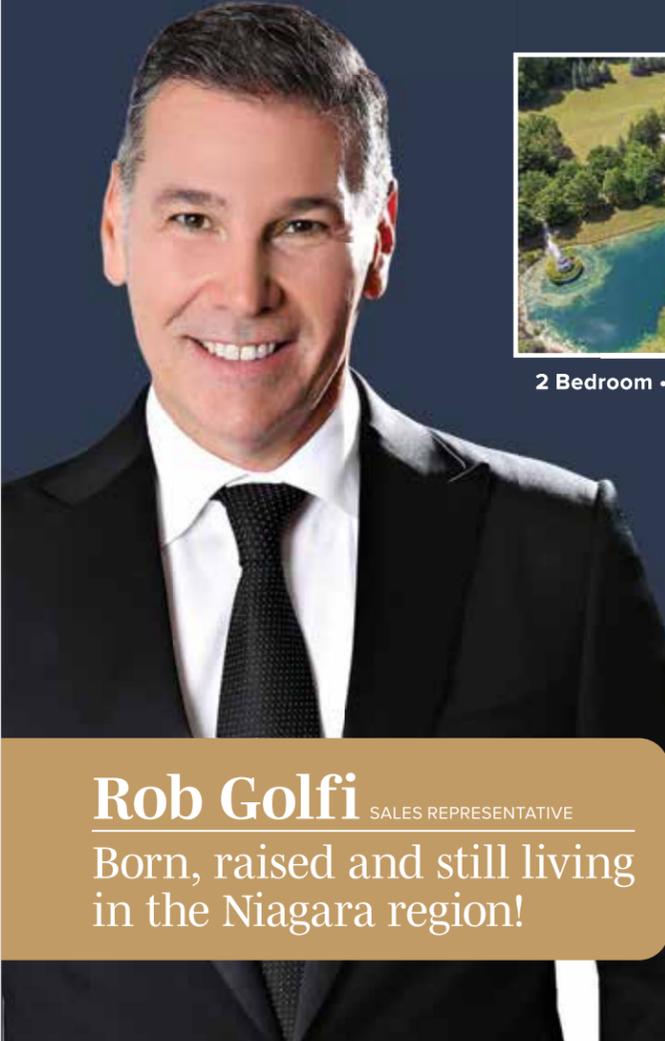
Last issue's answers

1	R	A	G	T	A	G	5	P	E	R	I	L	O	U	S
2	B	U	L	A	E	E	R								
3	H	O	U	R	L	O	N	G	15	M	U	G	A	B	E
4	D	N	S	E	E	I	A	A							
5	W	E	B	S	12	S	P	R	I	N	K	L	I	N	G
6	A														
7	S	T	E	W	A	R	D	E	S	S	17	A	C	R	E
8	R	A	E	T	C	R	E								
9	D	U	L	Y	19	H	O	C	K	E	Y	T	E	A	M
10	M														
11	S	P	E	C	T	A	T	O	R	S	24	C	A	T	S
12	E	L	R	V	O	H	I								
13	S	T	R	I	P	S	27	E	X	P	L	O	I	T	S
14	E	F	A	N	P	O	L								
15	P	R	O	F	I	L	E	S	29	Y	E	L	L	E	D

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

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# New space telescope is one of many **scientific marvels**



**DR. BROWN**

Dr. William Brown  
Special to The Lake Report

Working on the longest time scale, 13 billion years ago and beyond, the James Webb Space Telescope is set to explore the roles of dark matter and giant black holes in creating stars and whole galaxies.

Dark matter is six times more abundant than the ordinary matter of the universe with which we're familiar and is thought to play a major gravitational role in shaping vast collections of gas and dust into what become stars and galaxies.

And dark energy is the major force driving the continuing expansion of the universe.

Unfortunately, both remain stubborn mysteries, especially dark matter, for

which the search continues this year with the updated Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

What about time scales of hundreds of millions of years during which movement of the Earth's tectonic plates driven by vertical currents in the planet's mantle drive whole continents together or apart to form new land masses, mountain ranges and oceans, in the process recycling into the Earth's interior undercutting tectonic plates to erase long familiar land and sea marks.

Land bridges between Africa and South America during the last period when the two continents abutted one another explain the common evolutionary roots for "old" and "new" world monkeys and thousands of other species now found in both continents whose evolutionary paths took different routes once their ancestral species were separated.

Then there is the shorter time scale of the 100,000-year cycle in which the Earth's climate shifts between glacial and interglacial periods.



The Carina Nebula. NASA, ESA, CSA, AND STSCI

In fully developed glacial periods, much of the northern and southern hemispheres became covered by vast, thick and heavy ice sheets, which depress and gouge the Earth's surface and lower ocean levels. In the process, they create land bridges.

On the other hand, interglacial periods are associated with rising sea levels and the warming, melting and retreat of those vast ice sheets. Favourable climate changes were associated with to and fro migrations of small groups of archaic and later modern humans between Africa and Eurasia, and later migrations into the Americas.

Glacial and interglacial periods hold true for tropi-

cal regions, too, such as the Andes mountains, where glaciers extended and retreated with the same cyclical rhythm.

Evidence of this was recently found in core samples of successive sedimentary deposits in Lake Junin in the Andes. Over 680,000 years, the timing and nature of those deposits fit precisely with the glacial-interglacial cycles observed elsewhere on Earth.

The cyclical glacial and interglacial periods reflect cyclical changes in the orbit of the Earth around the sun, which in turn is the result of cyclical changes in the gravitational effects of other planets in the solar system on Earth. That major climate changes on Earth

reflect cyclical changes in the gravitational effects of other planets is a mindboggling thought.

The earliest traces of life on Earth date back 4 billion years, when life was confined to single cells. However, even the simplest single cells contain RNA or DNA, hundreds, if not several thousand genes, and many thousands of different proteins, to say nothing of the complex nature of the cell membrane.

Life must have begun much simpler, but with what? RNA, amino acids and simple proteins? Or as Nick Lane recently suggested in his book "Transformer," with simple versions of the Krebs cycle which normally oxidizes sugars and fats into energy and carbon dioxide.

Lane and other scientists suggest that, run backward, the Krebs cycle could eventually create, through trial and error, all the building blocks of life, including RNA. It is a transformative hypothesis for explaining the beginnings of life on Earth and perhaps, many places in the universe.

Those are a few of the time scales to consider in science's creation story, one of which I've left out. That we're even aware of such origin stories and marvel as more pieces of the puzzle are solved, is testament to one species – homo sapiens.

One recent product of the human brain was to create a tiny motor, less than one-thousandth of the thickness of the paper this is printed on. Made of DNA, the motor self-assembles (origami) into a pedestal, platform and a unidirectional rotor powered by a tiny externally applied alternating current.

That was a major technological achievement for humans. But what about living cells? They contain thousands of biological motors for transporting, assembling and disassembling molecules. We're just beginning to catch up.

Nature writ large and tiny is amazing, yet we are unaware of most of it.

*Dr. William Brown is a professor of neurology at McMaster University and co-founder of the Infohealth series at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library.*

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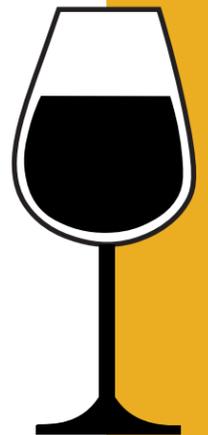
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# FEATURED

## EXPLORING PHOTOS WITH NOTL MUSEUM

### Tennis in NOTL

With the Canada Summer Games tennis matches happening right here in our hometown, we have the privilege of witnessing some of Canada's future Olympians compete. To see the best tennis 135 years ago, you would have headed to the Queen's Royal Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake (Queen's Royal Park off King Street). With six grass tennis courts, the hotel could host tournaments of the quality of Wimbledon. A tournament established in 1886 was known as the "The International at Niagara-on-the-Lake" and it quickly became a "must do" for the major players of the day. Over the next 25 years, all the American and Canadian champions would play The International, along with a number of Wimbledon champions. In 1895, the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association (forerunner to Tennis Canada) moved the Canadian championships to Niagara-on-the-Lake from Toronto. In both these international tournaments, men and women were accorded equal treatment, a significant element during a time when women were denied the vote, had limited access to higher education and were excluded from most sports. In tennis, they competed on the same stage as the men.



## Looking to the Stars

### Tough decisions ahead require patience and strategy

**Thursday Aug. 11:** This is the day when Venus enters Leo. Venus in Leo is a "look at me" Venus, meaning that our feelings and emotional displays will be set on high for the next few weeks. Venus in Leo encourages us to make a statement about our wants and desires. This is our opportunity to be honest about how we feel, to let others know it. You don't want to be subtle when Venus is in Leo. Say what you want. Say how you feel. Your authentic expression will encourage others to do the same. Everybody talks about the controversial co-founder of Apple, the late Steve Jobs. Equally we should acknowledge Steve Wozniak, his partner, who turns 72 today.

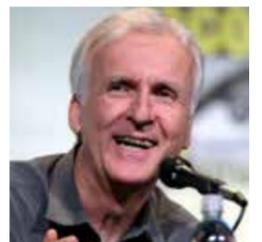
**Sunday, Aug. 14:** Today is the busiest day in the zodiac that we have seen in weeks. And it's challenging. Not all a gift. Tough decisions require patience. Fortunately, we have tons of energy, so it's time to strategize. He began as a standup and then made his name in TV and film – where he met Martin Short, from Hamilton, Ont. The two of them are standing up as two Martins. He is Steve Martin, born Aug. 14, 1945.



**Friday, Aug. 12:** It's the full moon in Aquarius for 2022. The full moon in Aquarius is conjunct Saturn and square Uranus and the Nodes. This full moon will feel sober and heavy – it will show us where we need to get our act together, behave like an adult and take charge of our destiny. The good thing about a full moon conjunct Saturn in Saturn's sign (Aquarius) is that it carries a very strong manifesting energy. Moon plus Saturn in its sign tries to make things happen. This is when some of our most important projects may come to life. Hard work may or may not pay off. Happy birthday #51 to the winner of 14 tennis Grand Slam tennis tournaments, Pete Sampras.

**Monday, Aug. 15:** Co-operation is the winning style today. Harvest rewards with teammates. Regarded as one of the leading jazz pianists of all time, Oscar Peterson was born Aug. 15, 1925, in Montreal.

**Tuesday, Aug. 16:** Necessity is the mother of invention and today we see invention working overtime as Mercury in Virgo gets a positive boost from Uranus in Taurus. Born in Kapuskasing and raised in Chippewa, one of Hollywood's most successful film directors, James Cameron, is 68 years old today.



**Saturday, Aug. 13:** With the moon in Pisces, today opposite Mercury and also connected to Uranus, it's a day to wait before we speak and to think while we are waiting. On Aug. 13, 1888, the inventor of both black and white and colour television was born. Happy birthday to Scotland's John Logie Baird.

**Wednesday, Aug. 17:** This is a day for dreaming. Not a day for decision-making. Write down your ideas. Soon they will make sense. As Mars winds through the last few degrees of Taurus on its way to Gemini on Saturday, all impatience becomes more frustrating. With two Academy Awards and six other Oscar nominations, acclaimed actor Robert DeNiro celebrates birthday #79 today.

**Please check out my podcast at [www.lutts.ca](http://www.lutts.ca).**

*Astrology is a form of entertainment, not a science.*

## Managing change through design guidelines



Brian Marshall  
Columnist

I suggested in last week's column that the instituting design guidelines in Niagara-on-the-Lake should be a priority.

Further, these guidelines would need to be supported by an infrastructure that would record and archive design review decisions to ensure the guidelines would be a "living" document, continuing to remain relevant as the community evolves.

This is necessary simply because socio-economic change will happen and be reflected in architecture.

Using only the 19th century as an example, 12 distinct architectural styles were introduced (most of which were built in NOTL).

On one hand, they were created to satisfy the taste and pocketbook of the emerging middle class and, on the other hand, the concentration of wealth among the entrepreneurial industrialists.

That said, an inherent conservatism dominated the local social framework, which worked to ensure new builds were integrated within the streetscape and respected the neighbouring homes. That "respect" allowed a Gothic Revival to be built directly next to a Georgian while still fitting in.

And, when an individual wished to build in a style that was somewhat unconventional (to local norms) or might be potentially dominating by dint of proportions, a property lot was sought out where it would either stand alone or be in scale with neighbouring buildings.

Unfortunately societal change, particularly during the last 30 years, combined with developers becoming the principal source of new homes, has eroded these aspects of being a "good neighbour." This, in turn, leads us to guidelines.

Just to be clear, allow me to state that design guidelines are not and should not be intended to halt the architectural reflection of societal change within our built environment.

Rather they should be a mechanism to manage the inevitable evolution to ensure it is integrated within the warp and weave of a community (and more

peculiarly the streetscape) in a contextually appropriate fashion.

To demonstrate the importance of making and retaining clear and accessible records of decisions made by a design review committee charged with administering the guidelines, allow me to describe a hypothetical example.

The design guidelines of Town XYZ state that mansard roofs typically add more mass than other forms of roof types and are generally out-of-character with the town. As a result, this type of roof form is highly discouraged.

However, a resident is an artist and highly motivated to utilize a mansard roof on his proposed house so that he can incorporate a studio in it. This resident hires an architect to develop conceptual designs of the proposed house including the mansard roof for submission to the design review committee.

As a part of the conceptual design process accurate data is gathered on the existing streetscape and great care is taken to ensure the proposed house design respects the pattern and rhythm of the street, integrates smoothly with the shouldering homes and is contextually appropriate.

The data, together with

an accurate, scaled rendering of the streetscape incorporating the proposed house, is included in the design review submission. After reviewing the submission, the committee concludes that, based on all the information presented, on this particular street and lot a mansard roof is contextually compatible.

The design concept is approved with the proviso that the exterior finishes be selected with consideration to lightening the visual massing.

A complete record of the submission, the decision and the rationale behind the decision is made and archived in an accessible online platform, allowing review by interested anyone who wants to see it, while serving as a reference in the event a future design concept that includes a mansard roof is submitted for review.

Net-net, not only are the design guidelines a detailed, published document but so are the design review decisions. It's a transparent process that works to make the entire undertaking of building a new home a lot easier.

Incidentally, an identical record keeping infrastructure is needed for heritage guidelines.



# All Along the Waterfront

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# Simple solutions to have it **made in the shade**



**GROWING TOGETHER** 

Joanne Young  
Gardening Columnist

Many homeowners long for a shady retreat – until they try to select plants that will successfully grow there.

Most of us can only think of hostas and ferns. But a shady yard doesn't mean your gardening days are doomed. Numerous options abound for creating eye-catching shade gardens.

Here are some easy solutions to help turn your shady yard into the colourful retreat you've always wanted.

Shady places that provide cool, refreshing areas of beauty during summer's heat also can contribute colour and interest to the landscape throughout the growing season.

First, what constitutes a shaded garden?

Full sun is an area that receives at least six full hours of direct sunlight each day. Partial Sun / Partial Shade are terms often used interchangeably to mean three to six hours of sun, preferably in the morning and early afternoon.

If a plant is listed as partial shade, the plant will usually need some relief from the intense late afternoon sun, either from shade provided by a nearby tree or by planting it on the east side of a building.

Full Shade receives less than three hours of direct sunlight each day, with filtered sunlight during the rest of the day. Full shade does not mean no sun. There are not many plants, except mushrooms, that can survive in complete darkness.

Determine the various degrees of shade in your yard. Knowing how much sunlight areas receive — and when they receive it



Brunnera is a good shade plant. JOANNE YOUNG

— will dictate what kind of plants will thrive there.

Gardening in the shade doesn't have to be frustrating. Some plants will tolerate relatively low light and a few thrive in it.

You can choose from an array of flowering annuals, perennials, bulbs and shrubs for colour. Densely shaded areas beneath large trees or under the overhang of a building present more of a problem because it is not just the lack of light, but the presence of roots and dryness that are concerns. With few exceptions, shade-tolerant plants will do best in well-drained, relatively fertile soil. Both sandy soils and heavy, clay-like soils will benefit from the incorporation of organic matter such as compost or well-rotted manure, all helpful in areas of hard, compacted soils.

Light is not the only major concern when gardening in shady areas. Frequently, inadequate moisture can be a problem. The thick canopy of a large tree or the overhang of a house will act as an umbrella, deflecting rainfall away from the ground directly beneath it.

Worse yet, trees and shrubs will compete with smaller plants for every drop of moisture that reaches the ground. It is vital that plants growing in the shade of large trees and shrubs, or

sheltered by your home or garage, be watered regularly even during times of seemingly adequate rainfall.

Help conserve moisture by adding organic matter. Mulch it with shredded leaves, evergreen needles and other organic materials.

**HELPFUL HINTS:** Consider how changing seasons affect sun and shade conditions in your yard. Even a yard filled with shade trees can support bright, spring-flowering bulbs, as long as they emerge before your trees are fully out.

Plant smaller bulbs that naturalize – meaning spread on their own – such as crocuses, daffodils, grape hyacinths, scillas and winter aconite.

Most shade-loving perennials are not long bloomers. Make foliage a mainstay. Allow different colours and textures to complement each other, like broad caladium leaves against frillier fern fronds or the fine-texture of dwarf bleeding hearts against a large blue hosta.

Use a couple shade-loving shrubs to anchor beds, add height and structure, and provide an understory layer. Such shrubs could include pagoda dogwood, viburnums, red-twig dogwood, snowberry and hemlock.

In areas where plants won't grow due to tree roots, use some creativity to get interest. A mulch pathway or dry river can add visual interest. Larger rocks can also give an impossible garden area a complete look. Set colourful pots into the garden and add additional colour such as a pot of coleus, a large-leaf hosta or begonias.

It's possible to replace dense shade with dappled light through judicious tree pruning. But don't prune more than one-third of a tree's branches in one year.

For a low-maintenance, attractive shady spot, try groundcovers such as pachysandra, sweet woodruff, ginger, lamium and lamiastrum. Plant seedlings in staggered rows rather than straight lines. They'll expand, fill the area and form a nice carpet.

These are just a few tips to get the most out of your shade garden.

*Joanne Young is a Niagara-on-the-Lake garden expert and coach. See her website at joanneyoung.ca.*

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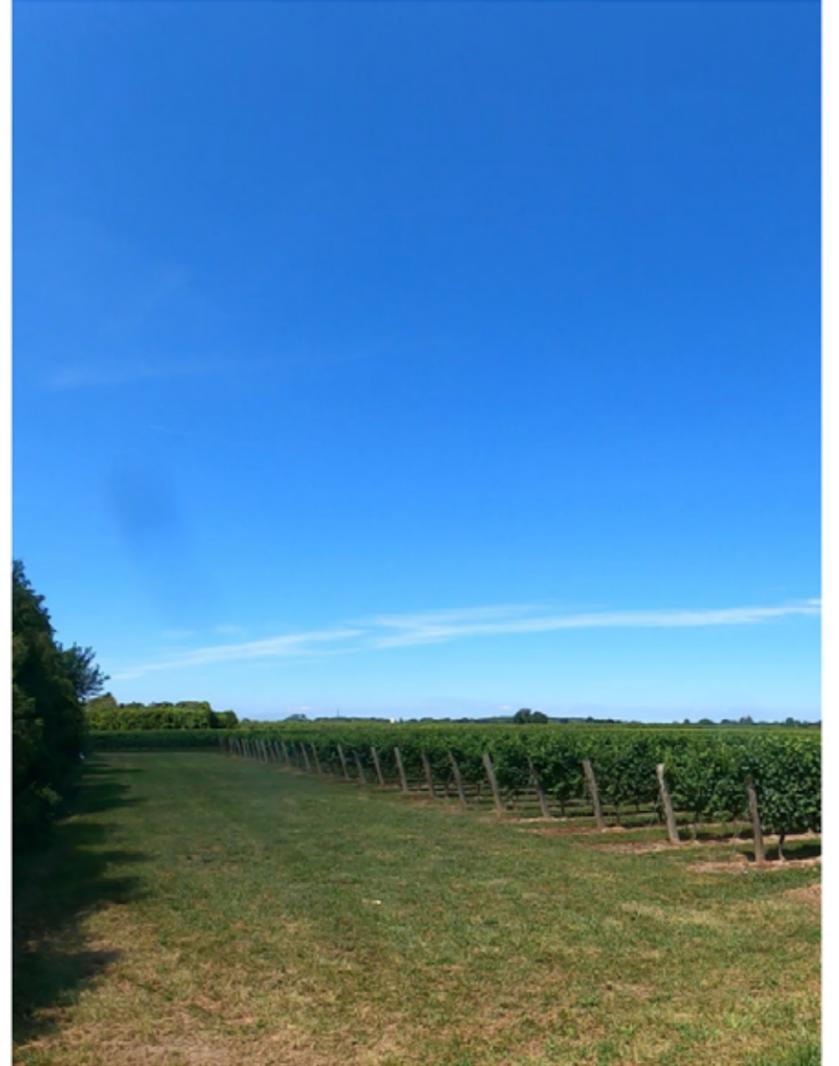
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