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**Briefly**

**Pop Up Shop in Winchester**

WINCHESTER – A group of vendors have come together to provide the community the opportunity to shop local. Hogaboam Stitchery and Sweet Legs Winchester will be hosting a Pop Up Shop every Saturday, from Sat., Nov. 7 to Sat., Dec. 19. The shop will take place at 506B Main Street in Winchester. There will also be a variety of vendors participating each week.

**Finch Parade of Lights**

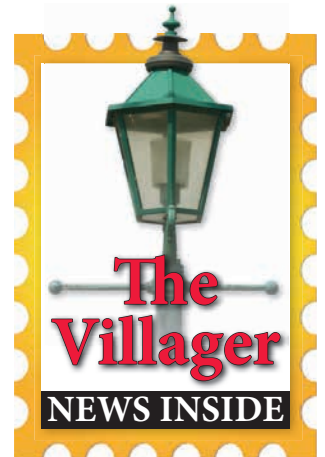
FINCH – On Sat., Dec. 12 in Finch, there will be a Parade of Lights with the floats organized at Moran's Yard at 6:30 p.m. and the parade beginning at 7:00 p.m. Covid-19 regulations will be in full effect. Parade must be watched from your vehicle or from your own yard. There will be no congregation on the streets to watch parade.

**Crysler Parade of Lights**

CRYSLER – Chrysler would like to invite you all to the Chrysler Parade of Lights on Sun., Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. Local businesses and a few other friends of the community have committed to bring you a night of lights, music and fun. For the safety of the community, please enjoy the show from the safety of your homes or vehicles. There will be parking along the main street but please avoid parking down side streets. EOHU social distancing rules will be in place. For further information, see their facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4130832555>.

**THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD**

Serving Stormont and Dundas Counties since 1894



PM40050631R8905 Volume 128, Number 22 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, December 10, 2020 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)



**The Display of Lights was a success**

Friday night, Dec. 4 was the first night of the Display of Lights. The rain and cold weather did not stop the more than 480 cars from taking a drive around the Rideau Auctions' parking lot for a look at the stationary Christmas floats on display.

Morin Photo

**DCH Memorial Tree lit**

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

WILLIAMSBURG – There was a great turnout for the first annual Memorial Tree lighting at Dundas County Hospice (DCH) in Williamsburg on Dec. 1. This event was held on Giving Tuesday which is an initiative of Canada Helps, “an organization which helps promote charities and non-profits, as well as offering avenues for small charities to fundraise.”

Lynn Gee, DCH program assistant, explained COVID-19 restrictions had necessitated cancelling the annual “non-denominational Memorial Service at a local place of worship” held “for the remembrance of our clients that have passed during the previous 12 months.” She continued that organizers at DCH decided on having a Memorial Tree, in keeping with the season as “a way to honour those who have passed.” She explained, writing down and saying their names “out loud, reinforces the fact that these people, lived, were loved and are now deeply missed.”

Continued on page 2

**Christmas lights take over Winchester night sky**

Joseph Morin  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – Residents in North Dundas came through once more for a cause and event close to their hearts.

Covid-19 has caused so much of what is normal to become either not practical or unrecognizable.

The annual Winchester Parade of Lights is a great example of what happens when a community tradition is threatened and the community would not stand for it.

This year due to Covid-19 regulations, the Parade of Lights was not a practical idea.

In its place, parade organizers came up with the idea of keeping the various Christmas themed floats stationary, while

cars drove around them. They renamed the parade event as the Display of Lights.

The result was a two-day event on Fri., Dec. 4 and Sat., Dec. 5, which gave residents a break from their normal Christmas routine and kept a community tradition intact. “It definitely was a success,” said parade committee chair Sandy Burns, who along with a dozen volunteers and three organizing committee members planned the event. The evening drive featured fries from Charity Fries and Community Food Share volunteers collected donations from cars as they entered the Rideau Auctions' yard. Charity Fries brought in \$6,300 over the two-day event. The funds are headed to Cassandra Young and Jessica Goodenough who were badly burned in a bonfire incident on Oct. 24.

Continued on page 7



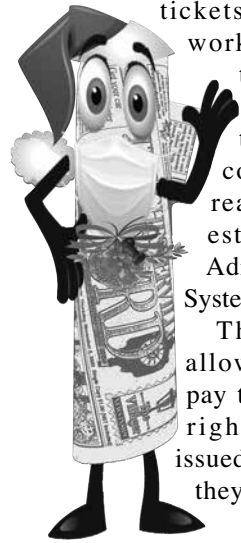
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**DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17 19 KING STREET, CHESTERVILLE - HERITAGE MARKET**

# New bylaw allows for local payment of parking tickets

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – A change in how North Dundas residents pay their parking tickets has been in the works for quite some time.



On Tues., Dec. 8 the North Dundas council gave final reading to a bylaw establishing an Administrative Penalty System, (AMPS).

The new bylaw allows for residents to pay their parking tickets right where they are issued in the place where they live.

The AMPS program

will give the public the opportunity to enjoy more flexibility regarding where, when and how they can interact with the township in dealing with their parking ticket issue.

It also means that if you want to challenge a parking ticket, the ticket would normally be for parking illegally or interfering with snow removal or parked in an accessible parking space without a permit, you do not have to go all the way to Cornwall to do it in a courtroom.

Currently parking ticket violations are enforced through a program regulated by the *Provincial Offences Act*.

Many disputes are heard in front of a Justice of the Peace in the Provincial Offences Court Offices.

A position called a screening officer will be created to serve North Dundas. The

screening officer is there to listen to a resident's concerns and arguments about a ticket. The officer will have the authority to agree with a challenge and cancel a parking ticket, modify it or uphold it. If you do not agree with the decision at the screening level, you can go one level higher to a hearing officer. In the case of North Dundas, Morrisburg would be the closest place where you could find a hearing officer who would hear cases twice a month.

There is no charge to take up your concerns with either the screening or hearing officer.

The AMPS is an attempt to make the parking ticket payment issue more fair, effective and efficient.

The expectation is that dealing with these kinds of issues at the local level will take much of the burden of doing the same



kind of administrative work away from the court system.

Calvin Pol speaking at the council meeting said, "The AMPS bylaw is one that is able to be expanded. The passing of the bylaw would give us the opportunity to add more bylaws in the future."

He gave as an example the municipality's dog bylaw as well as Clean Yards, and Open Air Burning Bylaw.

The new bylaw will come into effect on Feb. 1, 2021.

# Jimmy Wise found not guilty

CHESTERVILLE – Chesterville resident Jimmy Wise has been on trial for the murder of Ray Collison for the past month in an Ottawa courtroom. Collison had been reported missing in 2009; his body was found

in a culvert in 2014.

Last week he was found not guilty.

Wise, an acquaintance of Collison was charged with his murder in 2018. Collison, a handyman in the village had been shot five times and stuffed inside a culvert in the Morewood area.

The jury in the case took six days to come to the decision that Wise was not guilty of the charges of second-degree murder and a charge of manslaughter.

Wise, a local mechanic

suffered a stroke in 2014 several months after Collison's remains were discovered. When Wise was charged with murder in 2018 he was staying at the Dundas Manor in Winchester.

He has since lost his bed there and at the moment is not sure where he will be heading. Because of his stroke he needs regular assistance.

All of the evidence against Wise was circumstantial. The jury was not allowed to consider testimony about Wise's

brushes with the law in the past. He was a suspect in a serial murder case in the 1980s. When the investigation went nowhere, Wise sued the police for damages.

In the recent murder charge, the prosecution suggested that Wise knew Collison, disliked him and had threatened him. The Crown's theory was that Wise murdered Collison at his garage.

He then put Collison's body in his truck and used an engine belt to lift him into the culvert. Supporting

the theory, there was the discovery of a bullet hole in Wise's garage and traces of blood on the tailgate of his truck.

A witness testifying against Wise said that Wise had tried to point investigators away from himself and toward the owner of a hotel in Chesterville.

Evidence was presented that Wise had sold Collison's truck and trailer after he had gone missing.

The defence managed to convince the jury that the evidence could be

interpreted in several ways, and in the end was nothing more than a theory.

Reports of bullying and threats were made by jury members.

When confronted, one juror admitted to bullying and threatening fellow jury members.

The judge in the case, Superior Court Justice Phillips decided the best way to deal with the situation was to dismiss the one juror accused of being difficult and ask the rest of the jurors to continue their deliberations.

# Memorial Tree lit

Continued from the front

A thank you was extended to Bea and Renny Van Gilst for providing the tree and to BMR in Winchester for providing the lights as the ceremony began. Prior to the names being read, the Rev. Dr. Jon Martin of the Anglican Parish of South Dundas commented how the reading of names is an ancient practice to honour those who lived as well as contributed during their lifetime. Gee mentioned in an email to *The Chesterville Record* that "The tree will be lit each evening between dusk and 9 p.m. until Dec. 24."

For those who would like to have an ornament hung on the tree, this can be accomplished by "making a donation of any amount to the Hospice, up until Dec. 18." Donations may be dropped off at the Hospice "during business hours with cash or cheque and the names clearly written out" with Gee asking to please call DCH first.

She continued cheques can be mailed in, "with names for ornaments neatly written on the memo line" or "those wishing to use credit cards can go online to [www.canadahelps.org/en/dundascountyhospice/](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/dundascountyhospice/) and choose Memorial Tree under fund designation and put the name for the ornament in the notes' section." A tax receipt is available for donations of \$20 or more.

When asked about the coming year, Gee mentioned they are looking to see what unfolds in 2021 and what can be safely done. She noted DCH "held a very successful virtual Hike for Hospice just this past May, and we know that we can adapt to whatever life throws our way."

DCH has several services available to residents of Dundas County including a Grief and Bereavement Program, support groups, informational community events and referrals to grief counsellors if needed. More information can be found on their Facebook page or their website located at [www.dundascountyhospice.ca](http://www.dundascountyhospice.ca).



The Memorial Tree at DCH in Williamsburg brings a message of remembrance and hope during the Christmas season. It will be lit each evening until Dec. 24 between dusk and 9 p.m. Thompson Goddard Photo

# Babies of 2020

*The Chesterville Record/Villager* will be featuring the **Babies of 2020** in the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 edition.

If your child was born in 2020 or December 2019, and you would like to have him/her included in this keepsake edition, please mail, email or bring in the form below along with a clear picture to *The Chesterville Record/Villager*.

Your Baby's Name:

Date of Birth:

Mom and Dad's Name:

Mail:

1 Mill Street  
P.O. Box 368  
Chesterville, ON K0C 1H0

E-mail:

ads@chestervillerecord.com  
adsrussellvillager@gmail.com

Cost: \$30 (plus HST)

Deadline for submission is December 14, 2020.

Jacob John Harris



SAMPLE AD

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Son of Elizabeth and Marc Harris.  
Proud grandparents are John and Joanne Harris.



**Fun pop ups at Simply Baked Catering**

Simply Baked Catering hosted a Pop Up Business moment on Sat., Dec. 5. Joining together for the day was artist Carrie Keller, on the left, and Darcy Paquet with her up cycle jewelry.

Morin Photo



**Dining out: Drive-through style**

Two hundred and nineteen, full-course spaghetti dinners were cooked, packaged and served during the Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner held Dec. 4 at St. Clare's Anglican Church on the outskirts of Winchester. Parishioner Bob Weagant explained "Everything went

very smooth and we have had many replies from those attending, raving of the quality and quantity of the meal. St. Clare's wishes to thank all for their support of the dinner." There were smiles all around as this happy customer received her spaghetti dinner from parish member Ken Hilson during St. Clare's Anglican Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner.

Thompson Goddard Photo

**Fundraising project at WDMH: For our youngest patients**

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – The Winchester & District Memorial Hospital (WDMH) Auxiliary are fundraising for "a new monitoring system" which "will ensure that only family members have access to newborns being cared for at WDMH."

Communication lead, Jane Adams issued a press release on Nov. 24 which explained that the committed volunteers of the WDMH Auxiliary have been working to support "our patients through its fundraising activities"

despite the closure of the Gift Shoppe, the cancellation of the Fall Bazaar and the "award-winning Christmas Pudding sales."

Clinical manager Mikyla Lennard commented in the press release how "The birth of a child is one of the most exciting and memorable moments for families. We are so grateful to the Auxiliary for helping us purchase this important equipment." Lynn Dillabough, auxiliary co-chair, noted how the Auxiliary is "excited to be raising funds for something that will support WDMH's youngest patients" and continued how "Since 1947, the WDMH Auxiliary has

been supporting patients through volunteering and fundraising for many different pieces of equipment."

For those wishing to donate to this fundraising project, Adams suggests "mailing a cheque to the WDMH Foundation at 566 Louise Street, Winchester, K0C 2K0. Please indicate that the donation is for "Auxiliary Equipment" and include your return address to get an income tax receipt. Donors can also call the Foundation at 613-774-2422 ext. 6162 to make a donation using a credit card." She then thanked the public for their support.

**Tree Lighting WDMH**

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – For many years, the Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree has provided people with an opportunity to say "Thank you" for the excellent care received at the Winchester and District Memorial Hospital (WDMH). In a recent press release from the WDMH Foundation communications lead Jane Adams, noted how "while much has changed in 2020, this annual tradition has not!"

She explained the Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree provides "a special way to honour or remember family and friends with a gift to the WDMH Foundation." Funds raised in this initiative are provided to the Family Care Fund which seeks to ensure the hospital "can continue to provide compassionate, excellent health care – close to home."

This year, in keeping with restrictions and screening protocols necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the giant tree, usually located in the hospital's front lobby, will be replaced by several "smaller trees located on the mezzanine above the lobby."

Replacing the well attended in-person ceremony held in years past will be a

virtual tree lighting ceremony planned for 5 p.m. on Dec. 19, "which will be live-streamed on the WDMH Foundation Facebook page." Cindy Peters, manager, direct mail & events, commented "We hope everyone can tune in from home to see the trees light up and enjoy the entertainment."

Donations can be made online at [www.wdmhfoundation.ca](http://www.wdmhfoundation.ca) or by calling 613-774-2422 extension 6162; "names submitted with donations will be placed on ornaments and displayed on the trees." Foundation managing director, Kristen Casselman noted in the release how "We each have our own way of remembering, reflecting, showing appreciation, and caring," and "for those of us who have made a gift in honour of someone, we are grateful to know you, and we value you more than you will know."

WDMH Foundation board chair Peter Krajcovic thanked the people, groups and organizations who participate in The Judy Lannin Christmas Wish Tree event commenting "It is only because of all of these people that we are able to ensure that the WDMH team has the right tools needed to care for patients and families – so close to home."



## Rideau Auctions Inc.

As per the current COVID-19 mandates, we are offering ONLINE Auctions and allowing 50 people in our Liquidation Centre at one time.  
**No children allowed in Liquidation Centre on Saturdays.**

Check the website for our Upcoming ONLINE Auctions for both Public/Vehicle Auctions and Misc. & Furniture Auctions.  
**[www.rideauauctions.com](http://www.rideauauctions.com)**

**Civic #2250, County Road 31, Winchester, ON  
613-774-7000**

# Thank You

## NORTH DUNDAS DISPLAY OF LIGHTS

It had a different format and location, but the tradition was the same. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year's Parade of Lights shifted to a stationary Display of Lights, held this past weekend at Rideau Auctions. A special thank you to Hunter McCaig for so generously allowing us to use his property to host this event; without you, we may have been forced to cancel. We would also like to thank his staff for clearing the lot to make space for the floats, and for helping move stuff around to help with setup.

The planning committee would like to extend its sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make this event such a huge success. From the volunteers and float participants who braved the rain and cold, to the spectators who braved the traffic to come see it, we are grateful for your support.

Thank you also to the vendors and volunteers who kept the Vendor & Trade Show running this year.

We would also like to thank our...

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- Rideau Auctions
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- Nation River Health Clinic Inc.
- Guy Fuels & Propane Inc.
- Winchester Dental Centre (Dr. Carlin & staff)
- Quitnan Products Inc.
- Bakertilly REO LLP

**COMMUNITY GROUPS:**

- Community Food Share and the North Dundas Christmas Fund
- Winchester Downtown Revitalization Committee

**PARADE VOLUNTEERS:**

- Kim Hogeveen (emcee)
- Owen Ball
- Shannon LeBlanc
- Hugh Bouchard
- Scott LeBlanc
- Sydney LeBlanc

- Loklyn Blanchette
- Damien Blanchette
- Victoria Provost
- Mack Fournier
- Astrid Bierworth
- Robin Bierworth
- Paul Haggart

**VENDOR & TRADE SHOW VOLUNTEERS:**

- Kate Link-Horvath
- Gracin Link-Horvath
- Shea Lyn Elliott
- Melanie Crooks
- Kim Link
- Keith Johnston
- Ethan Yenson
- Frank Malatesta
- Laura Paas

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

- Township of North Dundas Recreation and Roads Department staff
- The OPP and the OPP Auxiliary
- North Dundas Fire Services
- The Eastern Ontario Health Unit
- The United Counties of SD&G Roads Department
- Santa Claus

*We apologize if we have missed anyone.*

**From your Parade of Lights and Vendor & Trade Show planning committee,  
Sandy Burns, Matthew Roy, Brianne Scott & Martha Malatesta**

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# EDITORIAL & Opinion

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## Editorial

### More than lights on display

The Parade of Lights committee in North Dundas should be very proud of themselves.

Change is a funny thing.

It does not only disturb your routine for better or worse but it can also lay bare some basic philosophies that have been covered up by tradition and what we used to call the norm.

The Winchester Parade of Lights is one such community tradition that when confronted by the reality COVID-19 had to find a way to reinvent itself or perish in the short-term as a Christmas tradition in Winchester.

In the end, a determined parade committee came up with the idea of holding a static parade where the decorated floats would be stationary and spectators would drive around them.

The gamble organizers took was that they could find a way to celebrate the season in a way the community could accept.

It would have been an easy decision to simply cancel the parade for this year and hope for a COVID-19 free 2021. Well, they chose to take on the challenge and to their credit went at it with as much gusto as they could manage. The result was successful beyond their expectations. More than a thousand cars drove through the now renamed Display of Lights at Rideau Auctions. People donated more than \$12,000 to Community Food Share the North Dundas Christmas Fund and the two girls burned in a bonfire accident this past fall.

So hats, gloves and scarfs off to all of the volunteers, exhibitors, committee members and supporters who made the Display of Lights happen.

More than just coloured lights were on display but also a community's respect for itself.

## A Look Back: CP Holiday Train Stop in Finch

Carolyn Thompson Goddard  
Record Staff

**NORTH STORMONT**—On Sun., Nov. 29, 2015, an estimated crowd of 4,000 people gathered near the community centre in Finch to watch a bit of history made when the CP Holiday Train made its first stop in this small North Stormont community.

Bill McGimpsey, a former resident and Deputy Mayor of North Stormont, was instrumental in bringing the Holiday Train stop to Finch, mentioning how “for many years prior to it stopping, Finch families and residents all along the route would gather along the track and hope to see the train go by. Upon discovering the train travelled from Montreal to Merrickville 200 kilometres away, without a stop, he “thought well, they are driving right by our door why not stop?”

After receiving approval from North Stormont council for this endeavour, he began to lobby CP for a stop in Finch and after working on this project for approximately two years, McGimpsey received email confirmation from CP director of government affairs Randy Marsh in August of 2015 that “CP is

ready to stop the Holiday Train at Finch for a show at North Stormont. It will be a first event so, as I had explained, we will be doing a slightly shorter event to test the waters.” McGimpsey notes however that when Marsh saw the large crowd, he was impressed telling him “We are doing a full show.”

Once it was confirmed, the Holiday Train was stopping in Finch, the township of North Stormont, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry as well as several local organizations worked together to organize the event. These included North Stormont Fire Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, Finch and District Lions Club, SDG County Library System and the Dundas County Food Bank (now Community Food Share) to name just a few.

McGimpsey explained the OPP, the SDG Counties and several departments of the municipality played an important role in keeping people safe, traffic control, road closures and other logistical requirements for the first event in 2015. He continued how the Finch Recreation Association

organized a potluck meal, with the Finch & District Lions Club (FDLC) providing support as well.

Lion Ernie Coumont, at that time president of the Finch & District Lions Club, recalls Ian McKelvie, the administrator of the Dundas County Food Bank, approached the FDLC to consider joining in “with the organizing of the event.” The club decided to purchase “hot chocolate and set up a booth” to provide a warm drink to visitors, as well as help with crowd control, parking, advertising and the collection of donations for the food bank at the event.

The months of committee meetings and planning sessions culminated on Nov. 29, 2015 when the first CP Holiday Train stopped with thousands of people enjoying the concert, an opportunity to visit with friends and family and donate to the Dundas County Food Bank. Coumont commented how, in his opinion, “The Holiday Train is the reason why Finch Food Cupboard is in existence.” He notes McKelvie saw the need for North Stormont to be served by Community Food

Share with the creation of the Finch Food Cupboard, which “saves those in need, the hardships of travelling to Winchester to pick up their much-needed hampers of food.”

After its first stop in 2015, the CP Holiday train has continued to stop at Finch as it continued its way across Canada during its holiday run until this year, when the COVID-19 pandemic changed the event to a virtual celebration. Former NS community planner/economic development officer, Amy Martin recently told *The Chesterville Record* she was involved in the organization of the 2017 and 2018 events, working “in coordination with Public Works, Fire Services, the OPP, Finch Recreation, the Community Food Share and Canadian Pacific Railway to organize the event.” She noted how parking had been “a challenge the first few years when the train stopped on the weekend, with busing offered in 2016 and 2017” mentioning when the Holiday Train stopped there were fewer people gathering, “but the crowd that did come were energized and excited for the train.”

Continued on page 5

## NDDHS Report

By Jamie Wilson  
Student Council Communications  
Preparing for Holiday Festivities at ND



The Grade 12 students are hard at work this week on the North Dundas Holiday Show. They are busy filming and editing the virtual show that will be played for the school later next week.

The Holiday Show has been a tradition at North Dundas for years and is usually held on the last Friday before Christmas Break. All the students would go to the gym to see the live show that the Grade 12 students had prepared for them, featuring funny skits, talents, and lots of Christmas music. The students really look forward to the show every year. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, plans for the show had to be changed. The student council has been working against the challenges of the pandemic to put together a fun, social distanced, virtual Holiday show for everyone to enjoy. It has been difficult, but we did not want to lose one of our favourite traditions here at North Dundas.

To go with the Holiday Show, we will be having a Christmas or winter themed spirit day, every day next week. Get out your Santa hats and prepare for the holiday cheer at North Dundas!

## The Road Home

By Carolyn Thompson Goddard

With the snow gently falling this morning, it is indeed starting to feel a bit more like Christmas, but in reality, the holiday season began a few weeks ago when I started my gift shopping. Truthfully, this was a bit early for me, but because of COVID-19 and the probability my Christmas was going to be different this year I figured an early start was best. As the gifts for my children and grandchildren found their way to my “Christmas room” (as my spare bedroom became called), were wrapped and readied for pre-Christmas pickup the reality of a “different” holiday season this year become much more apparent.

There is an old saying that goes “the more things change, the more they remain the same” or something like that and perhaps this is true about 2020. Holiday celebrations since March have certainly changed for me.

For the first time in an awfully long time there was no family gatherings for Easter and Thanksgiving, our Thompson family reunion didn't happen this summer and there won't be a gathering with my children and grandchildren this Christmas.

What hasn't changed since March is the great joy that is felt when hearing the voice of my grandson Winston and his dad on the phone, texting and talking with Geoff who lives in Kingston and the joy of a quick pop-in visit from Naomi and my granddaughter Zoey. I have still felt the happiness of shopping for Christmas presents, although I miss the craft shows where a selection of great gift ideas is always present.

Perhaps the memories of holidays past help to get through the many changes COVID-19 has unleashed on our world this year. Looking back, I see a younger version of myself waking up early on Christmas

morning in the house in Chesterville and busily waking my older brothers so the gift exchange could begin. I see a teenager hearing the bells on Christmas morning a bit too loudly thanks to Christmas Eve celebrations. A young mother watching her toddler looking at a Christmas Tree with utter amazement and a few years later helping his younger brother and sister unwrap their presents.

There have been so many Christmas seasons I have enjoyed, being a May baby, I would count this year being my 64th, and each year despite the circumstances has been more wonderful. There has been visiting with family, the giving of presents, feasting and something much more magical which I really can't explain. This year will be different but there is hope that next year we will be able to join together around a table and enjoy a meal together with those we love.



Etcetera Publications (Chesterville) Inc.

**Publisher**  
Etcetera Publications Inc.

**Editor**  
Joseph Morin

**Copy Editor**  
Edith Landreville

**Reporters**  
Joseph Morin  
Carolyn Thompson Goddard

**Ad Representative**  
Brenda Fawcett

**Production Manager**  
Chantal Bouwers

**Acna** **CNA**  
Proudly printed in North Dundas.

Advertising Rates on Request  
P.O. Box 368, 1 Mill Street  
Chesterville, Ont. K0C 1H0

**Advertising E-mail:**  
ads@chestervillerecord.com,  
adsrussellvillager@gmail.com

**News E-mail:**  
therecord.editor@gmail.com,  
thevillager.editor@gmail.com

**Telephone:** (613) 448-2321  
866-307-3541

**Fax:** (613) 448-3260  
Published Thursdays by Etcetera  
Publications (Chesterville) Inc.

Funded by the Government of Canada | **Canada**

Single Copy \$1.00 HST Included.  
Annual Subscription \$35.00 within 40 miles;  
Outside 40 miles \$40.00; USA \$150.00.  
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## “Jim is a loss to us all” – Richard Waldroff

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

**SOUTH STORMONT** – On Dec. 1, South Stormont resident Jim Bancroft passed away. He is survived by his wife Amy, three children, several grandchildren as well as family members, friends and residents of the community he faithfully served during his lifetime.

Bancroft, who had retired from municipal politics in 2018, had served on the pre-amalgamation council as Reeve of Osnabruk Township, Mayor of South Stormont and in 1997 and 2017 as SDG warden in a political career which began in 1985. He was president of the Stormont County Fair in 1987-88 and was the Scotia Bank manager in Chesterville at one time.

Donna Primeau and Richard Waldroff both served as councillors on the 2014-2018 South Stormont councils. Waldroff described Bancroft as being “very respectful of the opinions of councillors and relished a good debate.” He continued how

Bancroft “frequently reached out for input on items in the community, a community he loved and cared about so much.” Primeau commented how it was “a great privilege to serve on council with Jim. “He was a man of honour, integrity and was true to his word,” continuing how “South Stormont and the counties were lucky to have him on their councils,” before expressing her sadness at the “news of his passing and [sent her] sympathies to his family.”

Former South Stormont Deputy Mayor Tammy Hart, who served with Bancroft during the 2014-2018 term, commented that “Jim was a hard-working mayor. He was dedicated to his job and his constituents” and “got along well with staff and council.” Hart described him as being “kind and thoughtful” who “had a passion for his community and was very involved.” She continued he “loved his family and often spoke highly of his beautiful wife Amy,” volunteered as “his daughter’s coach in broom ball, coached baseball, loved curling”

before mentioning “you would see Jim on a tractor ploughing for his best friend Brian Rombough; as Jim was from a farm himself.”

Dave Smith, current Deputy Mayor of South Stormont, commented “I worked with Jim for four years during the last council. I found that Mayor Bancroft was a determined man, a good leader, and the best interests of his community was always first and foremost,” he continued that “Mayor Bancroft will never be forgotten for his contribution to South Stormont professionally and personally.”

Jim Brownell, who has served his community in municipal and provincial politics as well as volunteering in several local organizations, best sums up the feelings of many when he commented “Over the years, I had many opportunities to work with Jim, and always appreciated and admired his ambition and gentlemanly manner in all aspects of conversation and work. He left a lasting impression in our community and his legacy will live on in all that he accomplished.”

## CP Holiday Train in Finch

Continued from page 4

North Stormont CAO/Clerk Craig Calder told *The Chesterville Record* in an email recently North Stormont staff “participated/assisted with the coordination efforts of the 2019 CP Holiday Train Food Drive working in collaboration with CFS Team Leader Jane Schoones and Finch Food Cupboard volunteer Ernie Coumont. He explained how, as in years past, the arena was “used as a drop off location to support this annual event,” with the arena canteen donating “hot dogs to supply the general public to support this community initiative” and NS Township staff working with public safety authorities “to ensure “the event had the necessary first responder presence”



Courtesy Photo

and “assisted [with] the promotion of the event.” Schoones told Calder how “the 2019 CP Holiday Train provided \$1,902.25 and 914 lbs of non-perishable food. We also received an annual donation of \$4,000 from CP.”

In 2020, the CP Holiday Train will be a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While as Martin commented in her email “The event also brings holiday cheer to the community - which will definitely be missed in 2020” and Coumont

commenting the role this event has played in community building locally, people are still able to view a virtual Holiday Train event from their home at 8 p.m. on Dec. 12, donate to CFS and help to ensure everyone has a happy holiday season.



### – Obituary –

**Freda (Byers) Johnstone Arnott**

**May 24, 1934 - November 28, 2020**

Peacefully, surrounded by her loving family, on Saturday, November 28, 2020, at Bluewater Health, Freda (Byers) Johnstone Arnott passed away at the age of 86. Beloved wife of the late Frank Johnstone and the late Peter Arnott. Deeply missed by her children the late Darrell Johnstone, Donald Johnstone, Dwayne (Brenda) Johnstone, and Douglas (Krista) Johnstone and her step-children Patrick (Judy) Arnott, Martha (Bruce) Deacon, Mary (Ken) Millard and Peter (Chris) Arnott. Cherished grandmother of 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Archie (Marion), Linden (Muriel), Edsel, Eleanor (Don) Campbell, and Connie (Dwayne) Froats. Predeceased by her parents, Dobie and Dorothy Byers, by her brother Stuart Byers and her sister Eunice Johnstone. Freda worked for the Bank of Montreal in London, Ottawa, Halifax and Cornwall. Cremation has taken place. In keeping with Freda’s wishes, a celebration of life will be held at a later date. Sympathy may be expressed through donations to Maple Ridge Cemetery or Bluewater Health – Palliative Care.




### Obituary

**BANCROFT, James**


Peacefully at his residence with his family by his side on Tuesday December 1, 2020 age 75 years. James Lloyd ‘Jim’ Bancroft of Ingleside. Beloved husband of Amy (Everaars) Bancroft. Predeceased by his first wife Lynne (Rumball) Bancroft. Loved father of Shelley Bancroft, Jamie Bancroft and Christine Cicchini (Jeff). Sadly missed by his grandchildren Amanda (Andi) Bancroft-Roy, Peyton and Marissa Cicchini. Cherished brother to Rose Eamer (Robert Eamer) of Font Hill, Debbie Bancroft (Mike Finn) of Creston and David Bancroft (Nina Ati) of Cornwall. Dear brother-in-law to Diane and Roger Guenette of Ottawa, Susan Dunning of Kitchener, Tracey and Fausto Chiappa of Ottawa, Kathy and Courtney Turner of Ottawa, Janet Rumball of Ottawa, Conrad and Caroline of Kingston and Nelly and Tim Dawson of Florida. Uncle to 28 nieces and nephews. Best friends of Brian and Judy Rombough and Don and Ruth MacLean. To honour Jim’s wishes, cremation has taken place. As expressions of sympathy, memorial donations to Cornwall Hospice 1507 Second Street, West Cornwall, Ontario K6J 1J5 would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be made at [www.brownleefuneralhomes.com](http://www.brownleefuneralhomes.com).

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# Church DIRECTORY

Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

**The United Church of Canada**  
**CHRIST CHURCH UNITED** 

5 Casselman St., Chesterville  
Pastor: Debbie Poirier 613-850-2725

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are re-opening our doors for Worship Services on Sun., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>. You are encouraged to call the church office at 613-448-2532 to confirm attendance as seating is limited due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**  
**AVONMORE-FINCH-MARTINTOWN** 

**ST. JAMES - CHALMERS - ST. ANDREW'S**

PASTORAL CHARGE Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet BBA, BTh, MDIV  
Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Email: [revlgaudet@gmail.com](mailto:revlgaudet@gmail.com)


**We are re-opening!**  
**Starting Sundays Nov. 22 - Dec. 20**

*Worship services will be held with Rev Lois at 9:15 a.m. at Chalmers, Finch and at 11 a.m. in St. Andrew's, Martintown. All COVID restrictions will be in place and masks are required.*

**ST. LUKE'S - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FINCH**

MINISTER: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Gaver  
613-918-0506 Email: [cgaver@cogeco.ca](mailto:cgaver@cogeco.ca) Church: 613-984-2201  
Website: [www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca](http://www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca)

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**  
*11 a.m. – Worship Service & Sunday School Everyone Welcome!*


**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Morewood** 

**ST. ANDREW'S - Chesterville**  
**ST. PAUL'S - Winchester**

Rev. Bruce Kemp, B.A. S.T.M. 613-267-0928

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**  
Chesterville - 9 a.m. Winchester - 10 a.m. Morewood - 11:15 a.m.  
*Everyone Welcome!*

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Rev. Edwin Valles  
Email: [ebvalles@hotmail.com](mailto:ebvalles@hotmail.com) Office: 613-448-2272  
IDP Group Inc., 171 Main St. North, Chesterville

**Please note:** No Sunday and Wednesday meetings during the pandemic  
**Please join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our online service on Facebook: Nationside Pentecostal Church**  
[www.nationside.org](http://www.nationside.org)  
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**HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
*Evangelical Missionary Church*


12010 Ormond Rd. & Hwy. 31 613-774-5170 [www.harmony-church.org](http://www.harmony-church.org)  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

**Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.**

**We are 'open' for services by reservation only**, as space and seating is limited in compliance with the COVID-19 restrictions.

**OR** join us via our youtube channel for our live stream at 10:30 a.m.  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy\\_DABzz4REC-A76-EvrA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy_DABzz4REC-A76-EvrA)  
*No Sunday School or Nursery provided at this time*

**NOTE:** Registration to attend is required for our Sunday morning service, please call the church office to reserve your spot.

**ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH** 

139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226  
Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick  
[infostmarysrussell@rogers.com](mailto:infostmarysrussell@rogers.com) Website: [www.stmarysrussell.ca](http://www.stmarysrussell.ca)



**Please join our virtual service, Sundays at 10 a.m.**

If you would like to join our service via Zoom email: [infostmarysrussell@rogers.com](mailto:infostmarysrussell@rogers.com) for the link.  
*St. Mary's Church is engaged in actively sharing God's unconditional grace and love.*

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Administration Priest: Fr. Charles Enyinnia  
Parish Secretary: Patricia Guy - 613-448-3262

**ST. CLARE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF NORTH DUNDAS**

Rev. John Wilcox 613-774-2236  
[www.stclaresanglican.ca](http://www.stclaresanglican.ca) 2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester

**Sunday Service of Eucharist at 10 a.m.**  
*Covid-19 Protocol in place.*

On Facebook at The Anglican Parish of North Dundas at St. Clare's.  
On YouTube at St. Clare Anglican.

# Great kick-off to the holiday season

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

AVONMORE – The Touch of Christmas Porch Tour held throughout North Stormont between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Dec. 3 was an unqualified success with co-organizer Nancy Wert explaining “a total of 464 tickets, which included 79 free for children 12 and under” were sold. Included in the tour were seven stops of interest and 27 homes with beautifully decorated porches for the Christmas season. The event was organized to

spread some holiday spirit and to raise funds for the park project in Avonmore.

When asked how this event came about, Wert explained while discussing with Adele Densham, with whom Wert organized the event, how COVID-19 pandemic restrictions was putting a stop to many holiday traditions, including the successful “Touch of Christmas House Tour” in North Stormont, Densham “came up with the idea of a drive by Christmas Porch Tour.” She continued

Densham felt if the event was “COVID and family friendly, and if we just charged a reasonable amount as a “fun”draiser to make even \$1,000 to donate to the park.”

The park which Densham is referring to is located in Avonmore and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic a committee chaired by Sophie Branchaud was organized with “fundraising initiatives that were halted due to the onset of COVID-19,” according to Wert who is a member of the committee. Wert was unable to provide an amount raised by the Christmas Porch Tour for this initiative as “there have been additional donations



The trees which line the laneway to the home of Jim and Nancy Wert had decorated sap buckets, and after being greeted by Jim, visitors were able to view the beautifully decorated front and back porches, vehicles before visiting Nancy and Marie Hawkes who were caring for twin calves born just a few days before. Shown here is the Wert’s front porch.

Thompson Goddard Photo



Upon entering Finch, there was an air of excitement as people travelled up and down County Road 43 to view the beautifully decorated porches, perhaps have a snack at Cakes by Beth, before heading to the home of Sue and Chad Brownlee to leave a donation to Community Food Share in Santa’s Sleigh. Two homes next to each other in Finch were decorated for the Christmas Porch Tour.

Thompson Goddard Photo

that came forward and we want to add that to the total ticket sales.”

Continued on page 9



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## Winchester Parade of Lights

Continued from the front

Donations to Community Food Share and the North Dundas Christmas Fund totalled \$6,100.

"The crowds we got on Friday night exceeded my expectations," said Burns.

Despite the off and on rain and cold evening, around 482 cars made it over to the Rideau Auctions' yard to drive around and have a look at the more than 25 floats arranged around the yard. Saturday night saw more than 767 cars line up for a tour of the Display of Lights.

There was lots of Christmas music from the stationary floats at one end of the yard, while live music played from the other.

North Dundas councillors and staff each took a turn at cooking up 1,200 pounds of fries for a hungry line of cars as they exited the auction yard.

Also on hand was Bill Zandbelt and his 1956 DKW motorcycle. He stayed in the bubble traditionally used during the Parade of Lights, with one of his sons for company. The bubble was originally used by Sharon Adams who would play the organ as the parade wound through Winchester, pulled by a car driven by the late Roy Fawcett.

Getting ready for this years event was a little different than in past years.

"We started planning in August," said Burns.

"It looked like we would not be able to do a traditional parade."

The organizing committee began wondering if a stationary parade would work.

The decision was made to try the idea out.

"The first step was finding a location. Rideau Auctions really jumped out at us, and Hunter McCaig, the owner of Rideau Auctions was quick to offer his yard for the stationary display location. He was on board right from the get go," said Burns

"He has said if we want to do it again next year he is more than willing to host it again.



The Display of Lights had something for everyone. Families rode together in cars to enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas at Rideau Auction. Here in the front seat of their car were Megan and Lindsay Stewart. In the back was Julie Fox along with Gus and Ruby. Nestled in a car seat is Jack. Morin Photo



Visitors in every car had a chance to wave to Santa Claus as they left the parade route. Morin Photo

It is amazing."

"It would have been so easy to cancel," said Burns, "but we are very passionate about the parade, all three of us, and we just wanted so badly to bring the community some Christmas cheer and give them something to celebrate. It has been a very difficult year for many people.

Even when we have to shift like this and do it an entirely different way, I am just so glad we were able to do this for the community and so many people enjoyed it and appreciated it."

Organizers had Kim Hugeveen narrating the ride through car radios for those wanting a guided tour.

Cars with adults and children enjoyed a slow drive around all of the floats.

There were dancers and horses decked out in Christmas lights and even Santa himself seated atop an antique Winchester fire truck waving goodbye to

each and every car as it left the route.

"A lot more work this year. We had to submit an official plan to the health unit to show how we were keeping everybody safe. And we had all of these rules and guidelines we had to follow," she said.

"But when I saw all of the cars Saturday night lined up to get in, I thought this was definitely worth it. So much better than cancelling.

"Considering we have never done anything like this before, I think it came off very well," said Burns.

"We are considering if we do this again next year, we have plans for better traffic flow."

The big question organizers are now considering is if next year COVID-19 is a thing of the past, should they go back to a traditional Parade of Lights or continue with the obviously well received Display of Lights.

## This holiday season needs to be different.

The safest way to celebrate indoors is only with the people who live in your home. People who live alone can get together only with one other home.

Gatherings with friends and extended family can carry an increased risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Consider celebrating outdoors or virtually with others that are not part of your household.

Know the gathering limits in your area before you choose to entertain with family and friends indoors. Indoor gatherings are not permitted in regions in Grey-Lockdown.

For all gatherings with anyone you do not live with:

- maintain 2 metres physical distance
- wear a face covering
- avoid potlucks or shared utensils
- ensure everyone washes hands regularly, including before and after meals

Self-isolate if you are sick, even if your symptoms are mild and ask guests to stay home if they feel unwell.

Follow provincial and local public health advice to keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday.

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## COMING EVENTS

### CHRISTMAS TURKEY DINNER

Take-out and delivery only! Sat., Dec. 19 at Legion Branch 370 (24 Dundas St., Iroquois). Call 613-652-4516. Starts at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 per person and available at Mustard's Variety, River Rat Treasures and Iroquois Legion. Sponsored by R.C. Legion Ladies Aux.

23

### CATCH THE ACE IS BACK

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### HOLIDAY HOURS

**Municipal Office Hours**

December 24	8:30 a.m. - 12 noon
December 25	Closed
December 28	Closed
December 29	Closed
December 30	Closed
December 31	Closed
January 1	Closed

**Matilda Disposal Site**

December 26	Closed
December 31	Closed

**Garbage/Recycling Pick Up – will be postponed one day on Christmas Day, and one day on New Year's Day.**

### NOTICE

**Morrisburg Compost Site CLOSING**  
 Effective December 31, 2020

Please note that the Morrisburg Compost Site will close to the public on December 31, 2020. No further deposition of organic waste is permitted after this date. Organic waste is accepted at the Matilda Landfill or the Iroquois Compost Site (to re-open in the spring of 2021).

For further information or to report illegal dumping, please call 613-543-2673.

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# Touch of Christmas Porch Tour

Continued from page 6

There was no problem getting participants for the event as Wert explained “everyone we approached were so excited to be part of something,” continuing how “people would not be entering their homes, as it was a drive-by or drive-thru event and it appealed to some that would never be interested in being part of the house tour.” Wert mentioned they had felt “if we had 12-15 stops that would be wonderful, well it just kept growing” with people reaching out to the organizers until there were 27 porch stops “and we finally had to say we were full.”

Travelling around the countryside, enjoying the beautiful light displays and as Wert commented in her email “For five hours it was almost like being normal again. So much laughter, everyone was very appreciative of the event, happy and having so much fun.” She continued how people didn’t mind if they got lost, mentioning to her how it “just added to the fun and laughter.”

The organizers wished to thank the 27 people who “stepped up and went above and beyond to have their



Steve and Adele Densham provided Porch Tour participants with a courtesy gingerbread cookie from Swiss Farmer Bakery as this family friendly Christmas event began. From the left, back row: Steve Densham, Adele Densham, Doris Bourbonnais and Jillian Bourbonnais. Holding their cookies in the front row of the photo are Gregor Bourbonnais and Evelyn Bourbonnais. Thompson Goddard Photo

porches ready for such a fun and magical evening.” The individuals who donated draw prizes and the seven stops of interest at participating businesses who offered “porch specials” that evening and until “closing on Saturday after the event to ticket holders” Sue and Chad Brownlee who hosted “Santa’s sleigh” at their home which received 616 “pounds of food received and donated to Community Food Share,” before thanking “the folks that purchased tickets in support of the event” commenting how, “We can’t thank everyone enough for everything they did to make the event so successful.”



A Taste of Health, located on McLean Road in Moose Creek, was one of seven stops of interest during the Touch of Christmas porch tour. From the left: Samantha Caissie is joined by owner Robyn Ledoux by the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree at the Café. Thompson Goddard Photo

# Christmas spirit alive and well in South Stormont

Carolyn Thompson Goddard Record Staff

**SOUTH STORMONT**—There was plenty of Christmas spirit in South Stormont this past Sat., Dec. 5, as organizations were holding food drives in Ingleside and

St. Andrews West.

The House of Lazarus (HOL), which earlier this year opened the Ingleside Thrift Store and Food Cupboard (ITSFC) in the basement of the Ingleside-Newington United Church,

are teaming up with the Osnabruck Christmas Food & Toy Drive (OCFTD) to ensure a happy holiday season for everyone.

This past Saturday volunteers with the OCFTD were at the Masonic Centre in Ingleside, sorting the over 2,000 donations collected by students at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic School in Ingleside. Down the road at the Ingleside-Newington United Church, Mark Healey from HOL explained people can register for a Food Hamper, the Adopt a Family and the Angel Tree Programs by contacting him at mhealey@houseoflazarus.com.



Mark Healey from the House of Lazarus is shown with some of the bags of food purchased at the Foodland in Ingleside. Donations will be received at the ITSFC operated out of the Ingleside-Newington United Church when it is open until Dec. 18. Thompson Goddard Photo

Donations of food and toys can be dropped off at the ITSFC when it is open until Dec. 18. He expressed his thanks to Ingleside Foodland owners Patsy, Martin and Josh Timmers who are selling \$5 and \$10 bags of food for this initiative at their store.

Members of the Ingleside Firefighters Association were at Ingleside Foodland collecting food donations on Sat., Dec. 5 at Ingleside Foodland for the OCFTD and will be holding another food drive at the same location on Dec. 12 beginning at 9 a.m. They confirmed the Ingleside Tree Lighting gathering usually held the first Saturday in December at South Stormont Fire Station No. 2 will not be held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the tree will be lit.

Knights of Columbus



Members of the Ingleside Firefighters’ Association held a food drive in support of the OCFTD at the Ingleside Foodland store on Dec. 5, with a second one planned for Dec.12. From the left: South Stormont Deputy Mayor Dave Smith, firefighter Nathan Wylie, SDSG MPP Jim McDonnell, SDSG MP Eric Duncan, firefighter Logan Sleeman with Ember and firefighter Robbie Renaud. Thompson Goddard Photo

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### Inaugural Staff Recognition Awards

The inaugural North Dundas Staff Recognition Awards took place at the North Dundas council meeting on Tues., Dec. 8. The awards are an opportunity for municipal employees to be recognized by their peers. Employees are recognized for actions or undertakings that are above and beyond the expectations of their regular job responsibilities. The first awards were given to Laurie Gibson for customer service excellence and to Mike Sharkey for innovation, sustainability and leadership. Each recipient will receive a \$50 gift card. Here Mayor Tony Fraser presented the awards to Laurie Gibson on the left, and to Mike Sharkey on the right.

Morin Photos

### Spreading Christmas cheer

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Since November, the Chesterville & District Historical Society has organized a Chesterville History Hunt; the Chesterville & District Agricultural Society (CDAS) is organizing a Christmas colouring contest (running until Dec. 15). The Touch of Christmas Porch Tour on Dec. 3 and the North Dundas Display of Lights on Dec. 4 and 5 were very successful events.

The Morewood Recreation Association had an online Christmas Tree lighting event.

Holiday parades are scheduled with Finch holding their 2020 Parade of Lights on Dec. 12, followed by the Chrysler Parade of Lights on Dec. 13 with both following Eastern Ontario Health Unit protocols.

The Chesterville and District Lions Club has a scavenger hunt running between Dec. 6 and Dec. 16.

Each day an item will be released on their Facebook page and participants are asked to take a picture of the items and

submit to the CDLC Facebook page or by email at chestervillelions@gmail.com by 10 a.m. on Dec. 19. Lion Jordan Hodge explained “For those that complete the Hunt in its entirety, there will be two winners randomly chosen.

They will receive a \$50 gift certificate to use at a business of their choice within the Chesterville & District Lions Club area.”

The CDAS’s children’s colouring contest continues until Dec. 15, with the grand prize winner receiving a \$25 gift certificate to Dollarama. For more information, please visit their Facebook page.

The Morewood RA is holding a contest to decorate the pallet trees in Veterans Memorial View Park. Participants are asked to make a decoration, place your name on the back of it and place it on a hook on a pallet tree. The deadline for the draw is Dec. 20.

The ACAA is holding a contest which involves posting on their Facebook page a picture of your Christmas Tree.

The contest ends on Dec. 23 at midnight, with the prize being a \$25 gift card from Rock’n Ronda’s Diner & Pizzeria in Avonmore.

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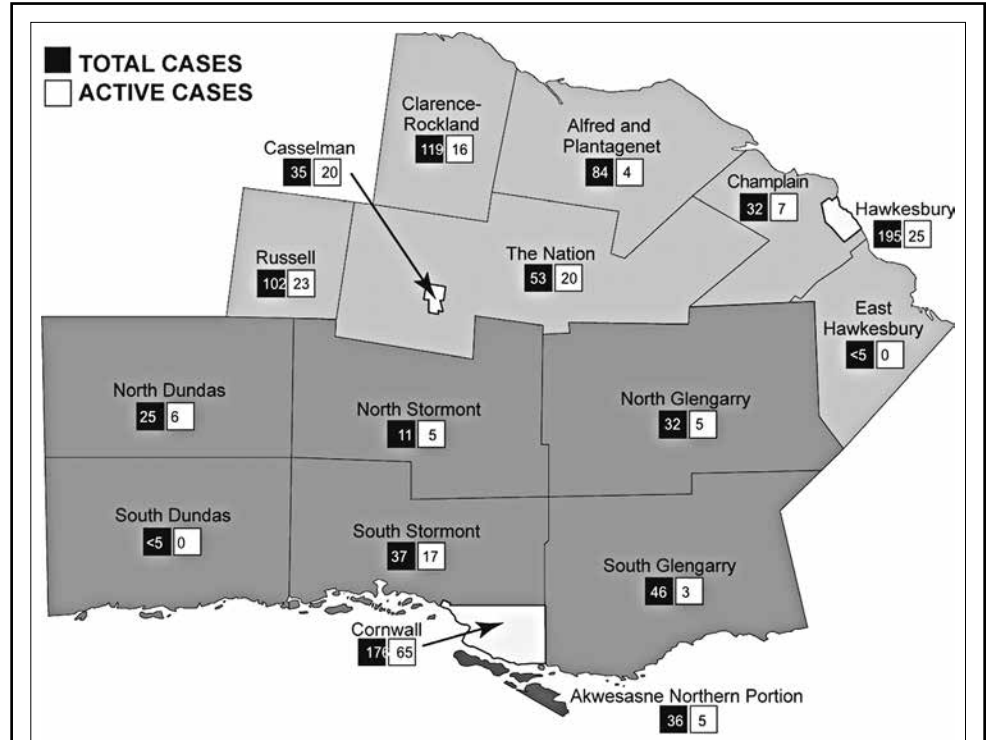
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## Good Neighbours Food Bank gets plenty of smiles

Your local Tim Hortons Owners, Howy White and Shelley Seward-White donated the entire Smile Cookie campaign \$7,916 to the Embrun Good Neighbours Food Bank. "These have been challenging times and we wanted to give back to the community. Thank you to all of our wonderful guests in Russell and Embrun for supporting our 2020 campaign and to our amazing, dedicated team members for tirelessly preparing thousands of cookies." Pictured here, left to right are: Amber Tapp (Embrun Tim Hortons manager), Howy White (owner) presenting cheque to staff of Good Neighbours Food Bank.

Courtesy Photo



## Local EOHU status updates and statistics

COVID-19 is a serious health threat, and the situation is evolving daily. The risk will vary between and within communities, but given the increasing number of cases in Canada, the risk to Canadians is considered high. The Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) continues to work with our partners at the regional, provincial and federal levels to monitor the situation, and is prepared to respond to cases in our area. Everyday at 10:30 a.m., the province of Ontario's COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) webpage is updated with the most up-to-date information including the status of cases in Ontario. Follow the Eastern Ontario Health Unit on Twitter or Facebook to receive notification of local updates. Courtesy Photo

## A wonderland of fabric

RUSSELL – If you are looking for some fabric and notions for a sewing project, then a trip to the Quilters Barn & Gifts on Concession Street in Russell is a perfect place to begin your creative journey. A friendly and knowledgeable staff greet customers upon entering the store, providing assistance and advice as needed.

The store has a wide selection of 100 per cent cotton fabrics, sewing projects and accessories for the sewer or quilter. Some of the specialty fabric lines include Kansas Troubles, Lori Holt and Kim Diehl with other lines such as Northcott, Moda and Timeless Treasures to name a few. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic there were classes ranging from beginner to advanced sewing levels at the store, with owner Beth Ruitter explaining once the pandemic is over the classes will begin again.

When asked about why she opened a quilt store, Ruitter commented it had been a long-standing dream of hers to open a fabric store, and after retiring from a 30 plus year nursing career, the time seemed right. A long-time sewer, Ruitter created rag dolls, teddy bears and clothing for her children before becoming a quilter.

She continued, while travelling across the province for her daughters sporting events, she had the opportunity to visit a lot of quilt stores, to speak with owners about the business and what worked or did not in a retail setting. She mentioned Ruth Liscumb, who owned Flair with Fabrics in Chesterville, and Jan from the

# SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



In addition to the usual selection of fabrics, Quilters Barn & Gifts has a wide selection of seasonal fabrics for that holiday project. Owner Beth Ruitter is shown measuring some Christmas fabric for a customer.

Thompson Goddard Photo

Pickle Dish in Carleton Place as being of great assistance moving forward with her quilt shop plans.

After retiring the planning began in earnest, and when a new space was being built in Russell where she lives, the decision was made to bring her dreams to reality with the store opening in 2017.

Ruitter explained Russell is a good location for the store as she draws clients from the area, Ottawa, Orleans, Kemptville, Cornwall and beyond. Her two daughters, Kaitlyn and Kara assist her in the store and online respectively, with Ruitter commenting the online presence is being developed and expanded.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the availability of the storefront to customers, with protocols strictly followed to ensure the safety of staff and clients. These include a limit on the number of people in the store at any one time; appointment booking available by phone or email, and the recommendation to wash the fabric at home before using.

When asked about the effects of COVID-19 on sewing and quilting, Ruitter indicated how there has been an increase in sewing and quilting, due in part to more time at home as a result of the pandemic restrictions. She continued how there are several videos available on youtube to help people learn to sew and quilt, as well as lots of online patterns available for use. Quilters Barn and Gifts offer a good range of patterns to choose from and books to help you learn to quilt.

Ruitter continued how quilting can be an individual or group activity, with quilting retreats organized to enable women and men to gather, to collaborate while working on individual projects. She noted the artistic nature of the quilts, and stressed how one doesn't have to be an "artist" to be a quilter, with local quilting guilds often providing an "opportunity to learn about this craft which becomes a passion for many."

More information on the Quilters Barn & Gifts can be found on their Facebook page, by calling the store at 613-496-2276 or visiting their webpage at [www.quiltersbarnandgifts.com](http://www.quiltersbarnandgifts.com).

*If you would like to have a light shined on your business, please contact us at: [news.chestervillerecord@gmail.com](mailto:news.chestervillerecord@gmail.com) or call us at 613-448-2321.*

# Outstanding support for Russell Curling Club

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

RUSSELL – The Russell Curling Club enjoyed a great event fundraising for their club with Christmas trees.

From Dec. 3 to 6, the club had more than 40 mini Christmas trees on display and up for sale through an online auction. Each tree was designed and donated by a local business. The club had a wonderful event and raised a nice sum to help keep the Russell Curling Club on its feet and

in good shape to open in the fall of 2021.

Approximately 200 people went through to view the trees. Organizers believed that they received great community support even with the social distancing requirements due to COVID.

All those who did come through the doors, remarked on how impressed they were with the event and enjoyed the great variety of trees available for viewing and, eventually, for auction.

The trees were judged before the doors opened. Judges were Bruce Armstrong, chief; Russell Fire Department, Wendy McNally, Police Village trustee, Karen Urlocker; artist and private art school owner and teacher.

The winners were: 1st place, Barry's Home Hardware; 2nd place, Houses and Tiny Homes, 3rd place, Russell Historical Society; and honourable mention, Brian Shane Construction.

The final tally was \$9,500. "We are very grateful for the generosity of

the local merchants, organizations and individuals who helped to make our event a huge success," said Russell Curling Club President, M a r y Chartrand.

"Maybe we'll do it again next year but it will have to be on another surface as we will definitely be curling this time next year."

## RHS Report

By Janel Therkelsen  
Student Reporter

### Ready for some time off



Hey everyone!

One more week until our annual Christmas holidays! We just have to get through the next six school days until we are off for break! I think we are all ready for some more time off! But don't forget about the "First Ever Virtual Talent Show" next Friday! Check your email for details and submit your entry to the Google Drive by Monday. Looking forward to it!

Did you know that Nobel prizes are named for Alfred Nobel? Well, let me tell you more about it because today is National Nobel prize day! Every 10th of December, we revisit and observe how the Nobel prize came about in the 1890s. It all started when Alfred Nobel signed his will with no one knowing he wanted all his riches to be awarded as prizes. Thus, the Nobel Prize was born, even though it caused a lot of controversy between Sweden and the rest of the world... and his family wasn't too keen on the idea either.

Any Outlander fans? Today, in 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie's army reached Manchester. For another quick history lesson, in 1746 Scotland, there was the battle of Culloden (the last confrontation of the Jacobite rebellion), a very bloody and quick war about the Scottish government that didn't even last an hour. Years previous, the English claimed the Scottish throne. The Jacobites wanted the Stuarts (the original rulers of Scotland) back on the throne. They specifically fought to put Bonnie Prince Charlie (a Stuart) back on the throne. Unfortunately, it didn't quite go the way they had hoped.

Send those talent videos in this weekend and have a great week everyone!



First Place



Second Place



Third Place



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