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

Planning director Craig Larimore 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.

“People like them, they’re helpful, they bring a busyness and a sense of people wanting to be on Queen Street, sitting at incorporating them into a sidewalk, in love,” he said.

“They’re a benefit to Queen Street, sitting and 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 temporary patios were allowed for restaurants to expand when numbers were limited inside restaurants.

“We 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 need- ed, he said, reminding councilors that patios will impact parking, and even with parking at a range of $50.00 per spot, “there is nowhere we can buy parking.”

Councillors voted unanimously in favour of the staff rec-ommendation that patio li- cences be extended to Jan. 1, 2023.
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 a village of people who rented those units were 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 traveling 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 1024525.

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 scans in three months to ensure he will have another set of orthopedic surgery this fall but the cancer diagnosis led to its cancellation. His yellow tricycle and the tandem bike he loves to ride in the town are a horse and carriage ride through the town. Says Dani, "He loves everything that this 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 the beneficiary. Devon can often be found at one of the arenas, where he watches hockey. (Photo supplied)

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 always rides 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 the public asked to light a candle at home, the Candlelight Stroll is really the first formal celebration to take place in the town since March, 2020. This milestone hasn't been lost on the Boybst 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. 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 the beneficiary. Devon can often be found at one of the arenas, where he watches hockey. (Photo supplied)

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 NRP 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 the stroll at the Court House, where Devon will be boarding a horse-drawn carriage from Sentinel Carriages to get everyone walking and singing. Masks will be required for everyone attending the event.

Red Roof Retreat’s 11th Annual Gifts from the Heart

November 16 – January 10

Our goal of $60,000 will allow us to provide another year of respite and recreational programs for children and young adults with special needs!

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Penny Coles  
**The Local**

Town council has battled over the Parliament Oak property — once owned by historian who had purchased it to save the building from developers — for years. Although planning staff do not yet have an official application for the development, residents have been vocal about the proposed project in the Old Town, which they oppose. The property sits in the heart of the Old Town, and its historic designation, with “harmonious” design integrating into the surrounding area, and low-rise apartment buildings, can be included in the Old Town’s heritage area. Residents remain unhappy with the revised proposal for the former Parliament Oak property, which has fewer units as currently designed. (Screenshot)

Parliament Oak proposal raises ire of neighbours

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

Lord mayor anxious to return to in-person meetings

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 St. George streets, is expected to release a revised proposal to the drawing board, and last week a revised proposal was presented at a virtual public planning meeting.

The revised proposal reduced 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 said that according to the regional plan for the area, the project should be no more than three storeys, and the developer’s assertion that the height of the building is 11 metres tall, saying that the project being proposed is “preposterous, egregious by any stretch. Staff would be no problem, 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 large enough for councillors to discuss the matter. The current low density zoning now allows.

Marilyn Bartlett, a neighbour of the proposed development, spoke to additional concerns about the project. With a revised proposal that would allow councillors to discuss the matter. The current low density zoning now allows.

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Newark Neighbours has 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 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 Ander- son 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.

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The Newark Neighbourhood 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 operation 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@cogeco.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)
ON STAGE THIS FALL AND HOLIDAY SEASON

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Rural New England provides the setting for Eugene O’Neill’s dramatic American classic.
ON STAGE TO DECEMBER 12

A Christmas Carol
See the beloved Dickens classic on stage in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the perfect setting to experience a Victorian winter wonderland.
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ON STAGE TO DECEMBER 23

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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 representative of that industry.

I was really blown away by the huge honour bestowed by the Foundation, its board and the support we received for 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 Sketch, 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.

Let’s set aside the positive associations and what it says to the community, that we talk of citizens equally and seriously. Let’s set aside what it says to the government that we are struggling to be accepted, and is more likely to attempt or commit suicide. Let’s set aside that Canada has a reckoning with how we have ignored the Indigenous and African Canadians in our society. Let’s 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 to coast have taken this important step in their business strategy. The feedback of having this, as so many communities all across Canada have already instigated, has been positive. It looks like this is a different step, and at the same time address the questions and concerns of the heritage community and in my group.

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 not only what kind of community we want, but how we build a more sustainable and prosperous tourism industry. And yes, installing a permanent pride walk or Heritage District, at a 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. It was fairly positive as it related to NOTL and want to speak to some of the responses. I kindly 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.

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In the committee, it was asked if this would be a permanent feature, and why in this district? The answer to permanence is yes, for its full effect so make it really so. As a 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 will make a huge impact on the streetscape as we are coming to terms with our past. Making half gestures is no longer acceptable. It is time for us to be more positive society but an opportunity to create a brighter future for our economy, and set our tourism sector up for positive effect to what we want.

Another individual on the committee though was that the colors would be jarring, and could we mute them. Although I am sure they had their heart in the right place, but that is the need for making half gestures. And with all of that, I want that we should be a little less vocal. I would also add the tools we can employ. Which is why when I brought up the tools we can employ. Which is why when I brought up the costs or the tools we can employ. Which is why when I brought up the costs or the tools we can employ. Which is why when I brought up the costs or the tools for the Local.

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

The Niagara-on-the-Lake is a corporation, in the business of running a town and offering services to its customers. Many municipal towns have had staff moving at home are now calling them back to work in person. They have measures in place, such as requiring staff to be fully vaccinated. Masks must be worn, distances kept, even napkins taken.

Listening to the scientists, it is easy to believe this COVID-19 will never come to an end. 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 are now closing 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 municipal towns have had staff moving at home are now calling them back to work in person. They have measures in place, such as requiring staff to be fully vaccinated. Masks must be worn, distances kept, even napkins taken.

Listening to the scientists, it is easy to believe this COVID-19 will never come to an end. 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.

It’s a hard call to know the right way to go, even if the town hall is still closed, and why might be time for working on-site in other municipalities are handling this issue a little less cautiously.
**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 (SOY) is bringing its Tools in the Trades Boot Camp focusing on Transportation (Motion Power) to Bidikes 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 ERC 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 standardized trades in the next five years. And digital disruption will mean that 25 per cent of Canada's four million tradecrafters will need to upgrade their skills within that same time period.

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 (Motion 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.

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**LETTERS: As we evolve we welcome change**

Kearney report author, who stated that sometimes misrep- resenting, stereotyping or not taking the community seriously results in jeopardizing millions of dollars. Winning over this community is complicated, and involves more than putting up 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 just be vigilant about, but we need to do what we can to make sure it never happens. She said, it is not enough to just be vigilant about, but we need to do what we can to make sure it never happens. We cannot be complacent.

Some things need 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 237 new apprentices, and awarded over 40 scholarships in nine different trades.

They aim 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 through automotive, welding and machine shop electives to get a feel for the opportunities that are out there.

As well, our boards of education systematically stripped many high schools of technolo- gies classes, leaving them as just electives, but 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 grad- uates, all eager to learn and to make connections.

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

The Ontario Construction Secretariat, who held their an- nual general meeting in Niagara- on-the-Lake this fall, sur- veyed their contractor members earlier this year. More than half of the respondents anticipated greater difficulty in accessing skilled labour this year com- pared to 2020.

If the current boom in construction continues and an expected increase in provincial infrastructure projects comes to fruition, the shortage of trades- people 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 car- penters. Many of those students went on to learn their trades at colleges or to complete apprenticeships in local businesses.

My involvement in these boot camps as a teacher of soft skills allows me to continue working with young men and women to make them aware of opportuni- ties 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 (Motion 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.

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**Local Christmas Gift Guide**

Advertise your local business in NOTL's special section!

*Special bonus for minimum 1/4 page ad*

We will match your minimum quarter page ad size with equal space for your submitted story about your product or service.

**Publication Dates:**

November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22

**Booking Deadlines:**

Fridays prior to each publication date at noon

Next Deadline: Friday, November 19

Karen at 905-641-5335 or karen@notllocal.com

Julia at 905-934-1040 or julia@notllocal.com

The news expressed in our submitted commentary, and letters to the editor, is the sole responsibility of the contributors and not necessarily those of the NOTL Local.
First Passive House in region on Niagara Street

By Penny Coles
The Local

Last Tuesday a crane began lifting panels into place. Last Monday morning, the foundation had been prepared, ready for panels to be installed. By Friday morning, the last panels were in place.

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 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 her 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-panel 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 $350,000 plus, therapy than a traditional build the same size, lower utility bills will make 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 to come.

Because the house is heavily insulated — the walls have nine inches of insulation, while the roof is two inches — and one which in five days.

Although his company 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 builder 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
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 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.”

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Amanda Thackray discusses the floor plan with Jeremy Clarke of Simple Life Homes. (Penny Coles)
NOTICE OF STUDY COMMENCEMENT
MUNICIPAL CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR:
QUEENSTON — ST. DAVIDS
WASTEWATER SERVICING STRATEGY

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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Personal information collected or submitted in writing at public meetings will be collected, used and disclosed by members of Regional Council and Regional staff in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA). The written submissions including names, contact information and reports of the public meeting will be made available. Questions should be referred to the Privacy Office at 905-980-6000, ext. 3779 or FOI@niagararegion.ca.

If you require any accommodations in order to attend and participate in meetings or events, please let us know in advance so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. Please contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.
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, Margaretta, well known for her myriad efforts to preserve the town’s environmental and heritage assets.

“I am 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 a historically significant 5.5-acre (2.2 hectares) woodland site that houses historic buildings, one of which is modelled after Napoleon’s house 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 unprocessed knee jerk reaction by developers to preserve the town’s history.”

Burroughs was at the event, following along with fellow past Living Landmark Award winners Debi Pratt and Richard Melcher, to honour the new member of their exclusive fraternity, the 2021 recipient. The NLOT 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 us all an equal opportunity to comment.”

Thomson’s joke that Coles claims to actually enjoy following the meetings and background behind council deliberations got a chuckle from the attendees.

She mentioned Penny’s many years in the helm of the Niagara Advance, and her decision, with her business partner and long-time friend Karen Skeoch, to start The NLOT 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 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 job is simply to tell your stories,” Coles continued. “Thank you for acknowledging tonight that even in this day of technological and social media, community 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.”

Local editor Penny Coles
(Karen Skeoch)
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.

On Nov. 12, the NOTL 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.

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.

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.

Megan Gilchrist
Special to The Local

November 17, 2021

Erica A. Blythe, Law Corporation

With Christmas just around the corner, the greatest gift you can give your family is the peace of mind of an updated Will

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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.

Submit 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.

We also have lots of other 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.

We have Warm Blankets on sale, perfect for winter patio season and lots of different apparel items as well. 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. Sláinte!

Give Your Loved Ones a Taste of Ireland This Holiday Season

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.

We also have lots of other 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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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 Arsenaught, and Loren King. (Mike Balsom)
Grace holds second market event

This is a sneak peak at some of the items available 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, tortieres, and unique gift items, including toys, antique china, vintage items and so much more.

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History in the Vineyard offers at-home dinner

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 re-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 purchased 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.
Konzelmann offering fall, winter outdoor tastings

Kim Wade
Special to The Local

“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 experience. “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 wine pairings, with locally sourced charcuterie. On offer is the 2019 Recally sourced charcuterie. 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 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 Tim Hortons 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.

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 experience, like no other.

The workshop is hosted by Konzelmann and Ashley Delia, creator 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 cookies, all 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 905-935-2868 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.

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

Q. What is your favourite book?
A. Either Best Friends or Forever Friends by Sharon Hale. They’re graphic novels. The stories are amazing, because the stories are based 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

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 doing 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. Nillas 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 lockdown 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’s that certain thing that makes you special?
A. Probably the fact that I listen to people a lot, my energy and my creativity.

Diwali Celebration in NOTL

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!

Travel Blog - The Kingdom of Bahrain

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 bhayani, khabeeza, machboos, mahyawa, maglooba, quzi and zalabia. There are many international restaurants everywhere.

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

Local News

Mariah Reese
Kids Gazette

After a lot of uncertainty, we finally got the word that the NOTL Candelight 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’s play A Christmas Carol.

Travel Blog - The Kingdom of Bahrain

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.

Looking for a Charity!

FROM OUR SUBMISSIONS

Happy Birthday to all our Joyous NOTL Kids!

Maya Gazzard will be 15 November 18

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

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
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 new-er 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 early 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 Spinners Nordlin 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 easy. We need a few dirty 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 Nuthumberland Stars, who play 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 Merridan 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-Eriksson line. In route to a 6-0 shellacking 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 Great-Er 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 practic-es Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 2 and 5 p.m. Details are on the Niagara Predators Facebook page.
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.