

Lord mayor bowls them over



Gwynne Giles, Derek Shervill, piper David Janaszek, Lord Mayor Betty Disero, club president Elly Warren and past-president Paul McHoull at the NOTL Lawn Bowling Club season launch on Saturday. BRITTANY CARTER

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The Lake Report

Lord Mayor Betty Disero helped open the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club's official season on Saturday.

Disero was dressed in white and met the group behind the community centre on the lawn bowling green, where she was invited to deliver the first bowl of the season. It was the first time Disero played the game and club president Elly Warren said the lord mayor was a natural.

"She did very well and everyone seemed to like having her around," Warren said.

Disero said although she hadn't played before she was excited to see how she would hold up against the club members.

For the opening day, 42 of the club's 56 members were in attendance, all of them



Lord Mayor Betty Disero tries her hand at lawn bowling for the first time Saturday during the club's first official day of the season. BRITTANY CARTER

resplendent in their white attire. "Traditionally on a day like that we do wear all white," said Warren. "And we have a moment of silence for the people that passed away this past year. There's a welcoming address and then we do a parade, we kind of walk up and down the green with the piper leading us."

She said the parade is sort

of a silly but traditional part of the ceremony.

As for the tradition of wearing white for special occasions, Warren said she wasn't sure where it came from.

"It's an old-fashioned reason. All other sports used to be in white. Tennis used to be white, baseball used to be white. I guess for our official day that's just what

we do. As for where it originated, I couldn't tell you."

Warren said 36 members bowled on six greens. The group finished the day with tea and snacks. "It was a really nice afternoon."

The club began in 1877 and Warren said it has been a vital part of the community since its inception. New members are always welcome, she added.