TOO GROOVY

THE COVER STORY / PAGE 04

JOE GONZALEZ



ONE MAN.
THREE HATS.
PLENTY OF TOPPINGS.

From Pizza Review Joe to Right Choice Realty and Wainfleet council.

ALSO INSIDE

ISSUE 03 / NOVEMBER 2026



GERRY BOLEY

Humour, hockey & the art of making people smile.

13



JASON FONTAINE

Family in the fast lane.

24

INSIDE ISSUE 03

THE PEOPLE, THE PLACES, THE UNEXPECTED

THE LINEUP



THE COVER STORY

JOE GONZALEZ

The pizza critic, the realtor and the newest voice at Wainfleet council.

04–11



CULTURE & COMMUNITY

GERRY BOLEY

The Missing Arrow, creative mischief and the surprising power of humour.

13–22



MOTORSPORT & FAMILY

JASON FONTAINE

The No. 1J, a lifetime of racing and the people who keep the wheels turning.

24–30

03 From the Editor / Matt Paul
12 Toolbox Project Niagara
23 Right Choice Happenings Realty
31 Until Next Time / Back Cover

A LITTLE GROOVY GOES A LONG WAY.

GOOD PEOPLE. GREAT STORIES.

A NOTE FROM MATT PAUL

EDITOR & PUBLISHER / TOO GROOVY

There is something wonderful about meeting people who are thoroughly themselves. They are busy, enthusiastic, sometimes wonderfully unpredictable—and they remind us that the best stories are rarely confined to a single job title.

Welcome to **Issue 3 of Too Groovy.** This edition is about people who put energy into what they love and share a little of it with everyone around them.

Joe Gonzalez is our cover story. He talks about the lessons of growing up on a Wainfleet strawberry farm, building Right Choice Happenings Realty and finding a surprising connection between a slice of pizza and the relationships that make a community. His newest chapter, a seat on Wainfleet council, is another chance to put those values to work.

Joe's story has a playful quality, but there is an important idea beneath it: success is not a finish line. Sometimes it is simply getting a little better at what matters, one day at a time.

Gerry Boley takes us into another colourful corner of Niagara life. His playful Canadian tributes, humour writing and charitable hockey stories are reminders that laughter can do more than entertain. It can make a room feel welcoming and give an important cause the attention it deserves.

Then there is **Jason Fontaine**, whose racing story is also a family story. Beyond the No. 1J and the chequered flag are the people who work, worry and celebrate together. The cars may be loud; the loyalty behind them is what stays with you.

We have also made room for the **Toolbox Project Niagara**, because community support belongs alongside the stories of the people it helps inspire.

Thank you for reading, sharing our stories and celebrating the remarkable people living close to home. Here's to the next conversation, the next unexpected idea and the next reason to smile.

Matt Paul

Editor & Publisher / Too Groovy

REAL PEOPLE / REAL STORIES / REAL NIAGARA

THE TOO GROOVY COVER STORY

ONE MAN. THREE HATS. PLENTY OF TOPPINGS.



JOE GONZALEZ • WAINFLEET

There are people who carefully separate their professional lives from their passions. And then there is Joe Gonzalez. His business card might say broker of record at Right Choice Happenings Realty. His social-media followers know him as Pizza Review Joe. After Wainfleet's October 2026 municipal election, residents know him as one of the community's incoming councillors. The categories look wildly different until Joe starts talking. Then a theme emerges: relationships, curiosity, hard work and the belief that good things happen when you put in the effort.

A conversation with Joe has a way of turning from housing to pizza dough to local government and back again without missing a beat. He is comfortable discussing the price of a home and the texture of a crust, but he becomes most animated when the subject is someone he has met or something he still has to learn. For a magazine devoted to interesting people doing interesting things, that combination is practically a menu written for us.

His newest public role is real: in the October 26 election, Gonzalez received 1,606 votes, the largest vote total among Wainfleet's council candidates. The new council term begins with a whole recipe.

"I always seem to find something to keep me preoccupied. It helps keep me out of trouble."

01 / ROOTS

The Strawberry Patch School of Life

Before the sales meetings and the pizza ratings, there were long days, family routines and rows of strawberries in Wainfleet.



Joe's story begins with his rural Wainfleet upbringing and an early education in hard work.

> **I literally remember working before I was able to walk, sitting on my mom's lap on the planter, planting strawberries.**
>
> — JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

Ask Joe about the beginning and he does not start with a first house sale or a viral video. He starts with a farm. Born at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, he was brought home to Wainfleet, where his family grew produce and operated a pick-your-own strawberry business. His earliest memories are astonishingly practical: the movement of farm equipment, the rhythm of planting, and helping before he was old enough to understand that the word "work" was supposed to sound like a chore.

"My work ethic is, I believe, one of my strongest suits," he says, tracing it to those early years. His household was small: his parents, an older brother thirteen years his senior and Joe. When his brother went away to college, Joe was still young. That left plenty of time to absorb the lessons of his mother and father, lessons that now surface whether he is explaining a real-estate decision or his reasons for running for council.

His father, who died about a decade ago, taught him a line that stayed: when you do your best, you have nothing to worry about. His mother, he says, brought patience, intelligence, a strong faith and the ability to show him how to learn, even when school did not always come easily. Those memories are not ornamental details in Joe's story. They are the foundation under everything that followed.

Joe's definition of success would look unusual on a motivational poster: it is not a magic salary, a bigger house or a particular car. "Success is simply improving. It's not an end goal," he says. It is a philosophy built for long projects—the kind that ask you to show up again tomorrow, whether a field needs tending, a client needs advice or a community needs someone willing to listen.

02 / THE BUSINESS

A House Is a Big Deal. So Is Trust.

Right Choice Happenings Realty began with a steep learning curve, old-school mentorship and a very modern approach to reaching people.



Gonzalez founded Right Choice Happenings Realty in 2019 after entering real estate in 2013.

> **If we're not doing the best damn job we can marketing it, what are we really doing here?**
>
> — JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

Joe has been selling real estate since 2013, but his story does not begin with effortless expertise. When he entered the business, he says, he had little knowledge of houses, did not yet own one, and was still living in his parents' basement. Suddenly, people were trusting him with transactions that would shape their lives. He understood that enthusiasm alone was not enough. He needed to learn quickly, work hard and find people who knew the traps before he fell into them.

He credits mentors, including Dean Pedro and longtime real-estate professional Don Takach, with helping him learn the business. Their guidance met the work ethic he had brought from the farm. By 2019, he had opened his own brokerage, Right Choice Happenings Realty, and had been recognized by the Niagara Association of REALTORS as Marketer of the Year. Joe appreciates that acknowledgement, but he quickly steers the conversation away from awards and toward the people who pay a professional to handle a major life decision.

He talks about marketing with the energy of someone who has spent a great deal of time testing what actually gets attention. For him, a listing needs more than a sign on the lawn. It needs an audience—and the audience has to exist before the listing arrives. He believes video, useful content and a consistent online presence help bring that audience together. The pizza camera, it turns out, would become part of this larger experiment.

But Joe keeps circling back to the same thing: "It's what I value the most in my life is relationships with people." His answer may not be polished corporate language. That is precisely why it sounds like him. Houses matter, and marketing matters, but the person on the other side of the deal is why he does it.

03 / THE PIZZA GUY

One Bite. A Thousand Stories.

Pizza Review Joe was not a random internet gimmick. It grew from a very deliberate idea: use something you love to shine a light on local businesses.



The Pizza Review Joe identity combines Joe's love of food with the reach of online video.

> **The best pizzas I've had have that foundation of an amazing crust.**
>
> — JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

Before there was Pizza Review Joe, there were burger reviews and videos such as Must See Mondays. Joe had been experimenting with content for years, looking for a way to build an audience without losing the fun of it. Food was the obvious opening. He loves it, he says candidly, and he loves the people and small businesses behind it. The reviews offered a chance to meet owners, promote neighbourhood spots and build an audience that would also recognize his real-estate work.

He laughs when remembering what may have been his first pizza review: a vending-machine pizza in Stayner. It was, by his account, terrible. Not exactly an auspicious beginning for a man now identified with the quest for a great slice. Yet the adventure stuck, and Joe says he has reviewed more than a thousand pizzas. Somewhere along the way, an occasional video turned into a recognizable local personality.

What separates a merely good pizza from a memorable one? Joe can talk cheese, sauce, toppings, distribution and cooking technique, but if you demand one answer, he picks the crust. That is where, he says, the science lives. Different flours, fermentation methods and dough-making approaches create the foundation for everything that comes next. You might have beautiful toppings, but a weak crust can sink the whole operation.

And then there is the sheer pleasure of discovering a tiny restaurant that takes its craft seriously. The camera may have started as a marketing tool, but the pleasure Joe gets from the search sounds genuine. In the Too Groovy universe, that is the sweet spot: business and curiosity sharing the same table, preferably with napkins close by.

04 / NO BAD TOPPINGS

The Diplomatic Art of a Pizza Score

Honest reviews, thin crust or thick, old-school hip-hop and one very decisive answer to the pineapple question.



For Joe, the best food discoveries are as much about local people as the final score.

> **People should put whatever they want on pizza that makes them happy.**
>
> — JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

Of course, once you start rating other people's food, you learn that everyone would prefer a higher score. Joe says that can be true whether he gives a restaurant a rough review or a very strong one. He tries to keep the comments honest, constructive and respectful. Sometimes an owner is disappointed; sometimes a conversation helps. He admits a few owners have remained unhappy with him. His aim is not to humiliate anyone—it is to offer a real opinion while continuing to highlight the businesses that make a community interesting.

We gave him the essential Too Groovy test: thin crust or thick? Joe refused to be boxed in. His two favourite styles are wood-fired and Detroit-style pizza, which occupy entirely different ends of the pizza universe. Pineapple? Absolutely fine. Banana? Anchovies? If someone likes it, put it on the pizza. This is a man who believes food should make people happy, not start a neighbourhood referendum.

If you want to know where the camera-free version of Joe actually goes, he gives an answer. He says his highest-rated pizza in Niagara is at The Lock Wood Fired Pizza in Port Colborne and that it is the place he returns to most often when he is not filming a review. It is a wonderfully simple endorsement from someone who has spent so much time chasing the next slice.

A few other quick bites: old-school hip-hop is his favourite music; luxury and comfort win over a flashy sports car; and if he could sit down for pizza with one person, living or deceased, he would choose his father. The last answer lands differently from the others. Behind the jokes and ratings is a man whose most important memories are still close to home.

05 / A NEW ROLE

From the Camera to the Council Table

In October, Wainfleet voters elected Joe Gonzalez to council. He says the next chapter begins with listening, relationships and learning.



In the October 26, 2026 municipal election, Joe received 1,606 votes in the Wainfleet councillor race.

> **I love Wainfleet, and I think I can add value being on council.**
>
> — JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

The newest chapter on Joe's crowded calendar has nothing to do with an open house or a pizza oven. In Wainfleet's municipal election on October 26, 2026, he received 1,606 votes—more than any other council candidate. As we spoke shortly after the vote, he described the result as remarkable, not because it confirmed some grand theory about his popularity, but because so many neighbours had chosen to place their confidence in him.

His reasons for running begin with affection for his hometown. Then come the things he already knows he enjoys: meeting people, helping solve problems and learning how organizations work. He describes the chance to develop relationships with residents, municipal employees, other councillors and neighbouring communities as a meaningful part of the job. He also speaks warmly of his friendship with re-elected Mayor Brian Grant. The way Joe tells it, collaboration—not a solo performance—is the point.

Asked what Wainfleet residents should notice during his first year, Joe resists making a flashy promise. "I've never done it before, so I've got a lot to learn in the first year," he says. He points instead to two large files he expects to confront early: municipal budget decisions and the township's official plan. Roads, tax value, service and communication matter to him, but he wants to understand the workings of council before pretending that every solution is obvious.

One door-knocking surprise? A few residents told him they were comfortable with their property-tax bills. He had not expected that. It is a good reminder, for any new councillor, that a town is made up of different households with different priorities. Pizza may come with a score out of ten. Local government, Joe is already discovering, rarely offers a single number that settles the matter.

06 / COMMUNITY FIRST

A Small-Town Voice in a Big Conversation

On growth, amalgamation and development, Joe's recurring question is how decisions affect the relationships and character of Wainfleet.



Joe says protecting Wainfleet's distinct rural character is part of why he sought public office.

> **Of course there can be financial gains from it, but it's all about how it's done.**
>
> — JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

Wainfleet is a community where people know the roads, know the farms and often know the families behind the front doors. For Joe, that familiarity is not merely nostalgia. It is a form of local connection he wants to preserve. The possibility of municipal amalgamation worries him because he believes larger structures could dilute the community's ability to make its own decisions. Yet he is not dismissive of every argument for administrative change.

Asked whether consolidation could save money, he allows that it might. Shared services, he says, can be a sound idea if they are designed and delivered well. The challenge is judging the details: who makes decisions, which services are combined and whether a smaller community keeps a meaningful voice. Those are positions he expressed in our interview, not settled conclusions about what any particular restructuring proposal would accomplish.

His real-estate background also shapes how he views municipal costs and housing affordability. Joe believes taxes and government charges on development deserve close examination; the size and impact of those costs depend on the specific project and jurisdiction. When asked about the possibility of conflicts between his brokerage and council decisions, he distinguished the value of industry experience from matters in which he would have a direct personal interest. In such cases, he says, he understands that he would need to step aside. Formal conflict rules, of course, are governed by law and the facts of each case.

There is a serious subject under the fun profile here. Council service is not a pizza review. Decisions have long consequences, and reasonable people disagree. Joe's stated approach is to bring his experience to the table while continuing to listen and learn. What that means in practice will be measured over the term ahead.

07 / THE PERSON

The Best Things Aren't on the Scorecard

For all his ventures, Joe's most revealing answers are about his father, the people around him and the kind of life he is trying to build.



Ernie Gonzalez (left) with his brother Joe Gonzalez (right) enjoy pizza together at a local restaurant.

> "I hope they say that I brought value to their life."
>
> – JOE GONZALEZ | INTERVIEW EXCERPT

We closed our conversation by asking about setbacks, goals and the person Joe hopes people will remember. The hardest chapter, he says, was losing his father. He had some time to prepare emotionally: his father lived to eighty, and Joe had grown up conscious that his parents were older than those of many classmates. Still, nothing makes that loss simple. It sharpened his appreciation for the moments people get together, moments that cannot be bought or reclaimed.

He talks about his mother, his brother and his girlfriend with obvious gratitude. And when he looks toward the future, he is less interested in naming one glittering achievement than in building a life in which those relationships grow stronger. He has spoken openly about working on his health, recognizing that even people who spend much of their time helping others can overlook themselves. The work, once again, is about improving, not arriving at a perfect final score.

That idea ties the whole story together. The Wainfleet farm kid who learned by watching his parents became a broker who prizes mentorship, a food reviewer who wants local restaurants seen and a councillor-elect who says there is much he must learn. The projects are different; the underlying habit is the same: get involved, pay attention and keep going.

At the end, we asked Joe to imagine the year 2030, after a first council term, more real-estate deals and perhaps more pizza than anyone could sensibly count. What would he hope people would say? His reply was short: "I hope they say that I brought value to their life." For Pizza Review Joe, that may be the only rating that really matters. And that, friends, is very Too Groovy.

TOOLBOX PROJECT
NIAGARA
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

10 Years of Community Care

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What began as a grassroots effort has grown into a Niagara-wide movement of support. Toolbox Project Niagara helps provide care packages f lled with personal hygiene items, warm clothing, and everyday essentials for people facing homelessness and hardship.

Every donation, volunteer hour, and community partnership helps deliver comfort, dignity, and hope to neighbours in need.

How You Can Help

- Donate essential care items
- Support local collection drives
- Volunteer your time
- Partner as a sponsor or community organization
- Learn more at toolboxproject.ca



Niagara has big hearts — and together, we can make a real difference.

Visit toolboxproject.ca

Support. Donate. Volunteer.

TOO GROOVY | THE BIG FEATURE

THE ART OF MAKING PEOPLE SMILE

Gerry Boley, the Missing Arrow Awards, and a distinctly Canadian way of mixing music, hockey and humour



Archival illustration, The Missing Arrow (1998). Artwork supplied to Too Groovy.

There is a very Canadian imagination that sees moose, a snowstorm and the Avro Arrow—and invites Santa Claus into the picture. In *The Missing Arrow*, a fighter jet waits where a sleigh might be. The joke is affectionate, instantly recognizable and full of unexpected national pride.

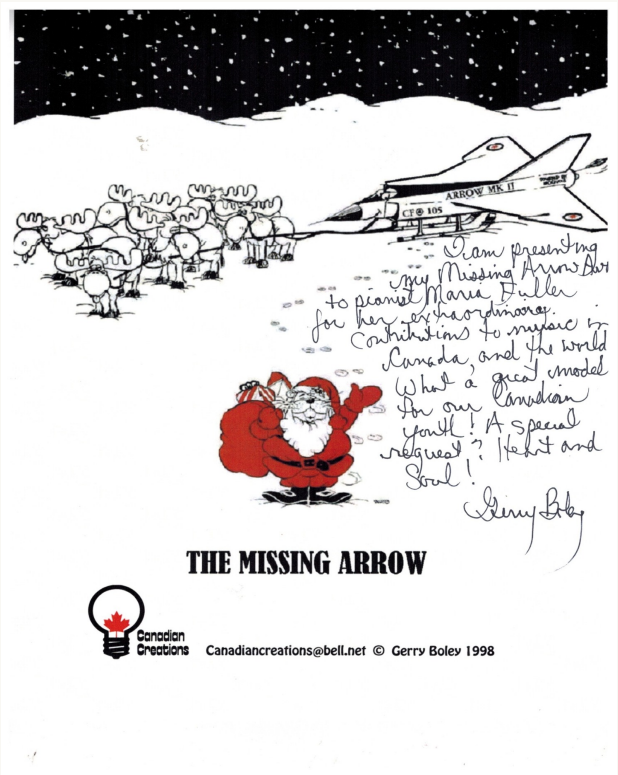
That image offers a doorway into the work of **Gerry Boley**: personalized tributes to musicians, inventive approaches to teaching, and the theatrical charity hockey project known as the Sisters game. His work has a simple impulse—use surprise and a smile to encourage people to pay attention.

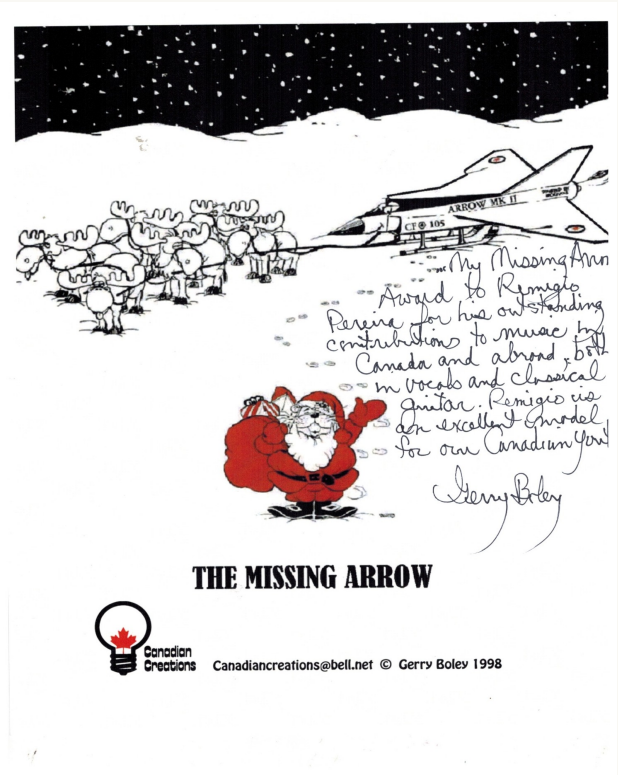
The subjects may range from classical guitar to classrooms and hockey, but a common purpose emerges: celebrate ability, lower barriers and bring neighbours together. The laugh is an opening, not an end in itself.

PAGE TWO | THE MISSING ARROW

AN AWARD WITH A WINK

When a hand-drawn Canadian joke becomes a heartfelt thank-you





Above: Missing Arrow tributes honouring pianist Maria Fuller and singer-guitarist Remigio Pereira.

Awards often follow a familiar formula: a formal announcement, a polished trophy and applause. The *Missing Arrow* images take another route. Each retains its playful illustration and makes room for a handwritten tribute that is both personal and unmistakably Canadian.

One archival piece recognizes pianist **Maria Fuller**; another honours **Remigio Pereira**, a vocalist and classical guitarist. They salute accomplishment while asking the recipients to be models for young people who may be discovering their own talents.

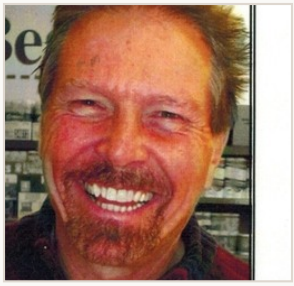
The aircraft recalls one of Canada's most recognizable technological stories, while the improbable moose team prevents the gesture from becoming overly solemn. With a 1998 Canadian Creations credit, these images capture an era when a customized print could become a keepsake rather than another passing message.

PAGE THREE | HUMOUR AND WELL-BEING

HUMOUR THAT WORKS

Why laughter matters to teachers, students, administrators and workers

The two-sided humour pamphlet is a practical case for laughter where pressure runs high: classrooms, universities, offices and recovery programs. Gerry Boley treats humour not as a distraction, but as a way to reduce stress, build rapport and help people feel comfortable enough to learn.



VOICES FROM THE HUMOUR PAMPHLET AND CORRESPONDENCE

A SERIOUS CONFERENCE

"Gerry helped put everyone at ease and set the stage for a very informative and fun conference."

Rita Carey
Singer, DJ and WARM keynote speaker; on a women's addiction recovery conference

A HAT TRICK OF LAUGHS

"He uses humour to effectively break down barriers for women in recovery, and eases the "bumpy" road towards healing. Very funny and very effective."

Ann-Marie Guilmette, Ph.D.
Former Brock University chair; founder and president of WARM

MAKING WORKPLACES HUMAN

"A merry heart is a stress-free heart. The best effect of humour in the workplace is that it is a hierarchy killer, building equality among employees."

Patch Adams
Physician, activist and advocate for humour

TEACHING FUTURE EDUCATORS

"Gerry Boley provided an outstanding multi-media presentation which was interesting, motivating and inspiring to the students."

Tina VanKuran
Brock University professor, Therapeutic Benefits of Humour

FROM DR. KENNETH COOPER

"I was most interested and amused by what you have accomplished with your 'hockey nuns'. And the fact that as an educator, you have used humour to make a point to keep the attention of your students."

In a letter to Gerry Boley, December 7, 2020

PAGE FOUR | LADIES IN BLACK

A VERY UNORTHODOX LINE CHANGE

Charity hockey, theatrical characters — and a message for young players



The Ladies in Black: theatre, hockey skill and an unmistakable sense of fun.



At Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Founded in 2005, Gerry Boley's Ladies in Black combined charity exhibition hockey with costumed characters and on-ice comedy. Players had experience from junior to professional hockey. The original fundraising effort supported Parkinson's causes.

From Sister Margarita to Bigfoot, Suzuki and Chubby Cheeks, the characters made the rink more welcoming. The same playful ensemble also took part in *Walk a Mile in Her Shoes* activities, carrying its message beyond the ice.

THE LADIES IN BLACK MOTTO

TRAIN HARD. PLAY HARD. PLAY FAIR. ABOVE ALL, HAVE FUN.

A lesson for young players — and the joy at the heart of the story covered by *The Hockey News*.

PAGE FIVE | PUCKS4PEACE

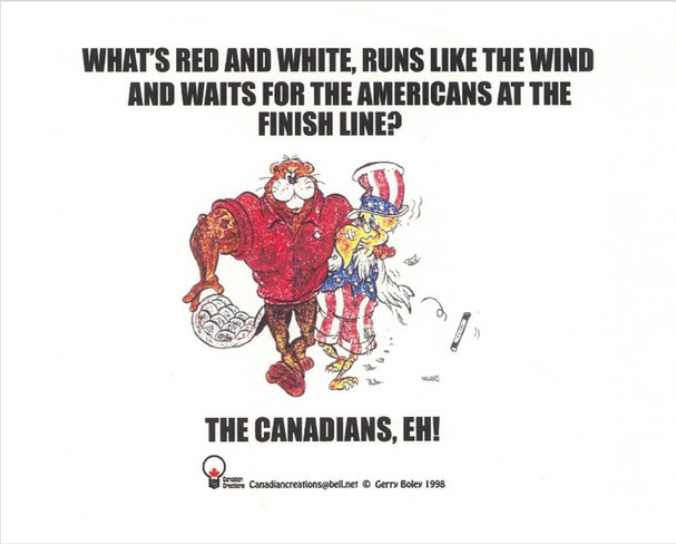
THE BIGGER GAME

Finding common ground across borders with hockey instead of hostility

CANADA	CHINA	UNITED STATES

Pucks4Peace takes the lessons of the Ladies in Black beyond charity hockey. As Gerry Boley describes it, exhibition games involving Chinese, American and Canadian players can develop friendships through the shared rituals of sport: skating hard, respecting an opponent and meeting afterward as people rather than national symbols.

The historical contrast is striking. China, Canada and the United States were on the Allied side during the Second World War. Present-day political disagreements do not erase that history — or the possibility of personal friendships.



A 1998 Canadian Creations cartoon by Gerry Boley uses friendly Canada–U.S. rivalry as a joke; it does not depict a Pucks4Peace match.

FROM COMPETITORS TO FRIENDS

At a time when escalating international tensions can create fear of a shooting war, Boley argues that sport offers a way for people to know one another apart from political headlines. An exhibition does not resolve diplomacy, but it can make a rival more human.

The puck, the rules and a common respect for effort make a starting point. Whether the visitors wear Canadian, Chinese or American colours, friendships made through shared sporting experiences can carry meaning well beyond a final score.

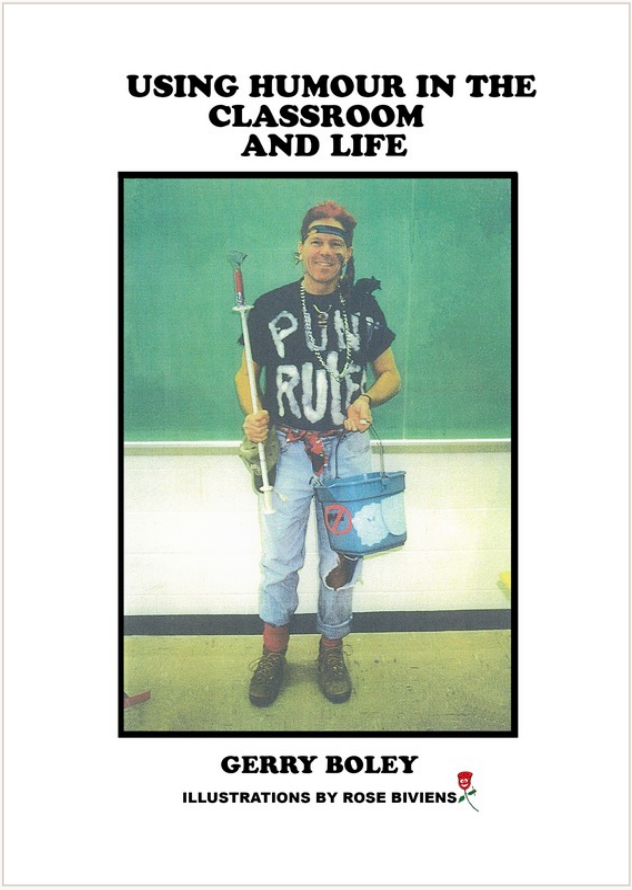
THE GOAL IS CONNECTION

Play hard. Shake hands. Leave the rink with new friends — even when your countries disagree.

PAGE SIX | THE CLASSROOM AND THE BOOK

THE CLASSROOM AS A STAGE

Thirty years of anecdotes in Using Humour in the Classroom and Life



The Squeegee Kid on the cover of Gerry Boley's completed 41-page humour book.

The cover of *Using Humour in the Classroom and Life* shows Gerry in theatrical attire before a school blackboard. It is a deliberately informal image of a classroom where students want to be — a place relaxed enough to invite curiosity rather than avoidance.

Drawing on **30 years in education**, Boley uses comic stories to show how teachers can improve relationships with their students. The humour is part of the learning environment: it can build rapport, help hold attention and make both social and academic lessons easier to approach.

That philosophy extends beyond teachers. Anywhere people need to feel heard, a well-judged laugh can make a difficult conversation possible.

FROM GERRY'S CAFETERIA-DUTY STORIES

"Hey, whatever you do, don't drink the iced tea, they fed it to rats and they all died twitching after three days!"

The outrageous line is part of a comic anecdote — not a literal health warning — and illustrates his gift for catching students' attention.

MORE THAN A COLLECTION OF JOKES

Boley's book offers a practical model for teachers who want stronger student relationships through humour, warmth and participation.

PAGE SEVEN | YOUNG PEOPLE, BIG IDEAS

THE NEXT GENERATION

Learning, participation and the power of being heard



Gerry's GVSS Integrated Technology Anti-smoking/vaping/marijuana Program is 100% effective, introduced by Gerry and Liberal Environment Minister Jim Bradley to the Ministry of Education, the Healthy Schools Coordinator. Gerry is working with educators, MPPs and school boards to have his program reactivated.

A group photograph is an invitation to ask who had the idea, who made the signs, and who found the courage to join in. A message about health or community life can become much more memorable when young people do more than listen: they create something together.

That is a useful companion to Boley’s classroom humour. The laugh need not distract from the lesson. It can open a door to discussion, bring a shy student into the group and make a serious subject less intimidating without making it less important.

AN OPENING, NOT A DISTRACTION

The classroom can be a place for curiosity, laughter and a difficult conversation all at once.

PAGE EIGHT | HUMOUR WITH A PURPOSE

A LITTLE MORE HUMAN

A playful approach to the subjects that ask us to care





Left: an archive piece featuring the words “Walk a Mile.” Right: a separate tribute-style clipping or illustration.

The phrase “walk a mile” is one of those familiar expressions that becomes stronger when someone makes it visible. In Boley’s collection, cartoon imagery, printed keepsakes and public-minded themes repeatedly cross paths. Each uses a gentle nudge to help the audience see another point of view.

Not every page needs to announce a grand campaign. These archival images offer a quieter clue to the approach: be approachable first. A drawing or humorous caption can be shared, kept and revisited long after a conventional speech would have been forgotten.

THE HUMAN CONNECTION

Sometimes the smallest invitation to look again is the one that travels the farthest.

PAGE NINE | CANADIAN IMAGINATION

STILL LOOKING UP

From the Arrow to the unexpected stories hiding in plain sight



RCAFA Welland guest speaker: 'What if the Arrow Wasn't Cancelled?' Arrow on the moon with a Canadian flag; Canadians land first on the moon (Quebec's Heroux Engineering's legs).



Missing Arrow Award to Air Canada Captain Pearson, Metric Gimli Glider pilot.

SMALL DETAILS. BIG STORIES.

A supplied portrait photograph and an aviation-themed illustration offer different sides of a creative archive: people on one side, national symbols and playful possibilities on the other.

The aviation-themed artwork returns this extended feature to the Avro Arrow imagery on our opening page. There is a particular delight in taking a symbol often treated solemnly and giving it the light touch of a cartoon. A familiar Canadian story suddenly looks new.

Boley's interest in stories extends beyond humour itself. His named book projects, *Canadian Contributions to the American Society* and *James Bond is Canadian*, point toward the same curiosity about identity, invention and overlooked connections. Their publication dates are to be announced in the future.

BACK TO THE ARROW

From classroom pages to hockey costumes, the unexpected is the common thread.

PAGE TEN | THE LAST WORD

LONG LIVE THE UNEXPECTED

Gerry Boley's books, playful tributes and curiosity about Canadian history

Place the *Missing Arrow* artwork next to a completed humour book and a charity hockey story. Each begins with surprise and asks an audience to look a little closer.

Boley's creative outlook also reaches beyond comedy. He identifies further book projects titled *Canadian Contributions to the American Society* and *James Bond is Canadian*, following closely on his finished 41-page humour book. Publication dates are to be announced in the future.

The titles point toward a continuing interest in overlooked Canadian stories and the links that connect our culture to the wider world.



Archival pop-culture parody from the Boley materials.

MORE STORIES, MORE POSSIBILITY

Boley's archive makes room for stories still to be explored. The continuing interest in Canadian history, educational humour and community projects belongs alongside the finished tributes and the 41-page humour book. The next chapter can be told when the work itself is ready to be shared.

For *Too Groovy*, that is the through-line: recognize talent, use good humour and keep looking for fresh ways to tell Canadian stories.

Editorial sources: Gerry Boley's supplied pamphlet pages, testimonials, corrections and archive photographs; Gerry's account of Pucks4Peace; Dr. Kenneth Cooper letter (Dec. 7, 2020); Nicole Dawe, The Hockey News (Jan. 20, 2017).

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THE BIG FEATURE / MOTORSPORT & FAMILY

THE FAMILY IN THE FAST LANE

Jason Fontaine, the people behind the No. 1J, and the legacy that travels farther than any checkered flag.



Family and racing are inseparable in the Fontaine story. Photograph supplied to Too Groovy.

A race car can be identified in an instant: a number on the door, the colours that catch the floodlights, a familiar engine note as it accelerates out of the corner. The people behind it are harder to see. For Port Colborne racer Jason Fontaine, the story is larger than a driver and a finishing position. It includes Tina, his spouse; Ryan, his son; Savannah; his mother Bonnie; Uncle Barry; and the enduring influence of his late father, Neil.

This is the side of local motorsport that deserves a longer look. Before anyone cheers a pass on the final lap, somebody has given up evenings, made room for another set of tires, worried through a yellow flag or showed up simply because family shows up. The sport is public for a few hours each week. The commitment behind it continues long after the grandstand lights go dark.

Fontaine has the results to command attention. Merrittville Speedway lists the Port Colborne driver as a Hoosier Stock feature winner in multiple recent seasons, including four victories by early September 2026. But Too Groovy's interest is also in the human story: how the attraction of racing becomes a family language, and how a parent's example can remain powerful even after that parent is gone.

The checkered flag matters. So does everyone waiting for the car to come back to the pits.

PAGE TWO / THE ROOTS OF A RACER

THE NAME BEHIND THE NUMBER

Neil’s inspiration, Bonnie’s place in the story and Uncle Barry’s connection to the family road.



The equipment may change, but family influence gives racing its continuity.

Every racer has a beginning, although it is seldom as simple as a first green flag. Before technique comes fascination: the pull of a track, the familiarity of a garage, the feeling that something important is happening just beyond the fence. For Jason Fontaine, his father Neil belongs at the heart of that origin story. Neil has passed away, but the family identifies him as a lasting inspiration in Jason’s racing life.

It is a particular kind of inheritance. A racing family passes on more than a machine or a favourite track. It passes on a way of paying attention: how to listen for an engine that is not quite right, when to be patient, why a good result deserves humility and why a difficult night still deserves another try. Those values can be carried forward without pretending that grief disappears or that a memory can be measured in trophies.

Jason’s mother, Bonnie, and Uncle Barry belong in this wider portrait as well. Their importance is not in inventing a job title for each person or assigning them a corner of the pit stall. It is in recognizing that the family history behind a competitor often extends beyond the household pictured on victory-lane night. Parents, uncles and other relatives can give a sport its continuity, its stories and its familiar voices.

In an era when racing is usually reduced to short video clips and finishing-order graphics, the influence of Neil deserves space of its own. A lap takes seconds. A family example can shape decades. Jason’s accomplishments are his own, but the inspiration he credits to his father connects each new start to the people and experiences that came before it.

FROM THE PHONE INTERVIEW / JASON FONTAINE

“Every year on my birthday, my dad would let me drive his car.”

ON LEARNING FROM HIS FATHER NEIL

PAGE THREE / LIFE OFF THE TRACK

TINA AND THE OTHER SIDE OF RACE NIGHT

The untold work of building a life around a very demanding passion.



Racing celebrations are collective moments. Photograph supplied to Too Groovy.

A race night is often narrated from the driver's seat. The story sounds different from outside the car. There is a clock to watch, weather to study, plans to adjust and the persistent question of whether everything will be ready when it is time to load up. For Tina, Jason's spouse, the Fontaine racing story is also a story about family time and the practical reality of maintaining a commitment that does not always fit neatly into a calendar.

Grassroots motorsport has a way of making ordinary sacrifices look invisible. Tires do not appear from nowhere. Repairs occupy time that might have been spent somewhere else. A Saturday evening can become a long chain of preparation, travel, waiting, nerves, celebration or disappointment. Even the happiest victory photographs capture only a fraction of the effort that made the occasion possible.

That is why Tina's place in this feature matters. A driver may be the person wearing the helmet, but a racing household must decide together how much space the sport will occupy. Behind the excitement are relationships that need care and attention regardless of the standings. A good family motorsport story should make room for those people, rather than turning every conversation back into a list of finishes.

The lesson extends beyond racing. People who are deeply invested in any craft need those around them to be seen as individuals, not simply helpers. Their perspectives may differ from the driver's, and that difference makes the story stronger. The Fontaine family's shared experience reminds us that victory lane is not only the place where one person is photographed. It is also where the support behind that person briefly comes into view.

FROM THE PHONE INTERVIEW / JASON FONTAINE

“She's our boss, we'll say.”

ON TINA AND THE FAMILY TEAM

PAGE FOUR / A NEW GENERATION

RYAN, SAVANNAH AND THE NEXT LAP

Racing is part of the family conversation, but each generation gets to write its own chapter.



The track is a place where a family legacy can remain visible to a new generation.

For any family immersed in a sport, the next generation develops a relationship with it on its own terms. Jason's son Ryan is part of this family portrait, and so is Savannah. Their presence gives the story a future-facing perspective. A family tradition need not mean everyone follows the identical path; it can simply mean the younger generation has grown up understanding why a Saturday at the track matters.

Savannah Fontaine also appears in published Merrittville Speedway race results. She has been listed in the All Star Concrete Four Cylinder division in 2025 and 2026, a concrete reminder that the Fontaine name is not confined to Jason's No. 1J Hoosier Stock entry. The four-cylinder field is competitive in its own right, and it gives drivers a place to learn the discipline of racing in traffic, respecting rivals and responding to the unpredictable movement of a dirt surface.

That matters because a family racing legacy is not a guaranteed victory or a shortcut to experience. Every start brings a new lesson. The surface changes. A promising line disappears. Another driver finds grip where there seemed to be none. Confidence is built from repeating the hard work, then accepting that the stopwatch and the results sheet will not always reward it immediately.

Ryan and Savannah deserve to be more than footnotes to their father's career. In a family feature, they represent the next set of possibilities: what is carried forward, what is changed and what each person makes of the tradition. Whatever route they choose, the value of a family history is that it offers belonging without needing to decide the next chapter in advance.

FROM THE PHONE INTERVIEW / JASON FONTAINE

"I want to race against Ryan for one year, and then we'll probably call it quits."

ON RACING WITH HIS SON RYAN

PAGE FIVE / WORK, RISK & REWARD

NOTHING ABOUT DIRT TRACK RACING IS EASY

The car is the visible part. The real story is the work nobody hears over the engines.



Pit and garage scenes capture the technical side of a sport built on preparation.

The public sees the dramatic moments: a pass under braking, a slide through a corner, a group of cars separated by little more than nerve. The work that makes those moments possible is quieter. A local race team must think about the car as a complete system: handling, safety, tires, engine performance, the track surface and all the adjustments that need to be made when circumstances change.

Merrittville's Hoosier Stock competition is an especially good example of a series where consistency matters. A driver cannot simply overpower every problem. A fast car that will not finish is a frustration; a dependable car that can be placed accurately in traffic can become a serious contender. Experience helps a driver distinguish between a situation worth attacking and one that demands patience.

Jason's racing results show both consistency and adaptability. He won at Merrittville in 2024, won again in 2025, and posted multiple feature victories in 2026. In late May 2026, published race coverage also recorded his first career start in the track's Modified Lite division. That is an interesting detail in a veteran racer's story: even someone with years of stock-car experience can still step into a different machine and find another learning curve.

There is no need to romanticize every part of it. Racing costs money, requires substantial time and carries real risk. But its difficulty helps explain its attraction. The same activity that can send a team home exhausted also offers moments of collective accomplishment. When the mechanics, family members, sponsors and driver see their efforts come together for one clean run, the satisfaction is bigger than the photograph of the trophy.

FROM THE PHONE INTERVIEW / JASON FONTAINE

“It's everybody else around you that just wants to throw a hand in and get that car back out on the track.”

ON THE PEOPLE WHO HELP AFTER A CRASH

PAGE SIX / THE RECORD BOOK

FOUR WINS, COUNTLESS LAPS

The 2026 results offer a bright snapshot of the consistency behind Fontaine’s career.



Jason Fontaine competes in the No. 1J Hoosier Stock division. Image supplied to Too Groovy.

A racing career cannot be summed up by one season, but some seasons deserve a page of their own. On September 5, 2026, Merrittville Speedway reported that Jason Fontaine claimed his fourth Hoosier Stock feature win of the year. The result came after he moved into the lead on lap seven and then held off Kyle Pelrine during a short sprint to the finish following a late caution. It was also a back-to-back win for Fontaine.

The official finish sheet records the No. 1J winning the 20-lap feature after starting sixth. Those numbers might appear ordinary to a casual reader, but the movement from the third row to victory tells a familiar dirt-track story: find an opening, take the opportunity, then manage the most difficult part of the race when everybody behind you knows exactly which car they have to beat.

This success has not arrived without a foundation. Published coverage records Hoosier Stock victories for Fontaine in July 2024 and on multiple 2025 race nights, including Merrittville’s opening Spring Sizzler weekend. He has continued to appear in strong fields where a good heat race or a promising start is no guarantee of the final result. The story is not that racing suddenly became easy; it is that Jason has remained part of the competition.

For the family, a win can mean something the standings cannot express. It places a point on a shared timeline: the long preparation, the nerves before the race, the relief afterward and the photograph everybody will keep. With Neil remembered as an inspiration and with Tina, Ryan, Savannah, Bonnie and Barry in the family story, the winner’s circle becomes one more place where the past and present meet.

PAGE SEVEN / THE LAST WORD

THE LEGACY IS BIGGER THAN THE FLAG

What the Fontaine story says about family, memory and the culture of Niagara racing.



Trophies tell part of the story. The people sharing the moment tell the rest.

If the only goal were to list results, Jason Fontaine's story could be told much more quickly. The No. 1J, the Hoosier Stock wins, a move forward through a crowded field and another checkered flag would make an effective racing summary. But that would miss what makes a seven-page profile worth reading: the lives that connect those race nights, the personalities on both sides of the pit fence and the example that stays with a family long after the final lap.

Neil, Jason's late father, is central to that wider view as an inspiration whose influence has endured. Bonnie and Uncle Barry help complete the family history around him. Tina belongs in the present-day reality of the sport, where a racing schedule shares time with a real household and real responsibilities. Ryan and Savannah show why a tradition is not merely a memory; it is also an invitation for another generation to find its own place.

The lesson is not that everyone must love racing. It is that the best community sports provide a place for different people to contribute, watch, compete, learn and remember. Niagara's dirt ovals are full of families who understand that combination. Behind every driver name on the scoreboard are conversations, sacrifices, mechanics, friendships and people who return whether the result was first or fifteenth.

For Too Groovy, that is the enduring image of Jason Fontaine: not just a race car heading toward the flag, but a family story moving with it. The next season will bring new rivals, changing track conditions and another stack of race-day decisions. Whatever the scoreboard says, the legacy already has a life beyond the car.

FROM THE PHONE INTERVIEW / JASON FONTAINE

"Oh, absolutely."

ON WHETHER HE WOULD DO IT ALL AGAIN

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