



2026

NIAGARA POLO



SEPTEMBER 12, 2026 | 12 - 4 PM

The Commons, Niagara-on-the-Lake

A fundraiser for the NOTL Museum

WELCOME TO NIAGARA POLO!

MESSAGE FROM AMY KLASSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for joining the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum at Niagara Polo 2026!

What an experience to witness the power and passion of polo on the historic Commons, where the King's Dragoon Guards played the game from 1838-1842, and the Royal Canadian Dragoons played in the 1930s. Polo was not only played for the spectator's enjoyment, but it was used as a training tool for the cavalry who honed their riding skills on the field, carrying a mallet in hand like they would a sword.

This spectacular event is organized by the staff and volunteers of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum in support of our ongoing operations as a non-profit charity. Your contributions help us care for our historic collection of over 54,000 artifacts and archives, provide educational programming for the community, and maintain and improve our heritage buildings. The Museum is dedicated to promoting the rich history of Niagara-on-the-Lake and relies on the support of our community, donors and government funds to operate.

We are currently in a \$10 million fundraising campaign to expand the Museum for better accessibility, more collection and programming spaces, and enhanced exhibitions. Thank you for supporting us through this period of growth.

Thank you to the Toronto Polo Club and the polo players for giving their time and talent to the event, as well as all our sponsors for their generous support. To all our volunteers helping out today, and to our Niagara Polo event committee: Gwen Anderson, Rene Bertschi, Rose Campbell, Lois Chapman, Dick Coyne, George Dell, Anne Dickson, Jan King Watson, Janet Marecki, Audrey Pellet, and Babs Worthy (Chair), without whom this event would not be possible, we truly appreciate your commitment to the Museum's mission and to making this event a success.

We hope you enjoy this unique Niagara experience and thank you again for helping preserve Niagara-on-the-Lake's heritage!



*Amy Klassen, Executive Director
Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum*



NIAGARA POLO

Schedule of Events

ANNOUNCER: GEORGE DELL
AND SHAWNA JARMAN



12:00

OPENING CEREMONIES

Indigenous Welcome: Ohnia:kara Singers; Opening Address by Kaidin Davis; Welcome Song with Kaidin Davis and Josh Crawley; Cars from Performance BMW & MINI St. Catharines; Niagara British Car Club; Grimsby Pipe Band; Heavyweights Brass Band; Introduction of dignitaries; National Anthem sung by Kayla Fraser (of Yellow Door Theatre Project); Canadian Cowgirls and polo players.

12:30

FIRST POLO MATCH

MINI St Catharines/Performance BMW vs VRG Capital

1:30

HALF-TIME

Canadian Cowgirls Precision Drill Team;

Awards: MVP presented by MINI St Catharines/Performance BMW and Best Playing Pony presented by the winning team sponsor; Heavyweights Brass Band;

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

2:30

SECOND POLO MATCH

Steve Trakas & Matthew Conduit with BMO Private Wealth vs the Gorodezky Pietro Group with Scotia Wealth Management

3:30

CLOSING

Best Hat Competition: Presented by BeauChapeau

Awards: MVP presented by MINI St Catharines/Performance BMW and Best Playing Pony presented by the winning team sponsor.

Closing: Canadian Cowgirls Precision Drill Team.



NIAGARA POLO

Polo 101

A QUICK GUIDE TO THE SPORT OF KINGS

New to polo? You don't need to know all the rules to enjoy the match!

Here are the basics — and a few fun facts to help you follow the action.

THE BASICS

THE GOAL

Players use long-handled mallets to hit the ball through the opposing team's goal posts. A goal counts no matter how high the ball travels between the posts.

THE TEAMS

There are 4 players per team, each wearing a number from 1 to 4. Each position has a different offensive or defensive role.

THE FIELD

A full-sized outdoor polo field is enormous — approximately 300 yards long by 160 yards wide, making it about nine football fields in area.

THE CHUKKERS

A polo match is divided into periods called chukkers (or chukkas). Each lasts about 7½ minutes. Matches commonly have 4–6 chukkers.

THE PONIES

Despite the name, polo "ponies" are actually full-sized horses. Players normally change horses between chukkers — and sometimes during one — because the game is so physically demanding.

POLO FUN FACTS

- Polo is one of the world's oldest team sports, with roots stretching back more than 2,000 years.
- The modern game was developed and codified in the 19th century.
- Polo players can reach speeds of roughly 35–40 mph (55–65 km/h) on horseback.
- Players often use several horses in a single match.
- Polo is played around the world, with particularly strong traditions in Argentina, Britain, the United States and India.
- Argentina is widely regarded as the powerhouse of modern polo and produces many of the world's top players and horses.
- Players are rated by handicap, ranging from beginner levels up to the elite 10-goal rating. Despite the name, the handicap isn't the number of goals a player is expected to score.

THE LINE OF THE BALL

When a player hits the ball, its path creates an imaginary "line of the ball."

Players cannot simply cross that line if doing so would create a dangerous collision. Much of polo's strategy involves gaining the right of way along this line. Think of it as a moving right-of-way rule at high speed.

Players may also use a controlled ride-off, riding shoulder-to-shoulder to move an opponent away from the line of the ball.



THE LANGUAGE OF POLO

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.

AND YES... YOU GET TO STOMP THE DIVOTS!

At halftime or during a break, spectators may be invited onto the field for the great polo tradition of divot stomping.

Horses' hooves tear up pieces of turf during play. Spectators help replace them by walking the field and stomping the divots back into place. It's practical, social — and one of the best traditions in polo.

MOST IMPORTANT RULE OF THE DAY

Enjoy the match, cheer loudly and have fun supporting a great cause!



NIAGARA POLO

Sponsors & Supporters



MAJOR SPONSORS



Performance BMW



MINI St. Catharines

SPECIAL MENTION SPONSORS



Niagara-on-the-Lake
Rotary
Club



Visit NIAGARA
CANADA

ONTARIO
Yours to discover

TEAM SPONSORS



Performance BMW



MINI St. Catharines

VRG CAPITAL
Permanent Private Equity

Steve Trakas & Matthew Conduit



Private Wealth

The Gorodezky Pietro Group

Scotia Wealth Management

WINE & BEER SPONSORS



RAVINE VINEYARD
ESTATE WINERY



Trius





NIAGARA POLO

Sponsors & Supporters



CORPORATE SPONSORS



ENGEL & VÖLKERS®
NANCY BAILEY

Blocktrain AML
SOLUTIONS INC



Catering for Volunteers provided by Limited Distillery, owned by Daniel Keyes

VISIT OUR PUBLIC-SIDE VENDORS



Niagara Polo Merchandise

Shirts, Hats, Tote Bags,
Parasols, and more!

Local Shopping

A selection of artisans have
been curated by Sorella
Niagara.

Things to do

Tiny Museum
Pony Rides for kids from 1-3 pm

Food & Drink

The Smokin' Buddha
905 Hot Dog Pound
Tacos Carlito's Way
The Red Chip Wagon
Euro Kitchen
Alfies's Lemonade
Tropical Oasis
Cupcakes By Laura
Feather & Fern
Shriner's Creek Kettle Popcorn
Mini Mabel's Cookie Co.
The Social Tea Co.
The Strudel Ladies
Chef and Bub
Royal Oak Refreshments



NIAGARA POLO

Silent Auction

CLOSES AT 3:30 PM



Our silent auction is digital

What a great way to support and NEVER leave your seat.

Visit

32auctions.com/MuseumPolo2026

or scan here





Thank you to our Polo players

CLIFF SIFTON

KEVIN BROWN

KING WARD

KIM TSOI

CJ SIFTON

STEVE FLOWERS

JOHNATHAN HOSTICK

CLARE LITTLECHILD

EVAN WHITE JR

CONNOR O'LEARY

JESSICA SICKINGER

ABDUL ALI

FERNANDO MASSALIN

ELVIN YU

EMILY HURST

YURIM PARK



BUILDING
HISTORY

Strengthening Community



Help Preserve Niagara-on-the-Lake's Legacy and Support the Museum's Expansion

Our Capital Campaign is
officially underway.

Your investment ensures that
Niagara-on-the-Lake's rich
history is made accessible, its
unique heritage is celebrated,
and its legacy is preserved for
generations to come.



DONATE



**With your support,
the expansion will:**

BRIDGE PERSPECTIVES

Expand knowledge through a new research space, increased collections storage, and interactive programming capabilities.

CULTIVATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Ensure barrier-free access and social inclusion for all visitors with new community spaces.

ELEVATE UNTOLD STORIES

Amplify community voices through engaging exhibitions that create experiential learning and foster cultural belonging.

To learn more contact
Amy Klassen, Executive Director at
aklassen@nhsm.ca or 905-468-3912



Renderings courtesy of Lynch + Comisso: Architecture + Light

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



NIAGARAPOLO.COM
@NIAGARAPOLO

NOTLMUSEUM.CA
@NOTLMUSEUM

