



IT'S SUPER BOWL SUNDAY.  
CAN DAVID  
DEFEAT GOLIATH?  
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# NIAGARA NEWS

FEB. 2, 2018 · VOL. 49 ISSUE 6

## New CEO named for summer Games

By LISA BROWN  
Staff Writer

The Canada Games board of directors unveiled Wayne Parrish as the chief executive officer for the summer youth competition coming to the Niagara region in 2021. He received the news only about a week ago.

"I could not have been more excited when I learned that I would be spending at least the next four years, and perhaps much longer...in your midst working with you, and everyone in this region, to accomplish something that I believe can be absolutely great," said Parrish. "There's never been a greater moment to bring together an entire region and this country."

The Canada Summer Games is the largest youth multisport event in the world. These games are even bigger than the Winter Olympics, according to local media personality Rob Mawhood. About 4,600 to 4,700 athletes from all 13 provinces and territories are expected to visit in and out of Niagara leading to the games for trial events, such as the 2018 FIBA Americas under-18 boys basketball tournament, in June.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Niagara," says the chief executive officer of Basketball Canada, Michele O'Keefe. "National team coaches and international coaches will be present."

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## They've got spirit!



All-star Athletes compete at Winterfest cheerleading competition at the Meridian Centre on Jan.27. More photos and story on pages 6/7.  
PHOTO BY BETH AUDET

## Dykstra follows Brown

### Progressive Conservative party in chaos as leader, president call it quits

By MELISSA BURTON  
Staff Writer

The Ontario Progressive Conservative party is cleaning house.

Rick Dykstra, Ontario PC party president and former MP for St. Catharines, announced his resignation via Twitter on Sunday evening.

"It has been a wonderful experience to watch the party's renewal, and over the next couple of months we will see the party coalesce around a new leader," read his statement.

"As this process unfolds, I have made the decision to step aside as president and take a step back for someone else to lead us through the hard work."

Dykstra stepping down comes on the heels of Ontario PC leader Patrick Brown resigning after two women came forward accusing him of sexual misconduct.

North Bay MPP Vic Fedeli has been appointed to replace Brown as the party's interim leader. A vote for a permanent leader will take place on March 10.



RICK DYKSTRA  
SUBMITTED PHOTO

Local PC MPP Sam Oosterhoff reacted to the accusations in a statement.

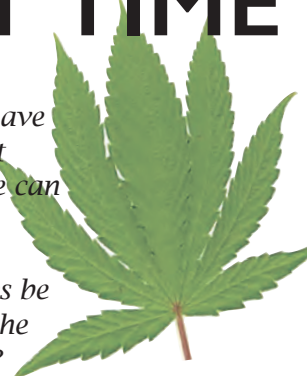
"The Ontario PC Party unequivocally upholds the principle that a safe and respectful society is what we expect and deserve. We need to move forward to eradicate sexual violence and harassment across the province."

"Everyone has the right to be free from unwelcome behaviour or advances. I do not and will not tolerate abuse or harassment, and I will do everything in my power to fight against it. My heart goes out to the women who have been impacted by this behaviour."

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## ALMOST TIME TO LIGHT UP: ARE WE READY?

*Cannabis will be legal this summer and governments have been rushing to prepare. But questions still remain. Where can you smoke on campus? How will we keep our roads safe? And where will the jobs be as Niagara tries to become the cannabis capital of Canada?*



By RENATO PEDRESCHI  
Special to the News

While many Canadians are looking forward to legally purchasing and enjoying marijuana for the first time on July 1, the federal government is confident that they are on the right path to keep those partaking off the road.

"I am absolutely confident that Niagara Regional Police will be able to keep the roads safe," says Chris Bittle, Liberal Member of Parliament for St. Catharines, who participated in a recent panel discussion hosted by Niagara College to spread awareness and answer questions about the new law.

When the Liberal party tabled legislation outlining the legal use and cultivation of cannabis they made it very clear that impaired driving was a high priority and not something to be accepted.

That came in the form of Bill C-46.

"Police officers will no

longer need reasonable probable suspicion to administer a breath test. They will be able to administer a breath test on a random or mandatory basis," says Bittle, referring to one of the changes that Bill C-46 plans to make to the crimina code.

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