



# NIAGARA POLO 2024



SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 | 12 - 4 PM

**The Commons, Niagara-on-the-Lake**

PRESENTED BY THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM





NIAGARA POLO

# Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum

MESSAGE FROM SARAH KAUFMAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## WELCOME TO NIAGARA POLO!

Thank you for joining us at Niagara Polo this year. What an experience to witness the challenging game of Polo on the historic Commons, where the King's Dragoon Guards played during their stay, 1838-1842, and the Royal Canadian Dragoons played in the 1930s. Although the games were for the spectator's enjoyment, Polo was a training tool for the cavalry who honed their riding skills on the field, carrying a mallet in one hand rather than a sword.

This event is run by the staff and volunteers of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum in support of our ongoing operations as a non-profit charity in Town. Your support goes towards maintaining our collections, running 100 annual programs and the maintenance and improvement of our facilities. Our Museum is dedicated to promoting the rich history of Niagara-on-the-Lake and we rely heavily on the support of our community, donors and government funds to operate.

To all our sponsors this year, we appreciate your commitment to preserving heritage and supporting this wonderful event.

Thank you to all our volunteers helping out today and to our Niagara Polo event committee without whom none of this would be possible. Your commitment to the Museum and the event is remarkable.

I hope you enjoy this unique Niagara experience and thank you again for showing support towards Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage!

*Sarah Kaufman, Managing Director  
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum*





NIAGARA POLO

# Schedule of Events

ANNOUNCER: GEORGE DELL



12:00

## OPENING CEREMONIES

Indigenous Welcome by Phil Davis (Mohawk of the Six Nations); Niagara British Car Club; Cars from Performance BMW & MINI St. Catharines; Fort George Fife & Drum Corps; Grimsby Pipe Band; Introduction of dignitaries & polo players; National Anthem sung by Daya Summers (courtesy of Yellow Door Theatre Project)

12:30

## FIRST POLO MATCH

Trubar vs. Performance BMW/MINI St. Catharines

1:30

## HALF-TIME

**Awards:** MVP presented by Elaine & Donald Triggs and Best Playing Pony presented by the winning team sponsor.

**Divot Stomp:** Cross the field and all attendees 19+ receive a complimentary sample of Konzelmann sparkling wine while they stomp the divots!

**Entertainment:** Hitmen Drumline

**Best Hat Competition:** Presented by BeauChapeau

2:30

## SECOND POLO MATCH

Elaine & Donald Triggs vs. Platinum Medicine

3:30

## CLOSING

**Awards:** MVP presented by Elaine & Donald Triggs and Best Playing Pony presented by the winning team sponsor.



## NIAGARA POLO

# About the Sport of Kings

HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED

The object of the game of Polo is to move the ball downfield, hitting the ball through the goal for a score. After each score, teams change goals, located at opposite ends of the field.

Of the many pieces of equipment used in polo, two are particularly important – the ball and the mallet. Just as you pay attention to the puck in hockey, keep your eye on the ball in polo. Traditionally made of English willow, but now plastic, it can zoom by at nearly 100 mph.

The mallet, made of a bamboo shaft with a hardwood head, is used to hit the polo ball. Like golf clubs, mallets are made in different lengths to accommodate the player's swing and pony's size.

The game starts when the mounted umpire bowls the ball between the two teams of four players, facing each other in centre field. A game consists of four or six periods called "chukkers", which last seven minutes each, plus overtime. There is a four-minute interval between chukkers.

In polo, the horses are called "polo ponies", although they are a far cry from the small mounts children love to ride. They are mostly thoroughbreds and superb equine performers. They must sprint, stop, turn, and accelerate to open speed for seven minutes in duration – which places a high demand on the ponies. That's why players usually change ponies between chukkers, to give them a rest.

However, players may change horses anytime during chukkers, but normal play is continuous, stopped only for penalties, broken tack (horse equipment), or injury to a pony or rider.

Two mounted umpires officiate the game, while a referee on the sidelines makes final decisions on infractions of the rules and penalties.



## VISIT OUR PUBLIC-SIDE VENDORS

### Niagara Polo Merchandise

Shirts - \$55; Hats - \$35

### Local Shopping

A selection of artisans have been curated by Sorella Niagara.

### Food & Drink

Fireside Crystal Beach

MJ Ingribelli

Royal Oak School School

Alfie's Lemonade

Rustic Food & Catering Co.

The Baking Room

Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery

Konzelmann Estate Winery

Great Lakes Brewery





NIAGARA POLO

# Sponsors & Supporters



MAJOR SPONSOR

## Elaine & Donald Triggs

TEAM SPONSORS



Performance BMW

### TRUBAR™



MINI St. Catharines

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NIAGARA POLO

# Sponsors & Supporters



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GEORGE DELL



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO





## NIAGARA POLO

# About the Sport of Kings

WHAT THE ANNOUNCER IS TELLING YOU

**BUMP:** A player may ride into a competitor to spoil his or her shot. The collision angle must be slight, causing no more than a jar.

**HOOK:** A player may spoil another's shot by putting his or her mallet in the way of the striking player. But a cross hook - reaching over the opponent's mount - is a foul.

**KNOCK-IN:** When the offensive team hits the ball across the defensive backline, the defending team resumes the game with a free hit from their backline.

**NEAR SIDE:** Left-handed side of the horse.

**NECKSHOT:** A ball hit under the horse's neck from either side.

**OFF SIDE:** The right-hand side of the horse.

**OUT OF BOUNDS:** When the ball crosses the sidelines or goes over the sideboards. The umpire throws another ball between the two teams to resume play.

**PENALTY:** A free hit toward the goal from a set distance. Severity of the foul determines the distance of the penalty.

**RIDE OFF:** Two players bump and attempt to push each other off the line of the ball to prevent a hit. The horses are supposed to do the pushing, although players also may use their bodies, but not their elbows.

**SAFETY:** When a defending player hits the ball across his own backline, the other team gets a free hit 60 yards from the backline. The ball is placed at the same distance from the sideline as where it went out.

**TAILSHOT:** Hitting the ball across and behind the horse's rump.

**THIRD MAN:** Referee at the sidelines who has final authority when the two umpires disagree.

**THROW IN:** The umpire bowls the ball to the teams to start or resume play.

**TIMEOUT:** Called by an umpire at his or her discretion, when a foul is committed or an accident occurs. No timeout allowed to change horses or replace a broken mallet, although a player may do so at any time.



## MORE TO DO AT NIAGARA POLO!

Pony Rides for kids from 1-3 pm

Bid on items from the Silent Auction

Participate in the Divot Stomp

Check out the Niagara British Car Club display

See the new cars from Performance BMW & MINI St. Catharines

Enjoy the half-time show by the Hitmen Drumline



NIAGARA POLO

# Silent Auction

CLOSES AT 3:30 PM



OUR SILENT AUCTION IS NOW DIGITAL!

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT AND NEVER LEAVE YOUR SEAT.  
VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/NOTLPOLO2024](https://www.32AUCTIONS.COM/NOTLPOLO2024)

OR SCAN HERE:







## WE'RE EXPANDING!

AT THE NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE MUSEUM,  
WE HAVE THE HISTORY AND WE HAVE THE ARTEFACTS.  
NOW YOU CAN HELP US TO IMPROVE THE FACILITY.

### THIS PROJECT WILL RESULT IN:

#### **Social Inclusion**

Creating **accessibility** with access hallways, washrooms and an elevator to ensure everyone feels like they can visit barrier-free!

#### **Learning and Unlearning**

Amplifying community voices through interactive exhibitions that explore our identities from Indigenous history to Black History, immigration history (Loyalists, Mennonite, Irish, Polish) to our military and tourism history.





**Community Understanding and Bridging Perspectives**

Opening the vault through a new research space and a community room that will increase program capability and engagement.

**Becoming Green**

Reusing our heritage buildings to reduce carbon emissions. Upgrading our insulation, and adding LED lighting, window glazing, waterproofing and new heat pumps to ensure energy efficiency.

For more information, click here:



**WAYS TO DONATE:**

- Pledge Donations over 5 years
- Donate online today, scan here:
- A Transfer of Securities







# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HERITAGE IN NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE!



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SEE YOU AT NIAGARA POLO IN 2026!