



Remembrance Day service draws good crowd
page 12



Devon has mobility issues, but gets around town on his three-wheeled bicycle. (Photo supplied)

NOTL teen chosen to lead Candlelight Stroll

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Devon Botbyl can't wait for the return of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce's annual Candlelight Stroll on Dec. 3.

The 18-year-old Virgil resident will be in the spotlight as the recipient of the funds raised through candle sales this year. It's a dream come true for the Eden High School student.

Devon's father, Scott, received the call from Chamber president Eduardo Lafforgue last Thursday. The family of four, including Devon's sister Elise, were overjoyed with the news.

"Our hearts are extremely full," says Devon's mom Dani. "When an entire community rallies behind you, it's just such a great honour. It's an overwhelming, emotional feeling. We've been to the Candlelight

Stroll and we know how big of an event it is for Niagara-on-the-Lake."

The honour comes at the perfect time for the Botbys. Devon was born with a rare chromosome condition that leaves him with global delays and autistic tendencies. He also has mobility challenges, and is immunocompromised. The cancellation of important programs at Red Roof Retreat and his inability to attend school during the pandemic have left the very social young man unusually isolated at home.

To top things off, Devon was diagnosed with lymphoma in June. Just three weeks ago he finished five months of immunotherapy and chemotherapy treatments. The family drove back and forth between Virgil and Hamilton's McMaster

Continued on page 2

Patio permits to be extended until January 2023

Penny Coles
The Local

As local restaurants hope to continue to recover from the pandemic, the town wants to help by allowing temporary patios to continue.

Restaurant owners wanting patios on public sidewalks, parking spaces and private property will be required to re-apply for next season.

At Monday evening's planning committee meeting, councillors voted to extend the program until Jan. 1, 2023, and direct staff to provide recommendations on the potential

continuation of the program beyond that date.

There were questions of how long it will be considered a temporary program, devised as a response to the pandemic, and also discussion of how to proceed if there is a decision to make them permanent, including making them aesthetically more pleasing than the cement barriers used for safety.

Coun. Eriwn Wiens suggested patios be considered as part of the future tourism strategy. "I'd rather the plan be more proactive than reactive, and make it more efficient as a council."

CAO Marnie Cluckie said it would be part of the tourism strategy, which is a priority for town staff. "There are a number of things we need to look at, and we're committed to doing so."

"There is no question in my mind that patios are here to stay — people like them, on Queen Street, in Virgil and other areas," said Lord Mayor Betty Disero.

The temporary permits were a way to allow them to pop up quickly, without a formal process, she said, adding she'd like to see something more permanent through a zoning process.

She also has some concerns about whether reducing park-

ing spaces for patios erected in parking lots will lead to problems of parking shortages.

Planning director Craig Larmour responded that in the Old Town commercial district, the policy is for businesses to pay cash in lieu of parking if they don't have the required number of spaces. In other parts of town they can apply for exemptions, he said.

"I'd like to look at a streamlined process for zoning for patios," so business owners can begin going through that process sooner rather than later, before reaching the Jan. 1, 2023 deadline," Disero said.

"People like them, they're helpful, they bring a busyness and a sense of people wanting to be on Queen Street, sitting watching people go by. I think they're a benefit to Queen Street."

Disero wants to have a look at incorporating them into a broader sidewalk and how it affects parking, traffic and loading areas, and suggested beginning to talk to business owners and residents in the new year, to start preparing for them before the tourism strategy is complete. "I'd like to see what our next step is."

Coun. Gary Burroughs reminded councillors the tem-

porary patios were allowed for restaurants to expand when numbers were limited inside restaurants.

"I think we need to move cautiously to suddenly change the whole of Queen Street that everybody's come to know and love," he said.

Change is good if it's needed, he said, reminding councillors that patios will impact parking, and even with parking at a range of \$50,000 per spot, "there is nowhere we can buy parking."

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the staff recommendation that patio licences be extended to Jan. 1, 2023.

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Police continue to search for missing man

Penny Coles
The Local

The Niagara Regional Police continue to search for missing 58-year-old Darren Werner, a Townline Road resident who was last seen around 9 a.m. Sept. 16, in the area of his home.

Werner rented out buildings on his Townline Road property, formerly chick-

en barns, to store vehicles and tools, until the storage units were destroyed in a fire last February. The community of people who rented those units was devastated by the loss, which they considered a village.

Werner's home escaped damage in the fire.

His son Michael, of Reclaimed from Roots, created custom-made furniture from

fallen trees, working on the property with his father.

Although it's been two months since the NRP first asked for the public's help in finding Werner, and the community is hoping to hear good news, nothing has changed, says Michael. "They're still looking."

The police are doing all they can, he says. "There are a lot of different detectives on

it, but there is no news. That's the really tough part."

The police haven't been saying much to the family, and he doesn't ask. "I don't want to get in the way of their work. The less time they spend dealing with me, the more time they have to look for my dad."

He tries to stay positive. "I want to keep hope alive, but it's been two months. That

makes it hard to do."

Werner is described as a white male, 5 feet 11 inches tall, 180 pounds, with short grey hair and brown eyes.

He was last seen travelling in an unknown vehicle, say police. Anyone with information regarding his location is asked to contact the police dispatch at 905-688-4111, dial option 3, extension 1024325.



Darren Werner

Stroll proceeds to help pay for elevator

Continued from page 1

Hospital two to four times a week for eight-hour infusions, as well as for bloodwork and tests, and to meet with his oncologist.

Through it all, Dani says Devon continued to remain positive.

"He would come home after 12 hours at the hospital and get on his bike and ride around the neighbourhood. He didn't really want it (the cancer) to slow him down. He wanted to be Dev, and we took our cues from him."

The hockey fan who loves to spend time at the arena responded quite well to his treatments, and his recent scans came back with great results. He will have another set of scans in three months to ensure the lymphoma hasn't returned.

Devon is easing back into school, and is now able to attend some of the programs at Red Roof Retreat.

"Devon finds the good in everything," Dani says. "Here he has cancer and there's COVID, but he's still uplifted. He's such a happy boy. It's elevated his happiness to get some of his normal life back."

With recent orthopedic issues, Devon has not been able to run and walk as he once could. He was scheduled for orthopedic surgery this fall but the cancer diagnosis led to its cancellation.

His yellow tricycle and the tandem bike he loves to ride with Scott have become fixtures in his neighbourhood and beyond.

"I'm sure people in the Shakespeare area will recognize

him," says Dani. "Queen Street, Virgil, the bike path. He's always on that bike because that's his legs. You'll see him on the corner of King and Queen by Simcoe Park waving to cars and saying hello to tourists."

Very few people love NOTL as much as Devon does. His love for the town and its traditions comes up often in conversation with his mother.

Even before he knew about this year's stroll, Devon would frequently sit at the computer and watch the Cogeco YourTV coverage of the 2017 event, when his friend Megan Dick was the beneficiary.

Each August the family celebrates Devon's birthday with one of his favourite pastimes — a horse and carriage ride through the town. Says Dani, "He loves everything that this

community holds for him."

Scott is a carpenter employed by the District School Board of Niagara, while Dani works as an educator with a dental supply company. For 25 years the family has lived in the same two-storey home, but Devon's orthopedic issues were forcing them to consider moving to a bungalow.

With the proceeds from the Candlelight Stroll, the Botbys plan to install an elevator for Devon and remodel an upstairs bathroom to make it fully accessible. They are hoping to start the renovations in the spring.

After being held as a much-scaled down event last year, with the public asked to light candles at home, the Candlelight Stroll is really the first normal celebration to take place in the town since March, 2020. This milestone hasn't been lost on the Botbyl family.

"We'll be grinning ear-to-ear with thankfulness for what the community is doing," Dani tells The Local. "There aren't enough words to describe how happy this is going to make



Devon can often be found at one of the arenas, where he loves watching hockey. (Photo supplied)

Devon. We can't wait to see Devon on top of the world that night. He's already in love with the town, but he's just going to be over the moon."

The Chamber will also be donating \$1,000 to the Farmworker Hub to help with their recent goal of raising \$15,000 to help with their operating costs. Another tradition of the Candlelight Stroll is supporting the food drive for Newark Neighbours. Attendees can bring their

donations the night of the stroll and drop them off at any of the candle stalls for collection.

The Candlelight Stroll takes place on Friday, Dec. 3 from 6:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. throughout the Heritage District. Attendees are invited to start the stroll at the Court House, where Devon will be boarding a horse-drawn carriage from Sentineal Carriages to get everyone walking and singing. Masks will be required for everyone attending the event.

Police ask for help

Local Staff

This Thursday, Nov. 18, the Niagara Regional Police Service will host a virtual meeting to provide details regarding unidentified human remains found by employees of the Sir Adam Beck Power Generating

Station, at 14000 Niagara Parkway, on Dec. 11, 2019.

With the assistance of the Ontario Provincial Police a forensic artist has completed a 3D facial approximation of the man whose remains were discovered.

The NRPS will be appealing to the public for information to

help identify him.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this event will be held virtually. There will be no in-person access.

Members of the public are invited to attend via the NRPS YouTube channel, beginning at 11 a.m., at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NiagRegPolice>.

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Lord mayor anxious to return to in-person meetings

Penny Coles
The Local

Councillors could be back to in-person meetings in December, if existing technology can be improved to hold an effective hybrid-model forum.

Lord Mayor Betty Disero is anxious to get back to regular meetings, which for her can't come soon enough.

When the topic came up in late August, options for the possible resumption of in-person meetings were pre-

sented, but councillors decided to continue holding virtual meetings for a while longer.

Also at issue at that time was the cost of adapting the council chamber to allow physical distancing, and the fact that none of the options could include the presence of the public. The status quo seemed the obvious choice, and all councillors agreed.

But Disero says she believes council should now "absolutely be meeting in person."

The hybrid model that re-

quires improved technology would allow councillors to meet in the council chamber, with anyone who is too ill to attend in person participating virtually.

However, the pre-pandemic meetings did not allow for that. "I have no problem with resuming meetings, and if some people can't come, they can't come," she says.

While some municipalities never stopped meeting in person — Niagara Falls, for example, has a huge room,

large enough for councillors to spread out — others are now meeting with some councillors sitting around the table, and others spread out in the public space. As they want to speak, they can use the podium at the front.

That could also accommodate public delegations, with people coming in to speak and leaving when they're finished their presentation.

Masks would be worn, she added, although not necessarily when speaking.

"I'd like to try it to see how it works."

When it was discussed at last week's planning committee meeting, CAO Marnie Cluckie said staff are working on the technology for a hybrid model, but physical distancing still needs to be maintained.

When asked for a timeline, she said, "our target is to allow council members to return when they want to return."

Hopefully by December the necessary steps will have been taken to have an effective

meeting, she added.

This week, Cluckie told The Local that "town staff are cautiously preparing to return to more in-person services, including offering in-person council meetings."

Efforts are underway to ensure that appropriate technology is in place, she said, also "ensuring a minimum two-metre physical distance can be maintained, and that all other public health measures are followed."

Parliament Oak proposal raises ire of neighbours

Penny Coles
The Local

Town council has battled over the Parliament Oak property once before on behalf of residents, who are now hoping their elected representatives will once again step up to protect the iconic historic property in the heart of the Old Town.

Although planning staff do not yet have an official application for the development, residents have been vocal about the proposal being inappropriate for the Old Town — too high, too dense, and not in character for the neighbourhood.

The town tried to buy the property in 2017 for a group of residents who were proposing to turn it into a community hub, but after almost a year of negotiations with the school board, including three purchase offers from the town, the board decided to proceed with the tender process. In desperation, the citizens group behind the community hub concept went to the province hoping it would intervene, but with no success.

The conditions from the school board during negotiations were that the town would have to provide assurances the building be maintained as a community hub, not be flipped, and that the property would not be used to provide education.

When the town failed in its efforts to purchase the property, it was sold to a developer, and residents' fears were realized in June, when Liberty Sites Ltd., a Montreal company known for developing suburban business parks, unveiled its plans. Parliament Oak Residences were to include a dozen semi-detached and detached homes, plus a

three-storey apartment building.

Responding to an outcry from residents over height, density, and design issues, the developer of the project, which is bordered by King, Gage, Centre and Regent Streets, went back to the drawing board, and last week a revised proposal was presented at a virtual public planning meeting.

To proceed, the developer requires a zoning amendment from the property's institutional use to allow for residential development, and an official plan amendment to permit medium density housing in the Old Town.

The revised proposal reduces the density from the original intent, with five detached homes and four semi-detached, for a total of nine instead of 12, and 71 apartments, instead of the 80 in the first set of plans.

But people speaking at the public meeting are still up in arms, including Centre Street resident Atis Bankas, who suggested the density is too high, that intensification shouldn't be allowed in the Old Town, and that the project shouldn't even be discussed, "it should be scrapped and thrown in the garbage. That's it. If the builder wants to build, let him build a park or something else."

He continued, saying, "this town will not be the same again ever. This will destroy the town."

Residents heard from representatives of Liberty Sites, and town planner Mark Iamarino, who said that according to the Official Plan, medium density designation, with "harmonious" design integrating into surrounding area, and low-rise apartment buildings, can be included in the Old Town.

When Coun. Wendy

Cheropita said the Official Plan says planning should maintain existing design throughout a neighbourhood, and that the character of this proposal is quite different than the surrounding area, Iamarino said that it would be considered during the review process — that staff doesn't have a position on that yet and won't until they have the final application.

Gracia Janes, president of the NOTL Conservancy, feels that decision may already have been made.

She is concerned the process is being rushed ahead, with the developers' representatives talking about favourable reports from the town's urban design and heritage committees, and that town staff "seem to be biased, seem to be promoting this."

Pointing out other heritage elements in the neighbourhood, Janes said, "this needs to be planned very carefully, not rushed along, and modifications aside, it's just not appropriate for this neighbourhood."

It could be single family homes, she added, suggesting the developer is looking for something "more lucrative." As to the need for intensification, while there are both provincial and regional provisions for growth, they will be accommodated by the regional plan for Glendale, she said.

Paul DeMelo, a lawyer working with Liberty Sites, said comments from the July open house, were considered, and revisions have received "largely positive comments" from the recent urban design committee meeting.

He said he is very excited about the revised proposal that addresses the comments that



Residents remain unhappy with the revised proposal for the former Parliament Oak property, which has fewer units as currently designed. (Screenshot)

have been received, and not only protect the heritage site but celebrate its heritage with a development that will offer "some community benefits we think will arise from this project."

The three-storey apartment building has seen "significant modifications to address the relationship with the rest of the neighbourhood," he said, and while the character of the design is different than the rest of the neighbourhood it doesn't detract from it. "We believe it enhances it."

The apartment building is still considered three storeys, with "a mechanical penthouse" on the top, but with a step-down to two storeys at the edges of the building to "significantly reduce" the appearance of height and be "much more sympathetic" from street level views.

Other selling points listed by development representatives include underground parking for residents, with four spaces for visitors at ground level; a small parkette which would be zoned open space, although the developer will be asking for an exemption for the need of a playground, with Memorial Park across the

street; "a wonderful green garden setting" around the buildings, the "beautiful mature trees" will be preserved to enhance the heritage site, and also there are plans to incorporate a "heritage walk" on the site that will be available to the public.

Alan Gordon, a Regent Street resident, was indignant that the project being proposed could be considered appropriate.

A building 40 feet high, 300 feet long, and currently containing over 70 apartments, "by any measure is a massive building, virtually a block long," he said.

The impact of it will have not only a "hugely negative effect on individual properties, but on the streetscape and heritage of this entire town," said Gordon.

"The visual impact is reprehensible, egregious by any measure."

Gordon also objected to the developer's assertion that the building is 11 metres tall, saying it ranges in height from 12 to 13 metres, and also that the density is greater than the Official Plan permits — 66 per cent greater than medium density and "a whopping 233 per cent" than the current low density zoning

now allows.

Marilyn Bartlett, a neighbour of the proposed development, spoke to additional issues, such as traffic, lights that will bother other residents at night, and the highest point of the school, the gymnasium, which "looks not much higher than the two original wings of the school," but the second and third story apartments with the mechanical above will rise three storeys above the gymnasium, as seen from Centre Street. She compared it to facing a cliff, and "it will not be ameliorated by stepping back, like the proposition has attempted to establish."

She called the project an "outrageous disregard for the neighbourhood and the Old Town in general."

With a revised proposal that residents did not have a lot of time to study before the meeting, Lord Mayor Betty Disero asked that another public meeting be held with the new information for people to address, and was assured by the developer's representative that there would be no opposition. Staff have been asked to look for a date for another meeting.



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Newark Neighbours looking for new, larger home

Local Staff

Newark Neighbours, a local food bank and thrift store that has been serving Niagara-on-the-Lake residents for 50 years, is looking for a new home.

Operating out of 310 John Street East since 1992, Newark Neighbours has far

outgrown its current space and is reaching out to key community members and stakeholders for ideas and suggestions on a potential new location and space; a space to better serve their growing needs. A requirement wish list has been developed, including 2000-plus square feet in space. Ideally, the location will

have ground floor accessibility and will afford privacy for food clients.

"We are reaching out for help finding our next location. While we love our current location, we've far outgrown the space. We know that, with the help of our Niagara-on-the-Lake community, we will be able to find our new perfect home,"

says operations volunteer Susan Sparrow-Mace.

Cindy Grant, board chair and manager of the food bank, adds, "our volunteer teams are approaching this move with a touch of sadness, knowing that we will be leaving our home after so many years. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the management and staff at Riverbend Inn and Winery for their hospitality and support over the last 30-plus years. The sincere support of Peller Estates management and staff in the recent months, as we begin the planning for this move, is appreciated. We are looking forward to working with them in the coming months as our planning progresses into 2022."

Founders Peggy Anderson and Nikki Aiken started Newark Neighbours in 1971, and the organization was incorporated as a not-for-profit charity in 1972. In the first few months of operation, there were 20 families on the client list and that same year, over 100 families were helped during the Christmas season. Residents offered their basements to be used as collection and clearing depots and citizens began raising money to help Newark

Neighbours find a permanent home.

The organization relocated to several locations in the first few years, including the boiler room of a factory that is now the Pillar and Post Inn. From 1980 to 1991, it was located at a home on the Niagara Parkway, which was owned by Dr. Afrukteh, now the site of the Riverbend Inn & Vineyard. The Afrukteh home was converted into a museum, and a parcel of land on the property was offered to Newark Neighbours if they could raise money for a building. With a long list of volunteers and local businesses, The Barn, as it affectionately became known, was built in late 1992.

Now, 50 years since its birth, Newark Neighbours continues to operate the only food bank in Niagara-on-the-Lake, serving more than 60 families (117 individuals), with essential groceries twice a month, and special holiday celebration hampers three times a year.

The outstanding generosity and support of residents, groups and organizations in Niagara-on-the-Lake allows Newark Neighbours to provide these supplies throughout the year, says Grant.

The Newark Neighbour thrift store sells donated clothing and footwear for women, men and children, as well as jewelry, accessories, household items, small appliances, collectibles and more. The revenue from the thrift store supports the operations of the food bank.

In addition to these services, Newark Neighbours also has a bursary program for eligible graduating high school students who live in Niagara-on-the-Lake; and it regularly supports the Education Foundation of Niagara Prom Project, Niagara College Dress for Success, and Red Roof Retreat. Newark Neighbours, with its mission of "Serving our Community with Compassion, Care and Concern," and vision "That no resident in Niagara-on-the-Lake need be hungry," is a registered not-for-profit organization with an elected board of directors and entirely volunteer staff who rely solely on donations and thrift shop sales. To donate, or to learn more about the organization, or for information about the search for a new location, visit www.newarkneighbours.ca, call 905-468-3519 or email Grant at cgrant36@coceco.ca.



Newark Neighbours has outgrown its John Street barn, where both the thrift shop and tiny food bank area are always crowded, and even more so leading up to holidays. Already preparing for Christmas are volunteers Pat Hicks, Marilyn Rickard, Mary Ann Novaco and Wendy Lowe. (Photo supplied)

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Johnathan Sousa and Julia Course. Photo by Peter Andrew Luszyk. Michael Therriault in *A Christmas Carol* (2017). Photo by David Cooper. Jenny L. Wright and Kyle Blair in *Holiday Inn* (2019). Photo by Emily Cooper.

EDITORIAL

Might be time for working on-site

We hear from residents that they don't understand why the town hall is still closed, and why council meetings are still virtual.

It's a hard call to know when it's safe, and Niagara-on-the-Lake town staff, the emergency group and councillors have all been extra-cautious when making pandemic decisions. That's not something residents should complain about — any time a decision can mean life or death, erring on the side of caution is the right way to go, even if other municipalities are handling such issues a little less cautiously.

But could it be the right time to move forward? The number of new infections across the region was high last Saturday, but has come down again. In Niagara-on-the-Lake, there are 12 active cases. While that may not seem like a lot, the only two municipalities in Niagara with a higher number of cases per capita are Fort Erie and Lincoln.

So is it time to reopen the town hall to the public? Should councillors be meeting in person?

Niagara-on-the-Lake is a corporation, in the business of

running a town and offering services to its customers. Many businesses that had staff working at home are now calling them back to work in person. They have measures in place, such as requiring staff be fully vaccinated. Masks must be worn, distances kept, even rapid tests taken.

Listening to the scientists, it is easy to believe this COVID-19 will never completely go away. We can never guarantee complete safety, but at some point, for some jobs, the decision has to be made to go back to working in person.

We keep talking about wanting to return to a more normal existence, but that shouldn't only mean all the fun things we have missed out on. After all, if it's considered safe for us to go to restaurants, gyms, weddings,

theatre and sporting events, if we are comfortable going to these places, we should feel safe going to our workplace, especially if everyone there is vaccinated. And it may be time to apply that thinking to

town hall, staff and councillors, keeping in mind if we go to work, we do everything we can to keep ourselves and our co-workers safe.

Penny Coles
The Local

Grateful to have relevance of community newspapers recognized

On Saturday night, the Niagara Foundation held a really lovely dinner, an annual event, to recognize what they call a Living Landmark.

This year, with some challenging work ahead of them in their effort to preserve The Wilderness, an extremely significant heritage property in the midst of the Old Town, they chose to recognize community newspapers for the role they play in protecting the community, and me as a rep-

resentative of that industry.

I was really blown away by the huge honour bestowed by the Foundation, its board and the supporters who attended the dinner, and also by the words of Janice Thomson, the president of the Foundation. I've known Janice a long time, during her years as the head of the NOTL Chamber of Commerce and mine as a newspaper editor, and I have tremendous respect for her. Her words meant a lot.

Karen Skeoch, co-owner of The Local, and I are also extremely grateful for the Niagara Foundation's affirmation that with the help of our great team, we are fulfilling our goal to be the voice of the community.

Thank you Janice Thomson and the Niagara Foundation for all you do to protect this town, and for recognizing our goal to do our best to serve it.

Penny Coles
The Local

Local LETTERS

So many reasons for paying attention to LGBTQ+ community

The season is turning to fall and soon winter will be upon us, ushering the end of a hectic and precarious time for our local business and society as a whole.

We all hope when spring arrives we can put the past two years behind us and enjoy our freedom. Let us take this winter to truly plan not only what kind of community we want, but how we can build a more prosperous and sustainable tourism industry. And yes, installing a progressive pride walk in the Heritage District, at an estimated cost of \$7,000, is part of that.

I want to address some of the concerns and questions raised in a heritage committee meeting back in August. In addition I posed the question of need in my Facebook group, Inclusive NOTL, and want to speak to some of the responses. Lastly I want to frame the issue in a different way, and my hope is at the end you will see the net positive effect, and the need.

Let's set aside the positive association and what it says to the community, that we take all citizens equally and seriously. Let's set aside what it says to the teen struggling to be accepted, and is more likely to attempt or commit suicide. Set aside that Canada has a reckoning with how we have ignored the Indigenous and African Canadians in our society. Set aside that symbols matter, and the local feedback has been positive on this issue for the most part as many recognize we are being left behind as communities coast to coast have taken this important step in their business core. The feedback of having this, as so many communities all across Canada have already installed, has been positive.

Let's look at this in a different way, and at the same time address the questions and concerns of the heritage committee and in my group.

In the committee, it was asked if this would be a permanent feature, and why in this district? The answer to permanent is yes, for its full effect socially and financially. As to location, to install it on one side of the street at the corner of Queen and King Streets is paramount, as that is the most traveled intersection in our town. Additionally, having it as a permanent feature makes a strong statement as we are coming to terms with our past. Making half-gestures is no longer tolerated. It comes off as insincere, and will have the opposite effect to what we want.

Another individual on the committee stated the colours were jarring, and could we mute them. Although I am sure they had their heart in the right place, what it says is somewhat value all those represented, and that we should be a little less vocal. I would also add the colours are no more jarring in the Heritage District than the Dairy Queen that is said to be coming to Queen Street.

A post in my Facebook group, Inclusive NOTL, asked whether the money would be better spent on educating about equality or mental health. Let me be clear, installing this is not the end of the story, but just a chapter. Symbols matter, and installing this shows everyone they can be their true selves. It's a symbol that may have helped me, as a younger man in town, feel more positive about myself, but by no means is it the whole story.

As communities become more evolved, they begin to understand that rainbow stickers or painting a road are just a couple of tools in the tool box.

The heritage committee also discussed whether a pride walk would be better elsewhere in the municipality, such as Glendale, and the answer to that is no.

This pandemic has been a business killer to our communi-

ty and has shown how much we rely on tourism dollars to create jobs and pay for the services we all enjoy in this great town we live in, from Old Town to Glendale, and thus we should take this coming winter to develop, strategize and support the businesses that occupy the heritage district. So I ask you to think of Niagara-on-the-Lake as a brand and how we can market it in a way that will not only create a more positive society but an opportunity to create a brighter and more sustainable economy, and set our tourism sector up for lasting success.

The economic power of the Canadian LGBTQ+ tourism market is \$12 billion annually in spending — according to Deloitte, the community spends twice as much when traveling on food, hotels and retail than the average tourist, not to mention values cultural experiences and outdoor activities, which describes NOTL to a tee.

But I want to address a bigger market that resides to the south, that I can speak to as a former server in town, and that I was always thrilled to see. NOTL is in the perfect location to promote and brand to the entire American market. We do already, but I have no doubt if you ask the hotels, restaurants and shops they would want to attract a larger percentage, and branding NOTL as a positive open community is one of the tools we can employ. Which is why when I brought up the crosswalk to some in this sector they were all in favour. Let's talk about the American LGBTQ+ market first. They account for 4.5 per cent of the population, but account for 8 per cent of disposable income in the U.S. That accounts to \$1 trillion annually according to a 2020 report by Kearney, a U.S. management consulting firm. They account for a higher percentage of households over \$100,000 and are more likely to support brand that support them and show sustained support, just as their Canadian counterparts remain loyal.

Despite these insights, many brands miss the mark when engaging with the LGBTQ+ consumers. Some are not sold on the importance of building bridges to the community, according to Corey Chafin, the



View from the couch

Donald Combe
Special to The Local

The Madwomen's Ball (Prime, 2021) concerns itself with a woman's experience in a patriarchal society. The sane

heroine is not mad, but in reality can speak with the dead. Her living hell is as an inmate in an asylum for the insane; however grim it all is, there is justice in the end. A powerful statement on a male dominated world.

Donald Combe is a retired English teacher who loves to go to movies. Until he resumes going to theatres, he has graciously agreed to share his opinions, through "short and sweet" exclusives, of Netflix series and movies for The Local.



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The Niagara-on-the-Lake
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The Trusted Voice of Our Community

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COMMENT

Boot camp encourages consideration of skilled trades



Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

Local young adults interested in learning more about careers in the skilled trades have an opportunity to connect with employers on Dec. 9 in Niagara Falls. That day, Support Ontario Youth is bringing its Tools in the Trades Boot Camp focusing on Transportation (Motive Power) to Bickles Hardware Warehouse.

Canada faces a massive shortage of skilled trades in the near future. Support Ontario Youth (SOY) is an organization that is actively trying to find a provincial solution to the problem before it happens.

According to RBC Thought Leadership, a think-tank arm of the national bank, more than 700,000 skilled tradespeople in Canada are expected to retire by 2028. Meanwhile, an outdated perception of the trades has hindered the recruitment of new apprentices to replace them.

As well, it is forecast that the country will face a shortage of at least 10,000 workers in nationally recognized Red Seal trades in the next five years. And digital disruption will mean that 25 per cent of Canada's four million tradespeople will need to upgrade their skills within that same time period.

Something needs to be done, and Support Ontario Youth is one of the organizations making a difference.

The federally-registered charitable organization was formed in 2016. Since its inception, SOY has gathered the support and cooperation of more than 145 employers across the province, registered 207 new apprentices, and awarded over 40 scholarships in 9 different trades.

SOY aims to advise apprentices on all aspects of their training, including safety. They also provide them with mentoring to help them enter the skilled trades confidently and to ensure their apprenticeship continues efficiently.

Full disclosure, I am involved with SOY as a freelance instructor for their Tools in the Trades Boot Camps. It is a program that I strongly believe will make a huge difference by guiding young people to the opportunities and possibilities available in these in-demand fields.

Last month, boot camps were held in Pelham and Niagara Falls, gathering young people interested in learning about the skilled trades for hands-on learning opportunities while working alongside journeypeople. They also had a chance to network with owners of businesses who hire apprentices, and to find out more about the soft skills that these employers look for in new hires.

The participants in the free boot camps, almost 70 of which will be held across the province,

leave each session with a tool kit designed for their specific trade, either construction-electrical, automotive repair, plumbing, millwright or horticultural technician. The kits are valued at more than \$250 and comprise professional tools that will give each prospective apprentice a head start in their careers.

Support Ontario Youth's mission is to support apprentices, employers, and all stakeholders in the skilled trades industry by simplifying the apprenticeship journey. The goal is to modernize the apprenticeship pathway by becoming a complete resource for those looking to enter the skilled trades.

For far too long our province has been focused more on promoting university and college as the number one post-secondary destination for our youth. It's left young people with the misguided impression that trades aren't valuable career paths.

As well, our boards of education systematically stripped many high schools of technology classes, known back then as shops. Gone are the days such as my own Grade 9 and 10 years, when I had the chance to rotate through automotive, welding and machine shop electives to get a feel for the opportunities that are out there.

Though the two local boot camps were populated by high school students, SOY also offers the sessions to young adults who may be looking for more rewarding and timely employment opportunities. Recent

boot camps in Oakville and Whitby gathered up to 30 keen, attentive and enthusiastic participants, all high school graduates, all eager to learn and to make connections.

The day-long sessions are a great first step toward demystifying the skilled trades, debunking the many myths that surround them, and elevating them as an excellent career option.

The Ontario Construction Secretariat, who held their annual general meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake this fall, surveyed their contractor members earlier this year. More than half of the respondents anticipated greater difficulty in accessing

skilled labour this year compared to 2020.

If the current boom in construction continues and an expected increase in provincial infrastructure projects comes to fruition, the shortage of tradespeople could stop progress right in its tracks.

As a cooperative education teacher for the last 18 years of my career, I was involved in promoting skilled trades for students and connecting them with opportunities to learn alongside trained mechanics, plumbers, electricians and carpenters. Many of those students went on to learn their trades at colleges or to complete appren-

ticeships in local businesses.

My involvement in these Tools in the Trades Boot Camps as a teacher of soft skills allows me to continue working with young men and women to make them aware of opportunities they may not have previously considered.

The time is now for all of us in Ontario to rethink how our youth will contribute to our future economy.

For information on the Dec. 9 Transportation (Motive Power) Boot Camp in Niagara Falls, to apply for an apprenticeship, or to just find out more about what SOY has to offer, visit supportontarioyouth.ca.



Maddy Davidson and Preston Darling learn about skilled trades at the E.L. Crossley Electrical Boot Camp. (Mike Balsom)

Local LETTERS: As we evolve we welcome change

Continued from page 6

Kearney report author, who stated that sometimes misrepresenting, stereotyping or not taking the community seriously results in jeopardizing millions of dollars. Winning over this community is complicated, and involves more than putting a rainbow sticker on a window or a brochure for the month of June. Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD (a media monitoring organization founded as a protest against defamatory coverage of LGBTQ people, said, it is not enough to put a rainbow on a product and call it a marketing strategy. It

involves extending sincere and authentic support beyond pride month, taking extra care to avoid being opportunistic and exploitive. You can't just put up a flag or a couple of ads for the month of June.

A leading executive for Subaru, a trailblazer to marketing to the community, stated, "the LGBTQ community doesn't take anything at face value, and holds a higher standard of scrutiny to attract its business."

An Ipsos poll conducted in June showed 56 per cent of the general U.S. population supports brands that are supportive of the LGBTQ+ community, so this is not just attracting the

community but presenting a positive brand to market to the entire US population.

So to the gentleman who stated in my group on Facebook that we have bigger issues, I counter by saying that by spending about \$7,000 to install a permanent symbol in the tourist district, we potentially have a strong branding tool that will bring sustainable economic power to the benefit of his restaurant and the broader community.

Lastly I like to make the point that yes, the heritage district is something we should be vigilant about, but we need to ask what heritage are we pro-

tecting? To me it shows that as we evolve, we welcome change, job creators and understand that Queen Street is a business district, and we as a town should do what we can to make sure it succeeds as we all succeed.

So let us think about how we can not only become a better society, but can support hotel operators, restaurant and retail operators in the district who pay rent, employ and pay taxes, post-pandemic.

Even if we only market to our traditional base, we would never have the chance to do what other parts of the world are fast realizing, that the LGBTQ+ and the next generation of tour-

ist want to only spend where they are wanted.

I was recently on a global LGBTQ+ tourist forum put on by the IGLTA (the International LGBTQ+ Travel Association), and the U.S. LGBTQ traveller was making plans to travel in April of this year to other destinations than Canada. Can we afford not to be proactive and finally take this market seriously?

A progressive crosswalk will not solve the real issues many face, but is an arrow in the quiver that can be a part of a conversation and an effective tool to creating a more prosperous and inclusive community.

This topic is one that stirs

up emotion and overall is met with positive comments, but for those who have written against it or put up signs on lawns because they feel an "agenda" or longing for a traditional community is disappearing, I am sorry the world has woken up and understands that we have to be better, and although we are not responsible for the errors of the past, we have the power to acknowledge them and grow.

I can't wait to help be part of the NOTL brand and work towards a more prosperous and even greater caring community,

Jordon Williams
OUTniagara Board Member
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First Passive House in region on Niagara Street

Penny Coles
The Local

When Amanda Thackray and her husband purchased a home on Niagara Street, they intended to renovate the old farm house on the property and live there.

However, once they realized the scope of the work that needed to be done, and the decision was made to tear it down and start anew, Thackray became immersed in researching what kind of house they could build, and found herself “on a trip down a rabbit hole” that led

to building the best house possible for the environment.

“I started watching building and science videos, and that led me slowly to passive houses,” she says.

“This has been quite a journey. I was just looking for a good building, but each step made me more aware of climate change. When I found this was possible, I wondered why everyone isn’t building this way.”

Since starting the build, she has discovered, as she talks to others, “I have to explain it to about nine out of 10 people.”

Her research began about three years ago, and last week, with the COP26 conference underway and the issue of climate change leading the news, she was excited to talk about their Passive House, a home that is not only good for the environment, but comfortable and healthy to live in, and one which in five days went from being just a foundation with a platform to a house with prefabricated walls and roof in place, ready for the interior construction.

Thackray says she knew nothing about a Passive

House when she began her research, but by the end of last week, she was somewhat of an expert, not only on the advantages of such a home but with a full understanding of how they are built and why they are so good for the environment and healthy for those who live in them.

Buildings, she discovered, are the source of 17 per cent of Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions, mostly from heating and cooling. A Passive House does not have a furnace or a large centralized heating system. Most of the heat comes passively from

direct sunlight through the triple-paned windows, with southern exposure, and it doesn’t leak out. The house doesn’t need a constant mechanical supply of heat that is usually powered by fossil fuels, she explains — rather than a large central mechanical heat source, there is a heat recovery ventilation system that uses the heat of the air being expelled to warm the fresh, filtered air coming into the house. This system recovers up to 90 per cent of the heat in the house and requires very little energy to run.

And although the construction of the house costs about 10 per cent more than a traditional build the same size, lower utility bills will more than make up for the extra expense over time, she says. “The payoff will be two- or three-fold.”

“All of this, of course, is excellent for the environment. But there is more good news.”

Because the house is heavily insulated — the walls have nine inches of insulation, well above the regular building standard — and is airtight, it is comfortable, quiet, with no draughts, and the temperature is consistent throughout. The heat recovery ventilation system also means that, with a MERV 13 (an air filter with a high measure of how well it filters contaminants), the fresh air coming into the house is free of viruses, bacteria, dust and pollen — a well-ventilated building that has become so important during COVID, says Thackray.

Once the decision was made to build a Passive House, she found herself part of a team helping to design and build her home, including engineer Natalie Leonard, founder of Passive Designs Solutions, which specializes in designing net zero homes.

Thackray explains the term Passive House is an energy performance standard for a building with a reduced ecological footprint, which originated in Germany.

Leonard continues to provide support during the construction phase, says Thackray, which is being handled by two companies.

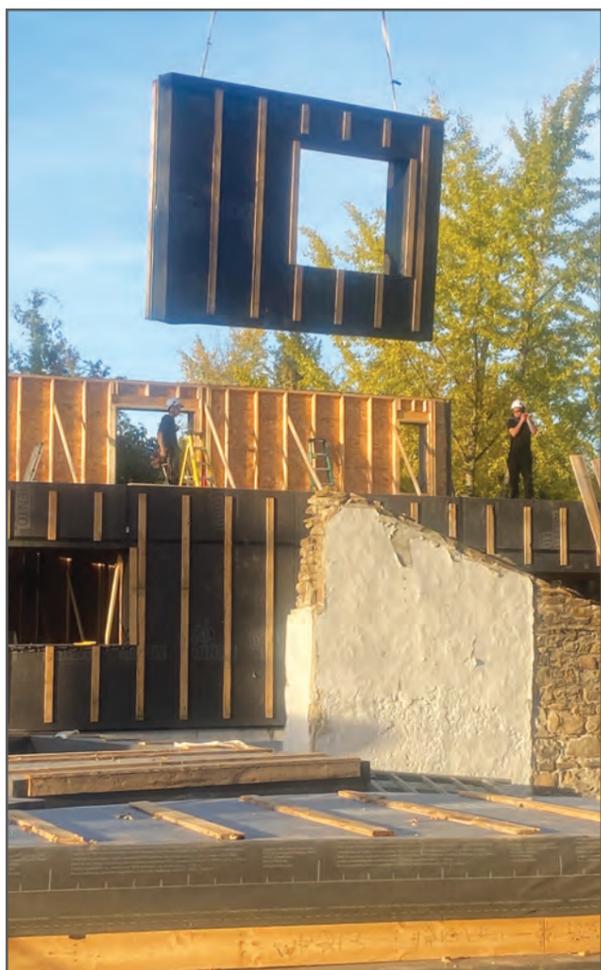
Simple Life Homes, out of Port Hope and led by founder Jeremy Clarke, installed the high-efficiency prefabricated wall and roof panels that were made in a large, efficient warehouse, creating the super-insulated, airtight building envelope, and leaving about three to five per cent waste, where a traditional build would be about 15 per cent he says.

Clarke, who began with traditional construction, says he’s built about 15 of what he calls “high-performance building enclosures,” with the Niagara Street home the first one in the region.

It took three trucks to unload the prefabricated pieces, with thick walls and the roof pieces providing R-40 to R-64 insulation.

Although his company was installing the sections, the goal is to eventually be able to send a couple of people to work with local builders on the installation, Clarke says.

On this house, Tucker Homes, a local builder, is



Last Tuesday a crane began lifting panels into place.



Last Monday morning, the foundation had been prepared, ready for panels to be installed. (Photos supplied)



By Friday morning, the last panels were in place.

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Environmental homes becoming a little more common

Continued from page 8

responsible for finishing the project, “and making sure all the remaining interior work adheres to the Passive House specs,” says Thackray. The builder finishing the inside has to understand and be aware of the differences in the airtight construction of the house, so as not to cause any damage, she explained.

“We hired Tucker Homes because they were already educated in the Passive House principles, and are passionate about implementing the standard.”

Some of the elements of the original farm house

were saved — local Drew Chapman took up the original wide plank flooring to be reused in another home of a similar age. And a stone wall on the property has been retained to be used as part of a garden feature.

During the build Thackray, who lives not far from her new house, has been popping by often to watch, and to ask questions and further learn about her passive home. Late last week, with the walls up, she still wasn't sure about the exterior finish — she was leaning toward wood.

With the Niagara Street property two separate lots,

the house now under construction, at 2,700 square feet, is larger than she and her husband need, says Thackray. The plan is to live in it for a couple of years, have a chance to try it out and enjoy it, then sell it to another couple who can benefit from its advantages.

She and her husband plan to build a second, smaller house next door. She's hoping by the time they're ready to sell, more people will understand the concept. “It's uncommon now, but it's becoming less so. I'd like to see it become normal, but I don't know how long that will take.”



Amanda Thackray discusses the floor plan with Jeremy Clarke of Simple Life Homes. (Penny Coles)



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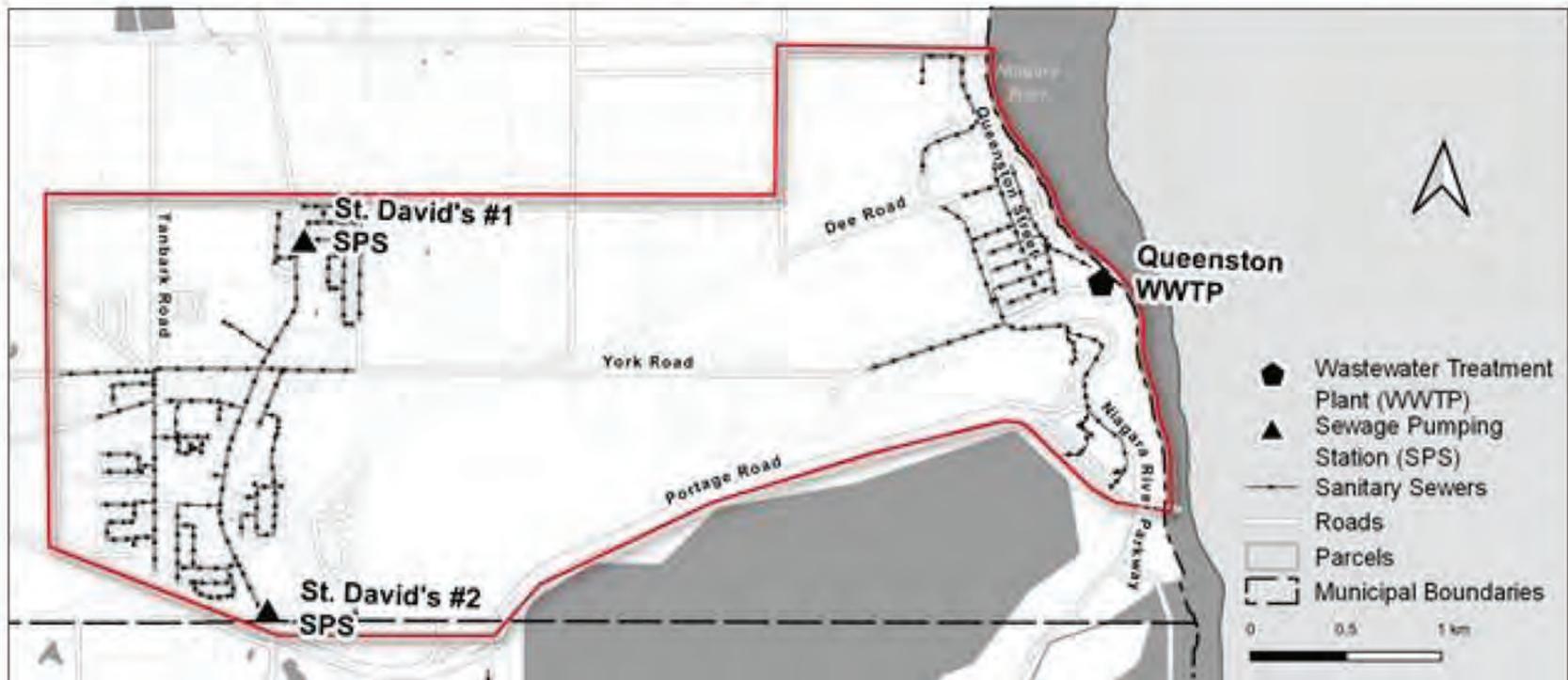
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Niagara Region has initiated a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Study to assess alternatives for wastewater servicing in the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant service area. This study will examine two servicing options: upgrading the existing Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant or decommissioning the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and redirect flows through a new sewage pumping station and forcemain to either of the sewage pumping stations in St. Davids.

The existing Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1989 and has since undergone equipment replacements and various maintenance activities while continuing to service the village of Queenston. Further upgrades are necessary if the plant is to continue operating efficiently. From a lifecycle perspective, it can be inefficient to operate small independent systems such as the Queenston treatment system. Considering this, Niagara Region has identified an opportunity to consolidate the Queenston Wastewater Treatment Plant flows with the Niagara Falls treatment system.

This study is being planned as a Schedule "B" Class EA, satisfying Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class EA process, which is a planning process approved under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act.

This study will define the problems and opportunities associated with the site, develop and evaluate alternative strategies, determine the most feasible solution, and identify methods to avoid or minimize impacts to the community and natural environment.

Niagara Region encourages the public and stakeholders to actively participate in this planning process. A Public Information Centre will be planned in early 2022 to present details about the study, the process used to decide on possible solutions and allow you the opportunity to share your comments and concerns. For more information, visit niagararegion.ca/projects/queenston-st-davids.

Upon completion of the study, a Project File Report documenting the study process will be prepared and made available for public review and comment. Anyone who wishes to comment on or to be involved in this study should indicate their interest, preferably in writing to one of the team members:

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Niagara Foundation holds Living Landmark dinner

Current challenge for Foundation is preserving The Wilderness

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

The Niagara Foundation held its Living Landmark Award Dinner last Saturday, beginning with a dedication to Michael Howe, who passed away Dec. 29, 2020.

Current board president Janice Thomson described Michael following in the footsteps of his father, Norm, one of the organization's founders in 1962, and of his mother, Margherita, well-known for her myriad efforts to preserve the town's environmental and heritage assets.

"He was a true defender of truth and the quality of life in Niagara-on-the-Lake," Thomson said about the past president of the Foundation. "He led our organization with clarity and determination. I believe Michael will always be present. His intelligence, humour and caring personality will survive forever."

In her address to board members, representatives from town council, and supporters, Thomson spoke of the Foundation's current drive to preserve The Wilderness property between King and Regent Streets and to protect it from developers' shovels.

The Niagara Foundation is pursuing the purchase of a half-interest in the historically significant 5.5-acre (2.2-hectare) woodland site that houses historic buildings, one of which is modelled after Napoleon's home during his exile. Some legal matters with the estate of one of the two sisters who owned it are currently holding up the deal.

It's the most recent undertaking by the Niagara Foundation, and is in line with past preservation efforts such as the Niagara Apothecary, the William and Susannah Steward House and the St. Mark's Rectory.

Current town Coun. Gary Burroughs was a Foundation board member for 25 years. As a parishioner at St. Mark's Anglican Church, he was involved in one of the

Foundation's earliest projects.

"The rectory needed a lot of restoration done that we, the church, couldn't afford," Burroughs recalled. "We worked with the Niagara Foundation. They put over \$100,000 into fixing it up, then we allowed them to lease it out for five years to get their money back. We ended up with a great building, and they got their money back."

Burroughs pointed out that during his time as Lord Mayor a similar deal was struck to preserve the Foghorn building on River Beach Road.

"What the Niagara Foundation has accomplished, and what they continue to accomplish, keeps us so aware of the wonderful heritage that we have," Burroughs said. "These are the kinds of groups that the town has to have. There are so many newcomers that don't know the town's history."

Burroughs was at the event Saturday evening along with fellow past Living Landmark Award winners Debi Pratt and Richard Merritt to honour the newest member of their exclusive fraternity, the 2021 recipient, The NOTL Local's own Penny Coles.

As Lord Mayor, regional councillor, town councillor and even as a 2006 federal election candidate, Burroughs has had hundreds of opportunities to speak with Coles through the years.

"She was always willing to listen to me explaining background information, every time we spoke," he said. "She was easy to trust. That's the confidence that every politician needs from their press."

Burroughs continued, "She's right up there, she's absolutely a fabric of the town. She's the kind of person that makes it so special. She's outstanding, and really deserves credit for all she's done for our town."

Before presenting Coles with her award, Thomson outlined the importance of solid local journalism, especially amidst the climate of online blogs, podcasts and immediate uploads of

"information," followed just as rapidly by not so well-researched knee jerk reactions.

With the Foundation facing some challenging projects, she said the board is committed to focusing on successful results, and effective communication will be key to sharing progress as it happens.

"Local journalism is truly a public service, informing community members of local activities, council considerations and general community updates," said Thomson. "Presenting the facts may not always be well received in all quarters, but Penny Coles delivers the facts in a well-researched, thoughtful way that gives all sides an equal opportunity to comment."

Thomson's joke that Coles claims to actually enjoy following the meetings and the background behind council's deliberations got a chuckle from the attendees. She mentioned Penny's many years at the helm of the Niagara Advance, and her decision, with her business partner and long-time friend Karen Skeoch, to start The NOTL Local.

"Penny feels very privileged to continue reporting on all the news, support local businesses and tell the great stories readers share," Thomson added. "The broad content of the papers also reflects the wide-ranging community interests and allows residents of all ages to be entertained and educated on local goings-on. Penny clearly understands the importance of municipal decisions that impact the quality of our daily lives, and is committed to delivering journalism excellence."

In her acceptance speech, Coles first thanked



Local editor Penny Coles at the Court House for the Niagara Foundation dinner. (Karen Skeoch)

all of the attendees, "the people who love and care for this town, who are working so hard to preserve all that is important about it, its built heritage, natural environments and

streetscapes."

"My part is simply to tell your stories," Coles continued. "Thank you for acknowledging tonight that even in this day of technology and social media, com-

munity newspapers remain relevant, and have a role to play in helping you protect our community. Karen and I wouldn't be doing this if we didn't wholeheartedly believe that."

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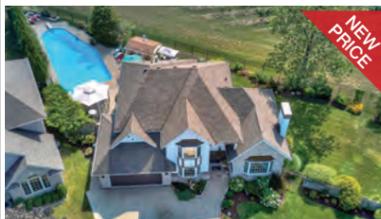
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Guiding units learn about peace and remembrance

**Megan Gilchrist
Special to The Local**

During Remembrance Week, the NOTL Sparks, Brownies, Pathfinders and Rangers spent some time learning about peace and remembrance in our town.

On Nov. 8 our youngest branch, the Sparks, had the opportunity to meet with Jackie Dickieson, Veterans Service Officer from Royal

Canadian Legion Branch 124. They learned about poppies and why we remember, and then created a poppy craft. The Sparks then walked to the Cenotaph on Queen Street to place their poppies in advance of the town's Remembrance Day ceremony.

The next evening, the NOTL Brownies also had the opportunity to meet with veterans and members of Branch 124 at the Legion's Cenotaph.

The Brownies created Remembrance Rocks at an earlier meeting, and after listening to stories from the veterans, were able to present their rocks at the Cenotaph.

Our oldest two branches, the Pathfinders and Rangers, spent Sunday afternoon prior to Remembrance Day walking the Commons path, and learning some stories of the men and women of Niagara-on-the-Lake who have

played a role in war and peace in our community over the past 200 years. The members of both units also created Remembrance Rocks, and made a brief stop at the Legion to present the rocks at the Cenotaph. The walk ended at the NOTL Museum, where a few weeks earlier, the Rangers had assisted museum staff and volunteers in attaching hun-

dreds of poppies onto netting for their outdoor Remembrance display. The youth really enjoyed seeing their work presented outside the museum, and the final exhibit was very moving.

We would like to thank the veterans and staff of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124, and especially Elizabeth Richards and Jackie Dickieson, for

their time and for providing materials and information to our youth members. We would also like to thank the NOTL Museum, in particular Barbara Worthy and the poppy brigade volunteers, for the opportunity to provide service and learn about some of the ways women in Niagara helped during times of war and conflict.



The Pathfinders and Rangers helped out with the NOTL Museum's poppy project. (Photos supplied)



Brownies lay Remembrance Rocks on the monument outside the Royal Canadian Legion Hall.



Legion member Stan Harrington hands out poppy stickers to the Sparks.

Corrections officer Melanie Bajic and retired Niagara Parks Commission Police officer Robert Rittner attended the Queen Street Remembrance Day service with their daughter Mia. The day is important to them, they said, and they want Mia to grow up understanding its significance.



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Remembrance Day on Queen Street



On the 11th day of the 11th month 2021, the Royal Canadian Legion ceremony at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Cenotaph was a little different than pre-pandemic years, but no less emotional. Although the service was planned to be divided into two parts to cut down on the number of people gathering, with many of the wreaths laid before the start of the service, it seemed about the same size crowd as in the past, as NOTL residents paid tribute to those who served their country and made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy. One difference was the mostly empty seats set up for veterans, their families, and others who could not stand for the duration of the service, a reminder of those no longer with us, no longer able to attend or possibly choosing not to because of COVID. (Penny Coles)



Give Your Loved Ones a Taste of Ireland This Holiday Season



Submitted by Irish Harp

Our Holiday Gift Card Sale is back! For every \$50 Gift Card purchased from now through to the new year, you will receive an additional \$10 Gift Card. You can come into the pub at any time to purchase physical gift cards or you can take advantage of this promotion with our E-Gift Cards available on our website.

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er great gift ideas that you can add to any stocking. We sell all of our branded pint glasses as well as true Irish Harp Whiskey Glasses. Our Beer & Whiskey Flight Boards are for sale too! You can pair them with their favourite beer in a 64oz Growler or 32oz Squealer or any of our other to-go options.

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From T-Shirts to Golf Shirts and even Irish Harp Masks. We would love to help you pick out the perfect gift for your friends and family. Come into the pub this holiday season and cross off some names on your list.

We'd like to thank everyone for their continued support over the past year. It's been an interesting one for sure. We wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to serving you soon. Sláinte!



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Building Community Through Laughter

Submitted by Foster Festival

Community is built of many things: the physical spaces around us, the communication lines that connect us, the beliefs that guide us, and above all, that intrinsically human desire to be part of something larger than ourselves. Arts & Culture deepens our connection to one another, enriches all of our lives, and lightens our spirits. At The Norm Foster Theatre Festival, we love to hear the sound of our audience's laughter. Come share in the laughter with us this Holiday Season!

From December 5 - 16, The Foster Festival presents a world premiere reading series of Norm's new play, *Widow Wonderland*. The series features some of Niagara's most beloved actors. Lunch & Dinner packages are also available making this the perfect Holiday treat for friends and family.

1 Script. 12 Artists. 6 Interpretations. Endless Laughs.

Widow Wonderland is a happy Christmas play, even though the two characters are a widow and a widower. But, you can't have a depressing Christmas play. It is frowned upon by the playwright's Christmas play union. And so Norm Foster has fashioned a cheerful one act Christmas play that throws a widow and a widower together at their apartment building's Christmas dinner for those who are alone during the holiday season. Michael and Sharon wind up at a table for two

during this December 23rd dinner and what follows is an evening of getting to know one another with all of the awkwardness and politeness and silliness that a first meeting often includes. Best of all, and most important of all, it is funny and heartwarming.

Give the Gift of Laughter this Holiday Season! Foster Festival Gift Certificates are now available for purchase and can be redeemed for any Foster Festival show or event.

We'll see you in December!



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Photographic Memory at NOTL Museum

Local Staff

Today, our community is rich in heritage and culture, and our wine and tender fruit industries draw tourists from around the world, says the NOTL Museum's assistant curator.

But Niagara-on-the-Lake has changed a lot since the 1980s, adds Shawna Butts. It was once a place where kids would go to the local store for penny candy, milk and bread were delivered, and the town had barbershops, a shoemaker, and coal companies.

The museum's exhibition, *Photographic Memory*, on until

April, transports visitors visually with photographs and videos, but also through memories and oral histories to the period from 1945 to 1985, when our community was described as "just a little quiet town," says Butts.

"We've woven together compelling photographs, memories, and artifacts to explore the various events, businesses, athletics, changing landscapes, and more from across NOTL communities,"

For more information on the museum and its special events and exhibitions, please visit www.notlmuseum.ca or call 905-468-3912.

Celebrating success



Newest members Juan Gabriel Acosta and Jillian Best unveil the Solo Swims of Ontario plaque with their names on it. Both swam across Lake Ontario to Marilyn Bell Park this August. Best is the first person who has had a liver transplant to swim a Great Lake, and is raising money for organ transplants. Acosta, a cardiologist from Hamilton, is raising money to help youth with autism. They join a prestigious group of swimmers who have completed successful lake crossings from NOTL to Toronto, including Colleen Shields, Kim Lumsdon, Shaun Chisholm, Stephanie Hermans, Marilyn Korzekwa, Bob Weir, Christine Arsenault, and Loren King. (Mike Balsom)

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History in the Vineyard offers at-home dinner

Local staff

The Friends of Fort George, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, and Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery are offering a special History in the Vineyard (at home)

fundraiser.

“After a busy summer, we are very excited to be back at Ravine for another great gourmet dinner and history event” says Tony Chisholm, president of the Friends of Fort George. “Included with the dinner will be a special

preview of the upcoming publication, *Fort George: A History*, that is set to be released in 2022 by the Friends of Fort George and Parks Canada.”

“The History in the Vineyard fundraisers have been a great source of income for

both the NOTL Museum and the Friends of Fort George, with previous events selling over 200 dinners and raising thousands of needed dollars for both organizations, while also supporting three local restaurants: Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery, The Garrison House, and Ruffino’s Pasta Bar & Grill,” says Amy Klassen, the museum’s director of finance and marketing.

Due to COVID restrictions, this Dec. 9 event will

offer gourmet take-out/delivered dinner. The three chefs have prepared a special menu with lots of choices. The food will be distributed in special containers that can go directly in the oven to be warmed up. With each ticket purchase, you can also purchase up to two bottles of Ravine’s Sand & Gravel wine for \$15 per bottle.

Tickets are \$100 per person, and include a \$30.00 tax receipt. They can be pur-

chased at www.nhsm.ca or friendsoffortgeorge.ca.

For more information, contact the Friends of Fort George at 905-468-6621, or admin@friendsoffortgeorge.ca, or the NOTL Museum at 905-468-3912, or contact@nhsm.ca.

All proceeds from the evening will support ongoing projects of the Friends of Fort George, the Niagara Historical Society and the Museum.



Grace holds second market event

This is a sneak peak at some of the items available for purchase at Grace United Church’s Christmas Market this Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Available will be Christmas baking, jams and preserves, tourtieres, and unique gift items, including toys, antique china, vintage items and so much more.

(David Gilchrist)



A group of NOTL Museum and Friends of Fort George representatives handed out three-course gourmet takeout meals during the December 2020 fundraiser at Ravine Vineyard Estate Winery. (Penny Coles)

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Konzelmann offering fall, winter outdoor tastings

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

"This is my first time at Konzelmann and the Fall Flights experience has made a great first impression," enthused Welland resident Makaylah McNulty.

McNulty and her fellow novice wine enthusiast, Erin Longo, waited over a month to enjoy their exclusive wine-tasting. "We missed the Summer Sips experience and wanted to make sure we made it to the fall one," says Longo.

Konzelmann transitioned from their outdoor Summer Sips wine-tasting experience, which featured their famous Peachwine Sangria on their outdoor patio to a more autumnal vibe by serving Pumpkin Spice Mulled Wine on the enclosed patio around a private fire pit. This tasting experience includes three wines paired with locally sourced charcuterie. On offer is the 2019 Reserve Series Late Harvest Gewürztraminer and a choice of the Lakefront Series Pinot Noir or the Lakefront Series Shiraz. The tasting is completed with the warmed mulled wine-topped cranberries

paired with a luscious mini berry doughnut, or paczki. Guests leave with their own packet of mulling spices to take home.

"Our private outdoor experiences continue to be a great success, and have been very well received by our guests," says Andrew Niven, director of marketing and hospitality. "We look forward to introducing our new winter experience, Fireside Flights, the beginning of December. This new experience gives guests exclusive access to our enclosed winter patio, in the safety and comfort of your very own private fire pit. Wrap yourself up in a complimentary take-home blanket, while sampling seasonal wines, including our award winning Icewine, paired with a gourmet s'mores board. Truly a winter wine country experience, like no other."

The Fall Flights and upcoming Fireside Flights are \$30 a person, and about 45 minutes in duration. Reservations are required, and can be booked for a maximum of four people per group. Konzelmann also offers a designated driver option for \$15, which includes everything but the



Erin Longo and Makaylah McNulty enjoy an outdoor fall tasting experience at Konzelmann Estate Winery. (Kim Wade)

wine tastings. These experiences are in an enclosed patio area. Although you are near a fire pit, it provides more ambiance than warmth, so remember to dress appropriately for the weather.

Staff also asks patrons to arrive 10 minutes before your reservation to maximize your time.

In addition to the outdoor private tastings, Konzelmann also offers public tastings in the main building. You can choose from a 25-minute seated tasting or a more in-depth 45-minute seated tasting designed for groups of up to 10 people.

If you want to get even more involved, participate in one of their T's is the Season themed workshops. On Dec. 3, starting at 6 p.m., patrons are invited to enjoy some wine while learning how to create memorable macramé ornaments for their Christmas trees. The workshop is hosted by

Konzelmann and Ashley D'elia, crafter and founder of Knotted by Ash.

Or try Christmas Winter Wonderland Cookie Decorating with Sydney & Jen. This workshop pairs wine tastings and cookie decorating, with local bakers, Jen Hamm and Sydney Sauriol, providing the materials you'll need, and step-by-step instructions to create your own holiday cookies with style.

Each workshop is \$69.95 per person and includes a structured wine tasting experience with a

Konzelmann senior wine consultant, including three pre-selected wines, two ounces each, and a five-ounce glass of Holiday Sangria (white wine or non-alcoholic). They will run approximately three hours. Booking is easy on the Konzelmann.ca website, or contact the retail store for more information at 905-935-2866 ext 430.

Public tastings and workshops in the main building require guests to provide proof they're fully vaccinated in accordance with the provincial vaccine certificate program.



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This Hour Has 22 Minutes



CBC cast and crew members of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* film faculty and students, for a behind-the-scenes look at Niagara College's licensed cannabis growing facility, the Cannabunker. The commercial cannabis production program was to be featured on this Tuesday's show, at 8 p.m., and can be seen any time on CBC Gem. The college's cannabis program was the first of its kind in Canada, training highly skilled professionals to grow cannabis to Health Canada standards. (Photo supplied)

Kids GAZETTE

Actual Kid-Friendly News



SILLY PET PHOTO
Hank and Otis
 are ready for some scouting adventures!

NOVEMBER 2021 Volume 1 • Issue 3

FIND THE SMILEY FACE HIDDEN ON THIS PAGE!

Local News

Mariah Reese Kids Gazette

After a lot of uncertainty, we finally got the word that the NOTL Candlelight Stroll

will go forward this year! After its cancellation last year there is quite an excitement in town about its return to Old Town.

Last Saturday, Nov. 13 was

the kickoff of the Shaw Festival's play *A Christmas Carol*. So, grab your parents and a friend and check it out, you're sure to have a great time.

Diwali Celebration in NOTL

Maansi Gandhi-Malhotra

Diwali is a festival of lights. It celebrates the victory of good over evil. It is celebrated by Indian people all over the world. The biggest parties are in India. Diwali is a five-day festival and usually it is in October or November. This year it was on Nov. 4. On Diwali we eat sweets called mithai, do sparklers and fireworks, clean our homes, wear new clothing, and see friends and family.

This year was extra special because friends and neighbours who don't celebrate Diwali

came to our home and they got to do sparklers and we had so much fun!



Interview with Aoibhin

Q. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A. Animator, cartoonist, artist. I'd love being an animator! Then I could just make cartoons and show them to the world. I'll make my own style. I draw and animate right now. So far my animation has been a bit better. Sometimes I will fuse all the things I do: skate, sing, dance, play piano into one cartoon story.

on true stories of hers. It's based on her life and her problems with her friends and her family, and then she finds a way to fix it. And I can relate to her problems and it helps me with my life. She sometimes has ups and downs and always finds a way to find back up. I prefer graphic novels because I can see what they're doing. I can see what they look like, I won't mess it up. Graphic novels are amazing

ing their favourite thing. We do something positive while talking to make them feel more relaxed.

Q. What is your favourite thing about Niagara-on-the-Lake?

A. Restaurants. We like to support local and the food (here) is so good. Sandtrap or Bistro 61. Bistro 61 has personal pizzas that are delicious. Nina's has strawberry sorbet and raspberry sorbet, they're like so good that I feel like God eating ice cream!

Q. What's that certain something that makes you special?

A. Probably the fact that I listen to people a lot, my energy and my creativity. During the lockdowns I practised my singing and was invited to compete at provincials in June, then it led to an invitation to audition for *Broadway Dreams* and I was accepted. I've been working on the show since early October.

Q. What is your favourite book?

A. Either *Best Friends* or *Forever Friends* by Shannon Hale. They're graphic novels. The stories are amazing, because the stories are based

Q. What do you do to help others?

A. I help kids (ice) skate. I'm a p.a. at CANSKATE and love it. I try to listen to people and let them talk it all out. Sometimes when people are having problems or going through something I let them talk it all out - let me hear. My friends tell me I should be a therapist. I usually do a couple tricks to help them feel more calm or more relaxed, like walk and talk or talk while they're do-



Aoibhin Davidson, 12

Travel Blog - The Kingdom of Bahrain

Elina Moussi, 11

Bahrain is actually my birth country — my parents lived and worked there before I was born. Bahrain is an archipelago in the Middle East, in the Persian/Arabian Gulf.

Bahrain connects to Saudi Arabia by a 20-kilometre bridge. Lots of schools in Bahrain are international, so there are people from around the world in one school. I learned Arabic in my kindergarten at the age of 3-4, and French in

Grade 4. I had friends from different continents. It never snows in Bahrain: in the summer, the temperatures stay at 40 to 50C, and the coldest ever winter day I remember was 7 to 9C. One can swim in the sea pretty much between the months of March and November! There are many large malls: the City Centre Mall even has a large water park inside. You can find traditional Middle Eastern and modern Western clothes there. Bahrain hosts Formula 1 Grand Prix yearly. The cuisine of Bahrain consists of dishes such as biryani, khabeesa, machboos, mahyawa, maglooba, quzi and zalabia. There are many international restaurants everywhere.

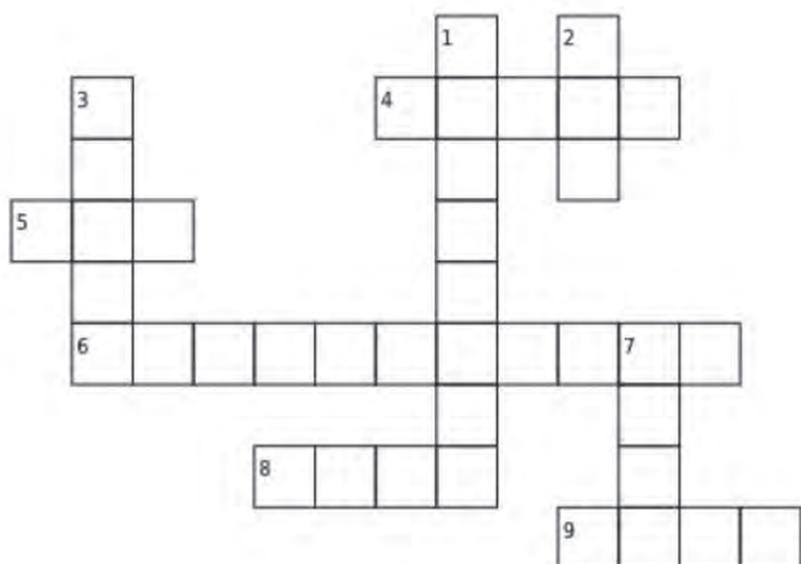
I left many friends there, and I hope with all my heart to go and visit Bahrain soon!



LOOKING FOR A CHARITY!

We are looking for charities in which kids can participate. If you would like your organization to be highlighted here, please send your information to the contact found below.

Crossword: Weather



Down:

- 1 Winter storm with high winds and lots of snow
- 2 A yellow dwarf star which the Earth receives warmth and light from
- 3 Ice crystals formed on surfaces
- 7 Drops of water that fall from the Earth's atmosphere

Across:

- 4 Condensed vapor in the atmosphere
- 5 Cloud that touches the ground
- 6 Measure of hottness or coldness
- 8 Natural movement of air
- 9 Precipitation in the form of ice crystals

Answers: DOWN: 1. BLIZZARD 2. SUN 3. FROST 7. RAIN ACROSS: 4. CLOUD 5. FOG 6. TEMPERATURE 8. WIND 9. SNOW



Happy Birthday to all our Joyous NOTL Kids!

Maya Gazzard will be 15 November 18



RIDDLE

RIDDLE: If I add six to 11, I get five. How?

ANSWERS: 11 a.m., six hours later, is 5 p.m.

SUBMISSION INFO

The hope for this page is to get kids involved and interacting with the community in a positive way. We welcome submissions for all categories from kids of any age. Please keep the reviews positive and all submitted content appropriate for kids of all ages. Please send all submissions to joyousnotlkids@gmail.com and in the subject line please put the category for which you are submitting. Thank you

Local SPORTS

Predators win two of three this weekend

Mike Balsom
Special to The Local

A bit of a line shuffle paid dividends for the Niagara Predators this weekend.

Acting coach Robert Turnbull teamed captain Mario Zitella with Dante Massi and Emil Eriksson for the first time Friday night. The combination notched six goals and 13 assists for a total of 19 points in a three-day stretch.

Following a weekend with no games on the schedule, the Preds had an opportunity to work some of their newer players into the line-up as well for Friday's 4-2 home win over the Plattsville Lakers.

Eriksson put the Predators onto the scoreboard ear-

ly in the first period Friday while parked in front of Lakers goalie Rahul Bola. He received a pass from Zitella and, with his back facing Bola, he finessed the puck with a backhand shot past the helpless netminder.

After Alexander Insulander scored on a penalty shot, Eriksson put Niagara up 3-0 with just over two minutes left in the opening period when he knocked in a rebound after Zitella's shot was stopped by Bola.

Jesper Eriksson added the fourth Predators goal in the second period.

It was a good all-around performance for Niagara, despite the fact that both Lakers' goals were the result

of misplays by the Predators squad. Plattsville's Malcolm Campbell scored when the puck bounced over the stick of Predators goalie Oskar Spinnars Nordin as he was trying to pass to one of his defenders while the Lakers changed shifts.

"I was kidding with Oskar that we were going to have to work on his passing before the next game," Turnbull laughed. "It's very rare. He made some stops there that I call 'Oskar stops'. It was just bad luck."

The team had some obvious success Friday working around the net, with three of the goals coming from close range.

"We're working on it," explained Turnbull. "In practice we've been working with one or two behind the net and getting someone out front. Most of our goals are pretty goals. They're doing a hell of a job in the corners and we're pretty solid on the back end too."

The Predators split their Saturday-Sunday home-and-home series against the Nor-

thumberland Stars, who played out of the Keeler Centre in Colborne.

On the road, Niagara fell 3-1 to the Stars Saturday, despite outshooting them 37-27. After a scoreless first period the Stars scored twice in the second, and the Predators couldn't recover. Their third came on an empty net with 1:13 remaining in the game.

"They played very tight defensively on us Saturday," GM Eriksson said. "We knew they were going to be physical. Every time we got the puck we got hit right away. They played hard, but we could have won that game. We hit the crossbar three times and hit the post too. We just couldn't get the puck in the net."

It was a different story Sunday afternoon back at the Meridian Credit Union Arena in Virgil.

The Predators exploded with three goals in the first period in a time span of less than three minutes, with all three coming from the Zitella-Massi-Emil Eriksson line.

En route to a 6-0 shellack-

ing of the Stars, the Predators poured in a total of four goals on the power play. Swedish defenceman Pontus Madsen picked up his first goal as a Predator, both Zitella and Emil Eriksson scored twice, and Jesper Eriksson had a single.

"It was an amazing game yesterday, we owned the game," Johan Eriksson said when it was pointed out that Niagara outshot Northumberland 47-23. "We wanted to show them who was better, and I think we did."

Both Turnbull and general manager Jesper Eriksson were pleased with the performance of Welland native Brenden Morin, who played his first game with the Preds Friday night. He was solid on the back line and also took a number of runs into the offensive zone to try to set up shots.

The search for a new coach may soon be coming to an end. But both Turnbull and Eriksson seemed to hint that at this stage of the season, with 13 games played, the solution may be to stay status quo, with Turnbull, currently

the oldest coach in the Greater Metro Hockey League, behind the bench.

The Predators are back in action Friday, Nov. 19, hosting the 1-and-13 Tottenham Thunder. They travel to Tottenham for the second game of a home-and-home series Saturday night.

The Predators are currently holding a Christmas Drive, collecting winter clothing, food and gifts in support of Gateway Community Church, Community Care of West Niagara and Project Share.

"We've been looking at a few options for giving back," said Eriksson. "That was one of the things we could easily help out with. The guys were on board and we've already collected a lot of items. We want to be a community team."

Items can be dropped off at any of their home games between 5:30 and 9 p.m., as well as during their practices Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 2 and 5 p.m. Details are on the Niagara Predators Facebook page.

Meet the Predators

Name:

Jesper Eriksson

Jersey number: 8

Age: 20

Birthdate: **March 22, 2001**

Hometown: **Stockholm, Sweden**

Nickname: **Jeppe**

Favourite hockey player: **Alexander Ovechkin & Nicklas Bäckström**

Favourite 'hype' song: **Bangerang by Skrillex**

Your hockey highlight: **Winning the TV-Pucken (Swedish national ice hockey tournament for district youth teams)**

Other sports you play: **Paddel and soccer when I was younger**

Favourite "cheat" meal: **Burger from Max in Sweden**

Secret talent: **I can make almost any kind of coffee**



Local HAPPENINGS

FISH FRY
Thursday, November 18th
4 - 7 p.m.
EAT IN OR DRIVE THRU
CASH ONLY

1 piece \$10
2 piece \$13
with fries and coleslaw
taxes included

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BRANCH 124
NIAGARA ON THE LAKE

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905-468-2353 | legion124@gmail.com

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Take-out!
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Fish, our famous crispy fries and coleslaw!
Sorry no pan fried fish or baked potatoes available!
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With or without a border, colour graphics optional.
Include your Logo! Prices starting at \$20.
Deadline: Monday 3 p.m. Call Karen 905-641-5335
or email: classified@notllocal.com



Predator Dante Massi (15) leads the charge, with Mario Zitella (7) following behind, during their Friday home game win against the Plattsville Lakers. (Mike Balsom)

Local WORSHIP

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sunday, November 21st
10:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering -
Online & In-Person
(Registration Required)
Message:
Kevin Bayne -
The Beginning of Work
Our services are also streamed
online Sunday's at 10 AM. Visit our
website for more information!
www.ccchurch.ca

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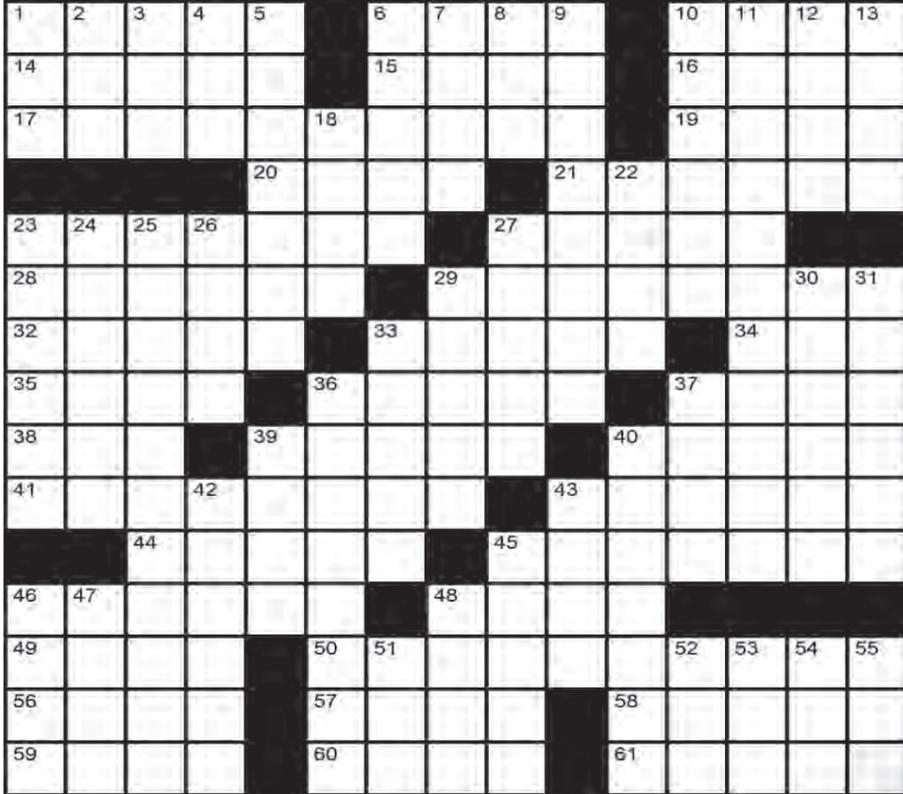
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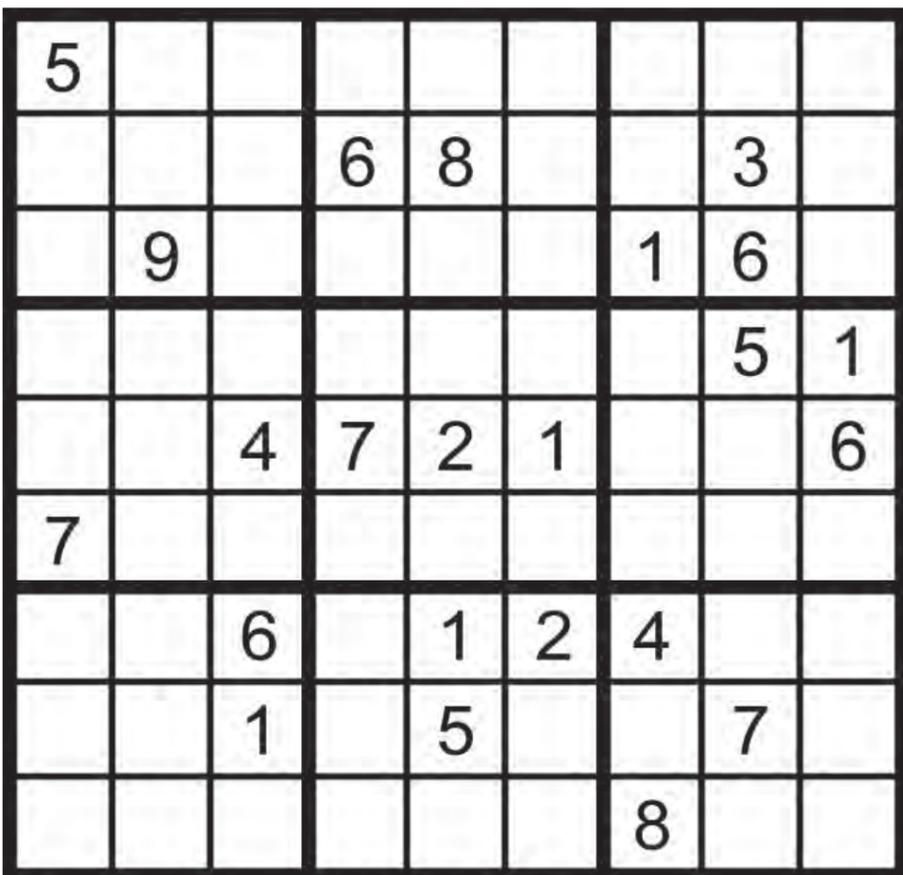


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CROSSWORD



- Across:**
- 1 Old computer dial-up device
 - 6 Adjust
 - 10 Impertinent person
 - 14 Fort Utah, formerly
 - 15 Food scraps
 - 16 Cheat
 - 17 Go-ahead
 - 19 Subject of study
 - 20 Mazuma
 - 21 Baseball scorecard listing
 - 23 Scott Pelley's employer
 - 27 Into a state of decline
 - 28 Melts together
 - 29 Airline perks
 - 32 Bankrupts
 - 33 Turns on the waterworks
 - 34 --- Arbor, MI
 - 35 Utter a shrill cry
 - 36 Panamanian singer --- Blades
 - 37 Gumbo essential
 - 38 Second sight
 - 39 Point of a tale
 - 40 Seen by those with 38 Across, perhaps?
 - 41 Went home to disrupt a play with no men
 - 43 Volkswagen classic
 - 44 Prima donnas
 - 45 Mischievous ones
 - 46 Horse that has not won a race
 - 48 Broadcasts
 - 49 'It --- rocket science!'
 - 50 The Martian --- (Ray Bradbury)
 - 56 "Star Wars" monastic warriors
 - 57 Send forth
 - 58 GWTW's Scarlett ---
 - 59 New Mexico artists' colony
 - 60 In order
 - 61 Course halves
- Down:**
- 1 Auto efficiency measure
 - 2 Boston Bruin great
 - 3 Buck's mate
 - 4 First of her kind
 - 5 Found in barrels, often
 - 6 Labors long and hard
 - 7 Compulsion
 - 8 Degree in mathematics?
 - 9 Steroid hormone
 - 10 Cascades peak
 - 11 Flickertail State
 - 12 "How obvious!"
 - 13 Seckel or Bartlett
 - 18 Hill products
 - 22 Bear in Brittany
 - 23 Magic transport
 - 24 Slightly off-color, I'm in red
 - 25 Put on top, wavy lines dip badly
 - 26 Not one
 - 27 Pitch
 - 29 Name of eight popes
 - 30 Register
 - 31 Winds
 - 33 Prepares for keeping
 - 36 Wines and dines
 - 37 Crude cartel
 - 39 Chess turn
 - 40 Official sitting
 - 42 Side-to-side measurements
 - 43 Where the cows come home to
 - 45 Commotions
 - 46 Spray finely
 - 47 Largest of seven, round the world
 - 48 Any of 44 Across could sing one
 - 51 Care plan
 - 52 Greek X
 - 53 Intra-office computer system
 - 54 Before
 - 55 Carrier to Copenhagen, briefly



OBITUARY

BROWNE, AGNES—Agnes "Nan" [nee Brown] born Paisley, Renfrewshire Scotland on November 22, 1946. Died peacefully and bravely on November 11, 2021, surrounded by family.

Dearly beloved wife of Michael for 52 years and loving Mother of Lesley and Louise (Larry). Proud and caring Grandma of Isabella and Joey. Pre-deceased by her brother Roy and her dear sister Jean. Survived by brother Gordon (Kathy), sister-in-law Kathleen Reid (Angus), cousins Ann MacLeod, Bruce Brown, and Anne McAnally. Caring aunt to many nieces, nephews, and their children. A true Paisley Buddy, Nan will be dearly missed by long-time friends Sandra (Jim) Hand, Janice Girasoli (Baird), Margaret Thomson (Gowers), Nancy Finnie (Young), and Jean (Duncan) Murray, all of Scotland. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Morgan Funeral Home, Niagara-on-the-Lake where a private service will be held on November 18th, 2021. Livestream of the service may be viewed at facebook.com/morseandson on Thursday morning at 11:55 am.

In lieu of flowers, Nan asked that donations be made to Newark Neighbours Niagara and Red Roof Retreat Niagara. Endless gratitude for the 199 days of compassionate and supportive care provided by the extraordinary team at Hospice Niagara.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Sudoku solution from November 10, 2021

6	9	5	2	1	8	3	4	7
4	2	3	7	9	5	6	1	8
7	1	8	6	3	4	2	5	9
8	3	6	4	7	1	5	9	2
9	5	1	8	2	6	7	3	4
2	7	4	9	5	3	1	8	6
1	4	7	5	8	2	9	6	3
3	6	2	1	4	9	8	7	5
5	8	9	3	6	7	4	2	1

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Seasonal farm workers needed from March 5, 2022 to September 25, 2022. Must enjoy working in an agricultural environment in all weather conditions. Must be available 7 days a week. Heavy lifting and ladder climbing will be required. Duties will include six (6) weeks of picking strawberries along with pruning, thinning and picking plums, peaches and nectarines. Pay is \$14.39 per hour and own transportation is a must. **Mail resume to Walter, Konik Farms, 1585 Concession 6, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario L0S 1J0**
 Only applicants to be interviewed will be contacted.

To place your classified ad, contact Karen:
classifieds@notllocal.com
 Deadline: Mondays at 3 p.m.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Across: 1 Modern, 6 Tune, 10 Snip, 14 Provo, 15 Orts, 16 Hose, 17 Green light, 19 Area, 20 Kale, 21 Roster, 23 C B S News, 27 South, 28 Alloys, 29 Upgrades, 32 Ruins, 33 Cries, 34 Ann, 35 Pipe, 36 Ruben, 37 Okra, 38 ES P, 39 Moral, 40 Spook, 41 The women, 43 Beetle, 44 Divas, 45 Rascals, 46 Maiden, 48 Airs, 49 Isn't, 50 Chronicles, 56 Sith, 57 Emit, 58 O'Hara, 59 Taos, 60 So as, 61 Nines.

Down: 1 M P G, 2 Orr, 3 Doe, 4 Eve, 5 Monkey, 6 Tolls, 7 Urge, 8 Nth, 9 Estrogen, 10 Shasta, 11 North Dakota, 12 I see, 13 Pear, 18 Laws, 22 Ours, 23 Carpet, 24 Bluish, 25 Slipped into, 26 None, 27 Spiel, 29 Urban, 30 Enroll, 31 Snakes, 33 Cures, 36 Romances, 37 O P E C, 39 Move, 40 Session, 42 Widths, 43 Barn, 45 Riots, 46 Mist, 47 Asia, 48 Aria, 51 H M O, 52 Chi, 53 L A N, 54 Ere, 55 S A S.

Local SPORTS

Badminton club seeking new members

Penny Coles
The Local

Now that the colder weather has arrived, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Badminton Club is meeting in the community centre, and could use a few new members.

League convenor Ted Little says they've got about 20 members playing on two courts, and have a third court available. They'd be thrilled to have another 10 members.

Ron Planche, a regular player for some time, says it isn't "backyard badminton,"

but there is a varied level of skill levels in the club.

He says badminton "is a wonderful, inclusive, non-contact sport that only requires a light racquet and soft sole shoes that won't mark the court. It's a great social sport, easily played

that will exercise your reflexes and provide an element of weight control, the good fun way."

It is really easy to play, he says. "Just pick up your racquet, lace up your shoes, show up Mondays and Fridays between 10:30 a.m.

and 12:30 p.m. at the NOTL community centre, and be ready to play."

Double COVID-19 vaccination proof is required.

Badminton, despite appearances, played well is "the world's fastest racquet sport," says Planche. "Surprised? Faster than tennis, squash and ping pong."

But more to the point, he adds, at the community centre, "you will find badminton is a terrific sport that will keep you healthy and fit, while losing weight. Badminton boasts 60 to 70 per cent aerobic and 30 to 40 per cent anaerobic."

The first, he explains, provides benefits of stamina, strengthening the heart, and a longer life. It also strengthens bones, burns fat, and maintains muscle fat. It is estimated at medium activity three hours a week over the year, you will lose about 10 pounds.

"Badminton is a great way to meet a lot of new people, and newcomers to NOTL find badminton a great way to network with people that share common interests."

It is also an ideal sport for current squash and tennis players, and current members of the club are always on

hand to help newer players to the sport develop their skill set, says Planche.

Little has been playing with the club since the days when members met at the old Platoff Street community centre. Its low ceiling and uneven floors were issues, and the new facility has been very much appreciated.

He took over the role of convenor in 1996, but says the club had been meeting for several years before that.

The pandemic "hit us hard," says Little. "We couldn't play for 18 months, and a lot of people have found that time has taken its toll."

Most of the members are seniors, and a lot who joined did so as beginners, but have become "pretty good." One long-time member in particular, Brian Law, is usually available to offer some tips.

The annual fee is \$120, but those who want to try it out are welcome to attend a session. Those who come out infrequently can choose to pay \$5 a game, rather than an annual membership, says Little.

For more information, call Law at 289-630-1828, or Little at 905-468-5066, or email him at little@niagara.com.



Brain Law shows Hal Barlow how to swipe, not flick the racquet. (Photos by Ron Planche)

It's a smashing game and lot of good exercise. Brock Sanson and Ranjit Reel enjoy the action on one of Niagara-on-the-Lake's 3 badminton courts.

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