

# Niagara Wine Trail teams with Buffalo Bills Alumni Foundation to host first 'Preseason Kickoff Weekend'

Football season is here again! Celebrate with the Niagara Wine Trail and the Buffalo Bills Alumni Foundation during the first-ever "Preseason Kickoff Weekend," Saturday, Aug. 20 (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and Sunday, Aug. 21 (noon to 5 p.m.). Presale tickets are \$45 and are available at [www.NiagaraWineTrail.org](http://www.NiagaraWineTrail.org). Proceeds benefit both organizations.

"We are excited to partner with members of the Buffalo Bills Alumni Foundation, who will be on hand at specific locations throughout the weekend," said Shane Gustafson, president of the Niagara Wine Trail and owner of Gust of Sun Winery. "Everyone is encouraged to wear their football gear, bring memorabilia to have autographed, and take selfies with the alumni members."

The Buffalo Bills Alumni appearance

schedule is:

• Saturday, noon until 2 p.m. – A Gust of Sun Winery, 4515 Baer Road, Ransomville  
√ Paul Maguire – (1964-70) punter; former NFL and ESPN sports commentator

√ Ed Rutkowski – (1963-68) receiver, defensive back, punt and kickoff returner, backup QB; Rutkowski is also a former Erie County executive

• Sunday, noon until 2 p.m. – Becker Farms/Vizcarra Vineyards, 3724 Quaker Road, Gasport

√ Booker Edgerson – (1962-69) corner-back; Buffalo Bills Wall of Fame honoree  
√ Lou Piccone – (1977-82) wide receiver and kick returner

• Sunday, 2-4 p.m. – Schulze Vineyards & Winery, 2090 Coomer Road, Burt

√ Ken Jones – (1976-86) offensive line-man

√ Jeff Nixon – (1979-84) defensive back

In addition, guests will receive a limited-edition, dual-branded Niagara Wine Trail and Buffalo Bills Alumni Foundation stainless wine tumbler, as well as three tastes of wine from each participating winery. This self-led weekend also features various football-related activities and merchandise for sale from local vendors. Food trucks and other food options will be available. Check [www.NiagaraWineTrail.org](http://www.NiagaraWineTrail.org) for more information.

Participating wineries include:

√ A Gust of Sun Winery & Vineyard (Ransomville)

√ Honeymoon Trail Winery (Lockport)

√ Leonard Oakes Estate Winery (Medina)

√ Long Cliff Vineyards (Sanborn)

√ Mayer's Lake Ontario (Hilton)

√ Schulze Vineyards & Winery (Burt)

√ Vizcarra Vineyards (Gasport)

√ The Winery at Marjim Manor (Appleton)

For a full schedule of activities at each participating winery, or to purchase tickets, visit [www.NiagaraWineTrail.org](http://www.NiagaraWineTrail.org). More information can also be found on the Niagara Wine Trail's Facebook and Instagram pages. For additional details on the Buffalo Bills Alumni Foundation, visit [www.BuffaloBillsAlumni.com](http://www.BuffaloBillsAlumni.com).

The Niagara Wine Trail celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2022. The organization comprises 14 member wineries, situated between the Niagara Escarpment and Lake Ontario, stretching through Niagara, Orleans and Monroe counties.

## IN THE NEWS

### 'Living History Weekend' at Old Fort Niagara

Old Fort Niagara's history spans almost 300 years. During those three centuries of occupation, the fort has seen combat for only about 23 days.

On Aug. 20-21, Old Fort Niagara will host a "Living History Weekend" that explores what daily life was like during the rest of the fort's history when men, women and children went about their daily tasks, working to survive at an isolated frontier outpost.

Highlighting the weekend event will be special interactive programs that allow visitors to step back in time and engage in the fur trade, guard the fort, participate in a military drill, lay out an 18th century fortification, bake bread, sing period songs and play 18th century games.

Living history interpreters will also demonstrate 18th century food preparation; lighting; beadwork and quillwork; muskets and artillery; preparing for winter; fishing; and hairdressing. Children will have the

opportunity to guess who's who, as they tour the fort and meet characters from the 1750s, 1770s and 1812 eras. Each child will receive a hand-out showing different uniforms to take home and color.

Organizers said, "Most of Old Fort Niagara's special events focus on conflicts in which the fort saw action. 'Living History Weekend' offers a different perspective – allowing the visitor to experience and take part in daily life for the fort's French, British and American garrisons."

### Rapids Bowling Center fundraiser for Help and Hope for Homeless

The Rapids Bowling Center will sponsor a "no-tap" bowling event for the charity Help and Hope for Homeless on Saturday, Aug. 20, at 9524 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Rapids is donating 100% of the proceeds to the charity. The cost to bowl is \$10 person, and includes three games of bowling plus shoes. Bumpers will be provided for children to use when they bowl. There

are two shifts to bowl. The first will start at 9:30 a.m. and the second one starts at 12:30 p.m.

"No-tap" gives players a strike if they knock down nine pins on their first ball. This event is open to anyone who wishes to bowl and to have an enjoyable time while helping out a charity.

Entry forms can be picked up at Rapids Bowling, or by download from [rapidsbowlingcenter.com](http://rapidsbowlingcenter.com).

There will be a raffle items to win donated items from local businesses, plus a 50-50 split held near the end of each bowling session. Winners need not be present to win. Rapids will have food and beverages for purchase during the event.

Organizers said, "Individuals can help the charity by bowling, donating, providing baskets for the raffle, and by bringing them to Rapids prior to or on the day of bowling. We also are in need of volunteers to help us in selling tickets for the raffled items and our 50/50 drawings. For more information or to have any questions, contact John Loss at 716-773-9781 or call Rapids at 716-297-2500. Hope to see you bowling with us on Saturday, Aug. 22."

### Heart, Love & Soul recognition dinner

Funding will support food, hospitality & social care programs

Heart, Love & Soul will host its 17th annual recognition dinner at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 23 at Niagara University, with a plated dinner and live auction. The event is a celebration of the achievements of HLS, a hunger relief and social services nonprofit in Niagara Falls, as well as recognizing the organizations and people that have been instrumental in its success.

Executive Director of Heart, Love & Soul Mark Baetzhold said, "The annual recognition dinner is a wonderful opportunity that brings people together to highlight the

important work we do in Niagara Falls. Heart, Love & Soul's mission of feeding those in need – body, mind and soul, is only possible because of the generous and faithful hearts of the volunteers and partners who are so committed to our mission. On this special occasion, we celebrate our awardees – Myra Supon, Karen Welch and Lawrence Cook – and give thanks for all those who pour their hearts and souls into serving the community."

This year's dinner boasts a live auction, fund-a-need (paddle up auction), and door prizes. WIVB Channel 4 is the official television sponsor of the 17th annual recognition dinner.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.heartloveandsoul.org/annualdinner](http://www.heartloveandsoul.org/annualdinner).

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### Niagara Falls Bridge Commission sponsors Lewiston Art Festival

The arts can build bridges across cultures, generations and geographies. The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission supports the efforts of Lewiston Council on the Arts as sponsor of the Lewiston Art Festival. Now in its 56th year, the 2022 festival is scheduled for this weekend.

Pictured, from left, front row (sitting): Geoff Topping (Ontario), chairperson; and Ken Bieger, CEO; and standing, from left: Harry R. Palladino (New York), vice chairperson; Kathleen L. Neville (New York), treasurer; LCA Artistic Director Eva Nicklas; Bart Maves (Ontario); LCA Executive Director Irene Rykaszewski; and Francis A. Soda (New York). (Submitted)