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Briefly

Seaway Surge looking for umpires
MORRISBURG – The Seaway Surge are looking for individuals, 12 years and older, who would like to be umpires this summer. Training is provided. Flexible work schedule (evenings and weekends). They pay up to \$75/game. Interested? Contact us at: info@seawaysurge.com.

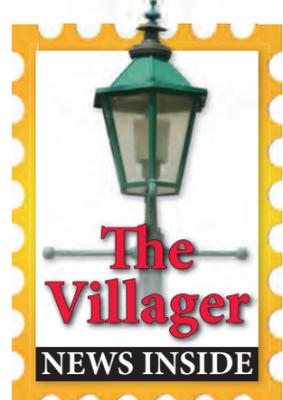
International Women's Day is March 8
WINCHESTER – This year, due to COVID-19, Naomi's Family Resource Centre will be doing a social media campaign and each day, from March 1 to March 8, they will be making posts that celebrate the achievements of Canadian women and the impact they have made in our world.

How can you support International Women's Day?
1) Wear purple on March 8;
2) Post a picture and raise your hand high to show you are in. On March 8, share on social media using the hashtag #ChooseToChallenge and #IWD2021;

3) Support the women in your community by donating to your local shelter. You can donate to our shelter (Naomi's Family Resource Centre) here: <https://www.canadahelps.org/.../naomis-family-resource.../>.
Collectively, we can all help create a #GenderEqual world and we can #ChooseToChallenge #Bias and #Inequality.

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PM40050631R8905 Volume 128, Number 33 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, February 25, 2021 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)



Helping to bend the COVID curve
Residents of Sunset Cove Retirement Residence and Care Services in Long Sault received their COVID-19 vaccine shots on Fri., Feb. 19. Left to right are residents, Fred Vogel, Lissette Langevin and Kay Crites. Residents were relieved to receive the much-anticipated vaccine. Courtesy Photos

Moving forward in South Stormont

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
LJI Reporter
LONG SAULT – Several Key Information Reports were provided to South Stormont council members during the Feb. 17 meeting; these included a notice of 2021 budget meeting by the director of corporate services/clerk Loriann Harbers, an update by Kevin Amelotte, director of parks and recreation and notice of the dissolution of the Waterfront Development Committee.
In her report, Harbers announced the 2021 budget deliberation dates have been set for Sat., March 6 at 9 a.m. and at 5 p.m. on Tues., March 16. She continued the meetings will be livestreamed, recorded and available on the municipal website. The public will be invited to provide input and ideas for the 2021 budget which will be compiled and brought to council by the administration for consideration.

Continued on page 3

Environmental assessment for North Dundas landfill site

Joseph Morin
LJI Reporter
WINCHESTER – The North Dundas landfill site is currently in the process of undertaking an environmental assessment.
The need to expand the existing landfill site sooner than later triggered the assessment which is being carried out by Golder Associates, partnered with the North Dundas waste management staff.
As the assessment moves along, one of its mandate is to provide information to residents and opportunities for residents to comment on what the study is all about and what it may recommend.
One way to ensure transparency and an exchange of information is the creation of a newsletter filled with facts about the landfill site, the assessment and waste management practices.
The Feb. 9 North Dundas council meeting featured the first and second installment of the newsletter.
The newsletter was not intended to be a permanent item or even a monthly one but because of the pandemic and the lack of an opportunity for residents to hear what is going on with the assessment, this is the next best thing.
“There are lots of people concerned about waste and waste management. It speaks to the effort from staff and the municipality to ensure the message is delivered,” said Mayor Fraser.
He felt after reading the first two issues that the newsletter made for good reading.
Doug Froats is the director of waste management for the municipality.

Continued on page 2



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North Dundas landfill

Continued from the front

“The technical bulletin, which was in January, that one is all about the waste diversion study,” he said.

The study is mandated by the environmental assessment.

“What we are trying to divert and what we are doing, as well as some options of what we might like to change or what direction we are going in.”

Froats said they look at other municipalities that are like North Grenville and see what they have done with their landfill sites. For example, the idea of having a dual collection truck where garbage is collected and stored on one side of the truck and the other side is reserved for recycling is a practice not used by most Ontario municipalities.

Normally we would have diverted 609 metric tons, but now we are able to divert around 670 metric tons.

“That’s a 20 to 30 per cent advancement already this year, that’s perfect,” he said.

Golder has created newsletters in the past and as a result has a lot of information they can put in the newsletter in general, to make it more interesting to residents.

“If you read through it, it gives you a general idea of what we do and how we are trying to change,” said Froats.



Waste Management Services - Waste Diversion Newsletter
636 St. Lawrence Street, P.O. Box 489
Winchester, Ontario, K0C 2K0
TEL: 613.774.2105 FAX: 613.774.5699

TECHNICAL BULLETIN | January 2021

What is waste diversion?

Waste diversion is the process of diverting waste from landfills by reducing, reusing and recycling material.

Why should we divert?

- Saves landfill space
- Saves energy
- Benefits the environment
- Benefits our communities

Did You Know?

Many residents in the Township participate in backyard composting of kitchen and yard waste materials.

Backyard composting is a method of waste diversion and helps to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill.

EA Process Tips

The Environmental Assessment Process requires the study to consider an option to “Do Nothing” along with the list of new options being considered in the study.

Waste Diversion Study

An Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Township of North Dundas (Township) Waste Management Plan is being undertaken under the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. As part of the EA Study, a waste diversion study is being carried out to review the Township’s current programs and re-assess the long-term waste management diversion alternatives that are reasonable for the Township to consider within the EA process. Based on the information collected in this study, potential waste diversion options have been identified and evaluated, and the proposed enhancements to the waste diversion system identified.

What is Currently Diverted?

The Township currently provides curbside recycling collection of containers (plastic and metal) and fibres (paper and cardboard) for residential and some institutional, commercial and industrial waste. Once collected, recyclables are sorted at the Boyne Road Landfill facility before being sent to be recycled. The Township also:

- Accepts drop-off of recyclables at the Boyne Road Landfill facility
- Accepts drop-off of tires, appliances, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) material
- Operates a pilot project for leaf and yard waste collection from a limited number of dwellings within the Township

Also, residents voluntarily participate in backyard composting activities.

What Options are Being Considered?

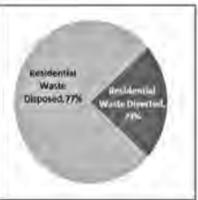
Waste diversion options have been identified as part of the EA Study for the Township and include the following:

- Do nothing and maintain the current system
- Collect food organics in a green bin program
- Enhance the current recycling collection program
- Introduce a full leaf and yard waste collection program
- Policy changes such as bans or bag limits

An evaluation of these options and results follow.

How Much is Diverted?

Approximately 23% of the Township’s residential waste is currently diverted from landfill



Planned initiatives:

- Promotion and education for new and existing diversion programs
- Support local initiatives for waste minimization and re-use activities for materials such as pallets, textiles, cooking oil and construction and demolition materials (where possible to increase waste diversion)

Courtesy Photos

This information has to be shared with a number of other organizations. “We send it out to other ministries, as well as Aboriginal groups.”

In the past, information has been collected from North Dundas residents and other municipalities who have the same rural urban background.

The technical bulletin for February is part of the

environmental assessment also. That newsletter deals mostly with the terms of reference for the environmental assessment and gives residents an opportunity to understand what the municipality is doing about their landfill site plans for the present and the future.

In the original environmental assessment plan, four open houses were to have

been held to allow residents to see what was going on and to become involved.

“We have had two already,” said Froats.

“We are going to probably have another newsletter in early March because of Covid. We probably will not be able to have another open house. We will do another newsletter to replace the open house and give

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Winchester, Ontario, K0C 2K0
TEL: 613.774.2105 FAX: 613.774.5699

TECHNICAL BULLETIN | January 2021

How Were the Waste Diversion Options Evaluated?

The waste diversion options were evaluated using the five criteria listed below:

- Environmental Impacts:** Potential positive or negative impacts
- Cost Effectiveness:** Considered in two ways: 1) the cost required per tonne of waste material diverted; or, 2) the cost required versus the additional waste diversion percentage achieved
- Social Acceptance / Economic Development:** Expected community acceptability, including accessibility and convenience, practicality of transitioning to the new option and anticipated public participation
- Feasibility for Township to Implement:** Compatibility with the Township’s current programs, services, and infrastructure, including the opportunities and challenges associated with implementation
- Operational Considerations:** Training requirements, maintenance, changes in practices and operations, liability, public health concerns, environmental risks, nuisances, market stability, etc.

What Were the Results?

A combination of waste diversion options is proposed for the preferred waste diversion system. The preferred combined waste diversion system includes:

- Backyard Composting of Food Organics
- Dual Stream Recycling Program
- Curbside Collection of Leaf and Yard Waste and Composting at the Boyne Road Landfill Site
- Use of Existing and New Waste Management Policies

What Effect Could This Have?

If the proposed combined system commences in 2021, the Township’s residential waste diversion rate would increase to approximately 23% by 2025 and 33% by 2030.

Send Us Your Feedback on the Proposed Waste Diversion Program!

We encourage you to let us know your thoughts by sending your comments to droats@northdundas.com and/or using the attached comment form. A digital copy of the full Waste Diversion Study is available on our website at: <http://northdundas.com/landfill> Or contact us at 613-774-2105 ext. 235 for any accessibility requirements.

information to residents about what we are doing and what studies we are doing,” said Froats.

Other topics will include how the landfill site will be expanded, what it would look like and what other ideas there are to make it more efficient.

The expansion plan will hopefully allow the landfill site to continue to operate for another 25 years. The next newsletter could also include the different designs staff could implement for the landfill site.

“We will want to look at which design would give us the 25 years that have less influence on our surroundings, including trees and nearby properties. We want to do all that and have all that in one of our bulletins,” said Froats.

Residents who live within one kilometre of the landfill site get a copy of the technical bulletin mailed to them.

Froats said if someone else wants to be on that mailing list, he can add them as well.

WE'RE WITH YOU AT HOME

As the consequences of COVID-19 affect our community and our world, the importance of our connection to reliable information, resources and one another is more evident than ever. As your local newspaper, we are committed to keeping you connected through local news, outbreak updates, stimulating features and community engagement as we make our way through these troubled times toward a brighter future together.

In order to deal with the recent COVID-19 restrictions, The Chesterville Record's office will be closed to the public, but we are still working.

The Chesterville Record will continue to be published every Thursday.

To contact us call 613-448-2321, or use the following emails:

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The days are getting longer and warm weather is just around the corner...What kinds of activities would you like to see offered in the months to come? Let us know what you think?

A new walking club will be starting in April. Call Cynthia for more info. The next book on the Book Club list is *“The Last Train to Key West”* by Chanel Cleeton that should be available for pickup on March 1, 2021.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Open Culture offers hundreds of free online courses. Whether your loved one wants to learn about economics, the Italian renaissance, or computer science, there is an option available online. Many of the classes are taught by top universities like Harvard and Stanford, and come with extra resources like e-books, audio recordings, and free film libraries. Visit their site at openculture.com/freeonlinecourses

COVID-19 vaccine distribution in the EOHU region

CORNWALL – The Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) is committed to working with community and municipal partners to provide information about the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan and ensure it meets the needs of our community. With the vaccine supply stabilizing in the coming weeks, we will be working hard to increase access to the vaccine. As the vaccine becomes available to population groups, we will ensure the community is informed.

With the completion of first doses for residents in Long-Term Care Homes and High-Risk Retirement Homes, we plan to move onto the following priority groups over the next few weeks, depending on vaccine supply and further provincial direction:

- Residents (second doses), staff, and essential caregivers of long-term care, high-risk retirement homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of vaccine;
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals

who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors;

- Highest priority health care workers followed by very high priority health care workers in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidance on health care worker prioritization;
- Indigenous adults in higher risk communities (including on-reserve and urban communities);
- Residents, staff, and caregivers in retirement homes and other congregate

care settings for seniors (e.g., assisted living);

- Adults 80 years of age and older;
- Health care workers in the high priority level, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidance on health care workers prioritization;
- All Indigenous adults;
- Adult recipients of chronic home care.

To help the public know what to expect, the EOHU is committed to providing information as soon as we have it. We will continue to update our website to list which population groups are

eligible to receive the vaccine. Instructions on how to book appointments and what to expect will be made known on the website, social media, local radio, and newspaper, as well as by community and municipal partners.

Four types of clinics will be activated. Clinics operations will be a combined effort between the EOHU, health care providers, community, and municipal partners. Without this support, these clinics would not be possible.

- Mobile clinics allow vaccines to be administered where specific populations work, congregate or live.

• Mass clinics allow vaccines to be administered by appointment at a public venue such as arenas, schools and community halls.

• Drive through clinics allow vaccines to be administered to clients at their vehicle window.

• Fixed site clinics allow vaccines to be administered at specific providers such as the EOHU, pharmacies, physicians, community health centres or hospitals.

For more information and the latest updates on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit the Eastern Ontario Health Unit's website at www.EOHU.ca/vaccines.

Tara Kirkpatrick named new manager of economic development



CORNWALL – The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is pleased to announce the appointment of Tara Kirkpatrick as the new manager of economic development effective March 8.

Kirkpatrick joins the counties with an array of experience in economic development, business retention and expansion and municipal priority projects

United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry announces Tara Kirkpatrick as the new manager of economic development. Courtesy Photo

from her time with the township of North Glengarry.

She spent four years with the township, including most recently as the economic development and communications officer.

“Economic development is a critical component of the counties’ strategic plan, and we are pleased to welcome Tara into this new role with the upper-tier,” said counties CAO Tim Simpson. “Tara’s experience and successes in North Glengarry will dovetail nicely with the

priorities we have laid out for our region.”

Kirkpatrick has a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Degree from Carleton University and is in the process of completing a Certificate in Economic Development from the University of Waterloo.

“I’m excited to join the team at the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry and honoured by this opportunity to work with all six municipalities on the strategic goals they share,” said Kirkpatrick.

South Stormont

Continued from the front

Amelotte provided a facility update to council during the meeting, which described the work done by staff following the announcement that the EOHU will be moving into the Orange Zone of COVID-19 precautions. He reported that Recreation and Parks’ staff have been working to facilitate arena and hall rentals, ice rentals and scheduling, noting that new screening requirements are being implemented. Amelotte noted the municipality will be booking rental times at the Lancer Centre in Ingleside and discussion with other municipalities regarding ice rentals had been held. Amelotte noted things are moving forward so long as the EOHU remains in the Orange Zone.

As the meeting opened, Harbers provided a report on the Waterfront Development Committee, noting that the terms of reference for the committee had been completed and that a report was provided to council and adopted during the Jan. 27 council meeting. Deputy

Mayor Smith expressed his concern that the committee may be dissolved as well, he noted that there was still work which could be done by the committee and suggested the mandate of the WDC should be extended. Councillor Jennifer MacIsaac agreed with Smith that the committee should continue, but as their work is complete that perhaps staff could provide a report to council detailing a new mandate which could focus on the implementation phase. Councillor Andrew Guidon echoed the comments of his colleagues, with Mayor Bryan McGillis thanking the committee for their work and agreeing that perhaps a new committee could be established with a new mandate. CAO Debi Lucas Switzer mentioned staff are still working toward an agreement with the St. Lawrence Parks Commission and suggests that a new committee could investigate various facets of the Waterfront plan and how this would be integrated with other municipal plans as well as with community members. She mentioned how a report could be provided to council by the second meeting in March.



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Letter

Befuddled by tax return preparation?

Every year doing your taxes becomes one more thing to do that you do not mind doing, but it causes more grief than it should.

Understanding and actually filling in all those boxes can be a nightmare.

MP Eric Duncan for SDSG is coming to the rescue. Continuing a tradition set by former MP Guy Lauzon, Duncan is hosting the Community Volunteers Tax Program from his office in Cornwall.

Taxpayers began using the service on Feb. 24. Because of pandemic restrictions all information about your taxes has to be dropped off at his office.

Appointments to hand over tax information to volunteers can be made by calling Duncan's office at 1-888-805-2513.

To be eligible for the free service you have to have an income that is less than \$35,000 a year or as a couple earning no more than \$45,000.

Your tax return has to be able to be completed in a straightforward manner and includes:

- self-employed or have employment expenses
- have business or rental income and expenses
- have capital gains or losses
- filed for bankruptcy in the tax year; or
- completing a tax return for a deceased person

MP Duncan's constituency office is located at 691 Brookdale Avenue, Unit C. You can also learn more about the Community Volunteers Tax Program on the Canada Revenue Agency website.

Garbage in, garbage out

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

How many of us out there can remember when the internet was so new that we called it the information highway?

We had to use a highway metaphor to explain streams of data migrating along a wire or magically in a wireless miracle, travelling to the equivalent of an ONroute location along highway 401 to bring information to you.

Those were the days. Your typical spell check program did not include words such as download, upload, off and online. The internet and the technology that drives it have changed our language as well as how we get things done.

We still need a hammer to hit a nail but the hammer and the nail are most likely designed and manufactured by the data in a robot-like machine.

Sounds exciting and in so many ways it is, however

there has to be some catch somewhere along the line in this "sounds to good to be true innovation".

On the one hand, it is great that businesses can use technology to process your purchase whether it be a cup of coffee or a new car. All it takes these days is a tap.

The only thing missing is the sound of your money falling through a trap door in your bank account into a metal chute then into a special box on a truck that will drop off the funds at the location you spent them.

Technology is amazing.

But here is the catch. The same information highway that transports all of your money, debt and profit up and down the road so easily can also transport the garbage people leave along the roadside as well.

People don't actually leave their coffee cups along the highway but they do dump their ideas there for everyone to see and

unfortunately for anyone to pick up and embrace.

I have seen on the internet, stories about reality not really being reality, up is down, left is right, and my left shoe is really called a tennis ball in another reality.

I appreciate all the voices having an opportunity to be heard on the internet, but I must admit there is no solution to the kind of contamination we have all recently been subject to, with all the different ideas flying around like mosquitoes.

I do not know how I have managed to tell the difference between false ideas and true ones.

Ideas start out as just that..ideas. They do not have a bias, or true or false component. However, when ideas manage to arrive in the real world, they live or die whether they make sense or not.

So a long time ago someone, definitely not one of my ancestors, tried out the idea of breathing

underwater. It was a great idea, and very useful if possible, unfortunately it turned out to be a very bad idea, sort of like jumping out of an airplane without a parachute.

"Ironically and more necessary than ever the 19th century warning," believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see," is more important than ever.

The other way to prevent false information from taking route in your belief system is to seek out information sources you trust.

Having that kind of trusting relationship with your information source sometimes takes a bit of work but it's worth it.

So, when my neighbour tells me something, I do not question it much.

They have no interest or habit of not telling me the truth about something, and after all they are my neighbour, and trust between neighbours is everything.

NDDHS Report

By Jamie Wilson

Student Council Communications



Pink Shirt Day

Yesterday, (Feb. 24), was Pink Shirt Day. Since 2007, this day has existed to raise awareness and stand up against bullying. Bullying is defined as any behaviour that intentionally makes others feel afraid or uncomfortable. The most common types of bullying are verbal bullying, physical bullying, cyberbullying, prejudicial bullying, and relational aggression. Victims are often told to get over or ignore the aggression they are facing, but bullying is very serious and can have long lasting effects on a child or a teen's mental health. That is why North Dundas is wearing pink shirts, to stand up for the ones who struggle to stand up for themselves, and to show that we are willing to create a school environment that is free from bullying and safe for all students.

Every day for the past week, the different types of bullying have been described during morning announcements to raise awareness and lead up to today. Alongside the bullying announcements, we have been highlighting an important Black person in Canadian history everyday in celebration of Black History Month. Some of the individuals we have discussed so far are Willie O'Ree, the first person of colour to play in the NHL; Lincoln Alexander, the first Black Canadian member of Parliament; and Viola Desmond, a civil rights activist and the first Canadian woman to appear on Canadian currency.

The Road Home

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

February is winding down and with it the month, which many feel calls attention to the wonderfully rich heritage we enjoy in Canada. My Mom used to tell me when I was complaining about Canadian history being boring, that if we looked at the stories behind the facts in our history books we would find out just how exciting this story of ours is!

One of her favourite history stories was that of how one of the reasons for the defeat of the invading American armies at the Battle of Crysler's Farm was they had overindulged in fresh buckwheat honey as they made their way to Montreal. According to Croil in his definitive history book, Dundas or a sketch of Canadian History and my Mom, the morning of the battle a significant number of the invaders were suffering from dysentery and were not quite feeling up to par. I had thought perhaps she had made the story up but years later when reviewing compensation requests from residents of the area for items confiscated by the Americans, I realized that Mom was probably right because many were seeking compensation for lost honey and beehives!

She really enjoyed history and loved teaching it in school back in

the day. For one of her classes, she penned some "letters" which the explorer David Thompson had allegedly sent back to friends. Apparently, they were so well done that parents of her students were asking how she had got her hands on them. Then there is a school trip she organized to Quebec City where the young students at Chesterville Public School would be able to experience a bit of life in one of the earliest communities in this country. It was apparently quite an interesting and educational experience for everyone.

One of the more striking memories of my Grade 5 class (where I managed to get a perfect grade by the way) was having to draw the map of Canada over and over and over again. Each time we learned about a new explorer, and we certainly have a lot of explorers in our early history, we had to draw a freehand map of Canada on which we would be able to draw the route of his explorations.

It was really exciting though to learn about David Thompson, Samuel Hearne and Simon Fraser as they travelled across this country. It was even more exciting to visit the small cemetery in St. Andrews West where Simon Fraser is buried and have a tour of the Bethune Thompson House in Williamstown where David

Thompson and his family lived for a time.

So what about the history of my hometown Chesterville. We have a history which dates back a millennium or so when Indigenous Peoples established communities along the Nation River and used this river as a trading or travel route. Following the American Revolution, land grants to United Empire Loyalists were given out, mills created along the river and slowly but surely a town grew on the river banks. The Chesterville & District Historical Society is actively engaged in ensuring the history of not only Chesterville but other areas of North Dundas is compiled so that future generations will have the answers to questions about our town.

It is not only important to collect artifacts from our past, but equally or perhaps more important is to collect the stories of the times many of us older people have lived through so our descendants will know what it was like to live through events like the Quebec Crisis of 1970 in the area or travel to Expo 67 or perhaps just chat with the people who lived on your street.

The time is now to write them down for there is no doubt that we have lived and live in interesting times.



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Chamber of Commerce sees large drop in membership

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

WINCHESTER – The North Dundas Chamber of Commerce has lost roughly half its membership since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a Feb. 19 phone interview, the chamber’s administrative coordinator Mary Tessier said membership is normally around 105 but has decreased by 50 per cent because of challenges caused by the pandemic. She said businesses are not renewing their memberships for two reasons: the need to save every dollar, including the small membership fee; and the need to focus completely on saving their businesses.

The chamber’s board of directors has also been cut in half, going from 10 to 12 executives to only five or six. Unfortunately, due to regulatory policy, the open board positions cannot be filled until an annual general meeting (AGM) is held and the collective membership votes. While the AGM is generally held in

January, it has been delayed until the remaining executive can organize a virtual meeting.

The chamber is run mainly by volunteers, Tessier said. She also noted that her 10-hour administrative position has been cut to five hours to compensate for the decrease in chamber finances. Tessier attributes the drop in available funds to lost membership fees, as well as to the cancellation of last year’s income-producing Local Business Expo, which is usually held in the spring and normally sees more than 100 businesses register for the event.

“The Expo used to give us lots of exposure,” Tessier said. “When we went out marketing the Expo, we always picked up extra members.”

As for 2021, it remains unclear whether the Local Business Expo will take place. The chamber and the township of North Dundas are currently discussing the potential for hosting a virtual event this year.

“We’re trying to figure out a way to have a business expo in partnership with the township,” she said. “Now we’re going back to the drawing board and seeing how we can do it in a world of COVID.” If it does go ahead, it will be about cost recovery rather than making revenues, she added.

Tessier said the remaining chamber executive is not focused on recruitment. She said they understand the difficulties most small business owners are currently facing.

“We’re treading lightly,” she said, adding that the chamber is looking at opportunities for educational and networking sessions to be held virtually.

In fact, the chamber has partnered with the township to bring back the “Bring Your Own Breakfast” event. This popular program is usually held four times a year but was not held at all in 2020 due to COVID-19. This year, rather than cancelling, they are taking it virtual. The Feb. 26 event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., it is free, and people can

register by sending an email to: smann@northdundas.com.

The virtual breakfast event will feature Seguin Financial founder Andrew Seguin and the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC)’s COVID-19 business relief advisor, Doreen Ashton Wagner. It will focus on helping business owners understand what is currently available in COVID-19 funding, who is eligible, and how to apply.

“We’re just trying to make it simpler and easier,” she said. “[The speakers] will hopefully have tips for them.”

The North Dundas Chamber’s executive is also looking at hosting virtual seminars on e-commerce and generating website traffic, Tessier said. Right now, they are looking at different options for hosting these virtual events, hoping they can find something that is beneficial and that allows for networking and breakout rooms for small group discussions.

“I’m hoping that post-COVID, we’ll be stronger than before,” Tessier said.

Show your creativity

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – The local not for profit corporation A Bunch of People, recently announced that the third annual “Writing in 150” competition will be held on March 27 in a virtual format. This writing competition seeks contestants creating a piece of writing to a maximum of 1,000 words, in 150 minutes.

Amanda Burger of South Stormont, who founded “A Bunch of People” a few years ago, explained the first event was held in 2019 at the McCloskey Hotel in Chesterville, with the 2020 event being virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was decided to hold the 2021 competition virtually for a variety of reasons including the success of the 2020 virtual event.

Burger mentioned there are six categories in the competition, with each person able to participate in one category only. The categories are fiction, non-fiction, song, poetry, spoken word and short play. With everyone participating on a computer, the event is slated to begin at 11 a.m. on March 27; a category specific prompt word will be provided to contestants who will then have 150 minutes or until 1:31 p.m. to email their written submission to organizers at abunchofpeopleartsandevents@gmail.com; or in the case of the song lyric and spoken word categories, a video uploaded to the organizer’s Facebook page.

When asked about the judges for the event, Burger commented they are still in

the process of securing the judges but mentioned they will all be local. First and second place winners in each category will be published in a book by local publisher, Pre-Raphaelite Publishing Company.

The cost of participation is \$25 per person, with each participant limited to entering one category. Additional information is available on the A Bunch of People Facebook page, with Burger noting the deadline for entering the competition is March 24 at 12:01 a.m. EST, and that a minimum of two people are needed in each category for the competition to take place.

Burger mentioned how during a recent annual general meeting for the organization, it was decided an event would be sponsored for each season. With the plans for the spring event, the Writing in 150 competition well in hand, Burger explained

they are looking to hold a car rally and scavenger hunt in a relay race format in the summer, perhaps a photo competition in the fall and a Christmas show for the winter. She continued that the Christmas show is currently in the planning stages but will be a mixture of monologues and music from The Weber Brothers.

More information on these and other events is available on the Facebook page of “A Bunch of People”, with Burger explaining at the end of 2021, that all profits would be provided to a local charity of their choice.

Amanda Burger, founder of A Bunch of People, provided this photo of a participant in the first Writing in 150 competition held in 2019 at the McCloskey Hotel in Chesterville. This year’s event will be held virtually on March 27. More information is available on the organization’s Facebook page.

Courtesy Photo





WINCHESTER DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL CORPORATION

Hospital By-Laws require that membership applications be received at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation to entitle a member to vote at the Annual Meeting. The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Corporation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22nd. To ensure applications are properly processed they **must be received prior to Monday, March 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

Application forms for new members, or renewing members, can be found online at: <https://www.wdmh.on.ca/corporatemembership>

Please forward completed application forms to: alafleche@wdmh.on.ca

Alternatively, you can mail your application: Administration Office
Winchester District Memorial Hospital
566 Louise Street
Winchester, Ontario K0C 2K0
Attention: Amy Lafleche

To find more information about The Winchester District Memorial Hospital Corporation please visit <https://www.wdmh.on.ca/boardbylaws/policies> and see our Administrative Bylaws.



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH STORMONT
A good place to grow

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Township of North Stormont is accepting applications for the following positions:

Permanent Full-Time

Deputy Clerk
Accounts Payable Clerk

Permanent Part-Time

Fire Chief

For full job descriptions please visit northstormont.ca

Resumes will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. (noon) on March 5th, 2021 to:

Craig Calder, CAO/Clerk
Township of North Stormont
15 Union St., P.O. Box 99
Berwick, ON K0C 1G0
ccalder@northstormont.ca

We thank all candidates for their interest, however, only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

WDMH staff begin to receive the COVID-19 vaccine

WINCHESTER – Registered practical nurse Miranda Carruthers is among the first WDMH staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. On Fri., Feb. 19, 84 staff members and physicians were vaccinated. Several other WDMH staff members received their first vaccine on Jan. 15 at the Dundas Manor.

Miranda Carruthers has been working at the Assessment Centre in Winchester, operated by WDMH, since November. She tests patients for COVID-19: “I was super excited to get my vaccine and I feel extremely

thankful. By protecting WDMH staff, we can also protect patients and families and our local communities. It’s going to make a huge difference, and everyone will be able to see their loved ones again.”

“WDMH staff have been on the front line of this pandemic and this is a great first step. We look forward to seeing the entire WDMH team – and our local communities - get their first dose over the coming weeks,” noted CEO Cholly Boland. “Thank you to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit for your leadership in the

vaccine roll-out.”

WDMH has developed a detailed vaccination plan that prioritizes staff based on their level of risk and work location. For example, staff members working in the Emergency Department

will be vaccinated before staff members who do not have direct contact with patients. Decision-making is also guided by the province’s ethical framework for vaccine distribution.

All safety protocols remain in place at WDMH, including screening, wearing masks, the use of personal protective equipment, and visitor restrictions. For full details and the latest updates,

please visit www.wdmh.on.ca.

If you would like to provide comments or suggestions about hospital services, please contact Cholly Boland, president and CEO, Winchester District Memorial Hospital at 613.774.1049 or by email at cboland@wdmh.on.ca.



The pharmacy team oversaw preparing the doses. Shown l-r are: Peyton Bradford, Jennifer Deschamps, Kelly Layden and Ali Elbeddini. Courtesy Photo



Nathalie Boudreau, vice president of Clinical Services, vaccinates Miranda Carruthers. Courtesy Photo

Obituary

MESSAGE OF REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION OF LIFE CHRISTENA MARY WOUTERS (NEE KELLY) 11 JUNE 1936 / 16 FEBRUARY 2021



Early Life

Born in Winchester, Ontario on 11 June 1936, Christena Mary Kelly was one of 9 children of Rose and Patrick Kelly. Her origins are French Canadian and Irish – and in many respects Christena was emblematic of the best of both. She loved her Mom and Dad and cherished her siblings and their families and was in regular communication with them. Family was always the most important to Christena, the loving daughter, sister and aunt.

At school Christena showed her many talents, academically and in sports. She represented her school in regional track and field championships, excelling in sprinting and high jump, winning firsts in both events. Her other talents were recognized early on. She was 'scouted' when she was only in Grade 10 – the nuns approached her to join their calling. But they had competition – as the local grocery store also wanted her and asked Christena's mother Rose if they could hire her daughter, an offer that was accepted. Thus, Christena left school at a young age to work for \$6 per week at Fulton's department store, paying half of her wage at home to support her family. She met her husband Ernie at church and so began a life-long romantic adventure, with Christena at its heart.

Housewife and Mother

Married on 1st September 1956, Christena and Ernie soon started a family - Patricia Karen (June 1957) (spouse, Sergei Vinogradov), Deborah Marie (August 1958) (spouse, Gary Skoye) Sharon Christena (October 1959), Jacqueline Rose (August 1961) (spouse, Frank Behrens) Carolyn Anne (July 1962) (spouse, Thomas Lloyd); Ernest Joseph (September 1963), (spouse, Amy Friesen), Shelly Lillian (August 1964) (spouse, Frank Lightfoot) and Marc Paul (June 1967) (spouse, Angela Richardson). Christena's family was her pride and joy. In addition to her 8 children (and their spouses), she had 25 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, with one more on the way.

She took pride in the fact that all her children were potty-trained before they were one year old; cared for in real diapers made by Mom, washed by hand and put through that wringer washing machine and hung out to dry on that mile-long clothes wire that stretched from our farmhouse to the barn. During the winter, the many clothes hung out to dry came in frozen solid; brought in to thaw by the fire. There was home-stitched clothing for us all; home-cooked baked goods provided for the many class bake sales; individual lunches packed precisely for each of her children. Healthy home-grown fruits and vegetables from our large farm garden; gigantic pumpkins for Hallowe'en, and the best Christmases ever – sparkly events with that great big turkey meal and loads of specially selected presents, all wrapped, and mysteriously appearing from those never-discovered hiding places. And every summer – those amazing summer camping trips to Bon Echo and regular trips to Brown's Bay for family days out.

If you ask her children what Mom was to them – well, in their own words, 'Mom was our everything - Doctor, Teacher, Chef, Fisherwoman, Mediator, Best Friend, Confidante, Inspirator, Guardian Angel, Lighthouse, Soul-keeper, Selfless Servant, Absolute best Supporter!' 'She made the sun shine brighter, the food taste better; in her presence you felt loved, entirely enveloped in peace and completely protected. She made us strong, she helped us to make our own choices, she believed in us and so we believed in ourselves. She made us leaders. Mom never said "no you can't do it," it was not part of her vocabulary. She supported us unconditionally and she made us think for ourselves, making us who we are today. The countless hours of early morning hockey practice, baseball games, after school sport, driving us to work, picking us after school dances or events - we never had to worry!' 'She never had a harsh word to say about anyone. And she always kept a secret; you were sure that she would keep your confidences and never, ever judge.

Christena accepted life fully, as it presented itself and she found the balance in everything. Her approach – if it rained, well that was good for the flowers; if it was sunny, well that was good for the flowers. For Christena, it was always OK, it was always just as it was meant to be, and she effortlessly emanated this aura of peace and calm. All those self-help books (which she never read, nor needed) rolled into one quiet unassuming matriarch – simply, truly Christena. Christena's children's in-laws and extended families loved her dearly – and perhaps some even secretly pondered why their spouse had not inherited just a bit more of their Mother-in-law's many positive character traits and talents. She embraced her extended family fully; everyone was loved and cared for completely.

Intrepid Adventurer

Christena travelled the world to be with her family. Her first big family move was from Cornwall to many other communities in Ontario, Alberta, and latterly, BC. Christena spearheaded the establishment of women's and girls' hockey in two regions in Western Canada, as founding President; she continued as its strongest inspiration and supporter for many years. She loved hockey and keenly followed her favourite team, the Vancouver Canucks. And when the Canucks made the Stanley Cup finals in 2011, Christena attended a game in Vancouver, wearing her jersey, all smiles and entirely in her element.

When her youngest child Marc graduated, Christena and Ernie headed off to Campbell River, BC – 'the fishing capital of Canada' – where they built a house overlooking the Chuck – the Quadra Island lighthouse in view. She spent years fishing on the open seas on the Dolless, hauling up countless rock cod and all sorts of other things! The fact that she couldn't swim and didn't really like the water – well no worries – she just carried on in her customary enormously supportive way.

Christena was an active member of the Happy Wanderers and the Community Quilters in Campbell River. She helped to make many community quilts, one of which is displayed in the Rec Centre. Her quilt-making talents are legendary – she made one for each of her children, individually designed in specially selected colour schemes and unique designs. Christena was an accomplished seamstress, sewing so many clothes – from pajamas to graduation gowns, and even wedding dresses -- for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She made each of her children the most lovely Christmas tree-skirts, aprons, potholders, dishcloths – each to be cherished as special heirlooms. Christena attended seniors exercise class until the pandemic curtailed this routine. She loved to have her hair done weekly. She was always well turned out – and looked younger with years. She was an avid reader and kept up with the daily news.

In addition to being a full-time Mother and wife, Christena found time to work outside the home – she loved fabrics and dealing with people. Christena was an active member of the Women's Institute. She also loved her work at several children's nurseries, where she cared mostly for babies and young children. She worked in retail, where she would be busy stacking the shelves and serving customers. Despite offers to work in management, she kept her work part-time so she could focus on family.

Matriarch – Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother to us all, everywhere, all the time

Christena had a twinkle in her eye – she was always up for a laugh, quick to tell a joke, play a trick or to win at a game of cards – and she loved it all; she was such a good sport. Ernie was her forever love – and she agreed to renew her marriage vows on a couple of occasions – on their 30th and 40th wedding anniversaries. She and Ernie travelled back to Ontario for their 50th wedding anniversary (2006), the place of their marriage. Christena loved these wonderful celebratory occasions that brought together all the family.

Christena travelled the world to be with her children, appearing always exactly right there, where and when you needed her. She crisscrossed Canada and the globe for graduations, and other special events, including the births of most of her grandchildren. Her international journeys took her to California, Belgium, Cyprus, Germany, Scotland, Switzerland, and other parts of Europe. It was never about the travel; it was always about family.

Christena was in her element with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; she did everything for family. She was a perfectionist, without being stressed or ostentatious about it – just determined to do things right; it was an inborn trait, embedded in her very being and entirely effortless. She loved a routine. Clear memories of her scrubbing the floors on her knees, polishing them till they shone with that funny floor-polisher; the rigour of the regular weekly fridge clean out; twice daily sweeping the kitchen floor; beds always made. Towels, matching and clean and fluffy. And how could it be Easter, or Christmas or even your birthday, without a card from Mom? Our favourite meals always just quietly appearing when we each visited Mom. Christena was HOME for each of us, wherever she was, wherever we were. She bathed us in her love, and compassion; this magical charm that encompassed us – making us all feel like we were better people, that we could do anything, and that it would all be OK.

Christena always said that she had wished to be a school teacher – but, in life, she was so very (very) much more – she was our everything; a constant and steadfast safe haven for all of our storms, real and imagined. Christena shared all that she was with each of us – she showed us how to live, how to love, and how to be... in her presence we were all the best versions of ourselves, blessed forever by her benevolence. We remain strengthened and comforted by her omnipresent serenity, generosity, and natural grace. We love her so much; we miss her so much; and we are deeply grateful. Christena, our very own saint, our forever shining light, rest in peace.

Christena passed away peacefully in Campbell River, surrounded by her husband and family. She is survived by her husband, Ernie, her 8 children, 24 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

The family would ask that in lieu of flowers any donations be made to the Campbell River Food bank at Campbellriverfoodbank.com or to the Salvation Army, Campbell River, at Oceancrestchurch.org. With many thanks.

Council renews lease for municipal garage

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

BERWICK – The township of North Stormont will continue renting garage and storage space located in Berwick from the South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC).

Local politicians approved a draft lease agreement between the township and SNC during the Feb. 16 council meeting. SNC is continuing to offer the space rent-free, while the township continues to cover its own utilities, internet, security, and insurance costs. As the parking lot is a shared space, the two organizations share snow removal costs.

“There had been a previous agreement with our SNC partners that had expired. The old version had been updated for insurance coverage,” CAO Craig Calder said. “The only amendment council requested was a reduction in the agreement as SNC had requested a 20-year term. Council reduced this timeframe to 10 years, which mirrors the original contract term.”

North Dundas takes first step in water and sewer infrastructure renewal

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – The North Dundas council is moving ahead with a plan to counter future water and sewer issues in Winchester.

Mayor Fraser said, “This is probably the first phase of the biggest investment in infrastructure in North Dundas’ history.”

The plan is a small part of a longer-term plan and a much more ambitious plan to make sure water and sewer services can keep up with anticipated population growth over the next 20 years.

The first step is making sure the system will be able to accommodate 350 new connections to the water system in Winchester.

That project estimated to



take three years to complete is expected to cost \$5.1- million.

Some of the details of this first step in securing efficient and safe water and sewer services for the area, include improvements to the Main Street pumping station to allow for better flow of sewage.

“We need to get bigger pipes in the ground. We know what we need to do,” said Fraser.

The issue of where drinking water comes from in the future will be outlined in an environmental assessment report expected to be completed by mid-2021.

Over the next 20 years, the entire cost of making the North Dundas sewer and water system ready for whatever growth comes is pegged at a minimum of \$45-million.

All councillors agreed the time for action is now.

The council voted to put the capital charge for connecting with the municipal water and sewer systems at \$8,800 and to be ready to pay the bigger bill when it comes.

The need for water and sewer infrastructure that can handle future needs is here now. The project to build a new Dundas Manor as well as the anticipated completion of the Welling’s of Winchester, and the addition of day care spaces at the Winchester Public School in the west end of the town, are a few examples of growth that must be accounted for.

Vaccination programs being set up for North Dundas

WINCHESTER – The Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) is getting ready to roll out its vaccine program in North Dundas.

Up until now, the EOHU has focused their vaccine program on long-term care homes and hospital staff.

The EOHU has asked North Dundas for the use of a facility that it can use when the time comes to start mass vaccinations.

They will be using mass clinics to target community members and mobile clinics as well as practice clinics, for example a doctor’s office or pharmacy.

The municipality has offered the use of the Joel Steel Community Centre for the mass vaccination program, free of charge.

Vaccination dates are in the process of being set up.

- OBITUARY -



LYSTIUK, LLOYD J.

JUNE 3, 1949 - FEBRUARY 13, 2021

On February 13, 2021, at the age of 71 Lloyd died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Winchester. Son of the late Fred Lystiuk and Alice (Perron). Lloyd is survived by his wife Ginette Wedemire, his two sons, Adam and Matthew (Melissa), his step-children, Shawn and Ann-Marie. Beloved Grumpy to Kiera Wedemire, Jacob and Jaxon Lystiuk. He is also survived by five brothers, Fred, Paul (Cathy), Peter (Cindy), Norm (Wendy), James (Paula); three sisters, Lorraine (Mike) Murdoch, Madeleine (Joe Devereaux) and Blanche (Bob Sugrue). Predeceased by youngest brother Michael. Beloved uncle to numerous nephews and nieces.

Following his six years in the military, Lloyd joined National Grocers in Ottawa and retired after 33 years. He was a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion where he served as a bartender for several years at the Winchester Branch. He loved playing euchre and regaling comrades with his enchanting stories and sometimes humorous jokes. His easy going friendly welcoming personality will be greatly missed at the Branch.

A Celebration of Life will be hosted at the Legion at a future date. Donations in his memory can be made to the Cancer Clinic or the Winchester Legion Branch 108.

Condolences/Tributes
Hulse, Playfair & McGarry
www.hpmcgarry.ca
613-774-1117



- Obituary - AMM, Robert Garnet

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Robert G. Amm at the Hamilton General Hospital on Saturday, February 20, 2021. Bob Amm of Dundas in his 87th year. Loving husband of the late Sarah Gallant (1986) and Olga Belowus (2019). Stepfather of Pauline and Rob. Bob will be sadly missed by his brother Gil and his wife Doreen of Langley, British Columbia, as well as his special friend Carolyn Bentley of Dundas as well as many friends and colleagues. Predeceased by his parents Earl Amm and Pearl Hazard. Bob was born December 19, 1934 in Quyon, Quebec and attended school in a two-room schoolhouse. In 1947 the family relocated to Avonmore, Ontario where he attended high school. Bob gained a love for Canada’s west while serving with the Cadet Corps from 1951-1954 and attending excursions to the western provinces and Ipperwash Camp. After high school, Bob obtained his first job in a funeral home at McAvoy Brothers Funeral Home in Ottawa and attended the Canadian School of Embalming, graduating in 1955. He continued to work in funeral homes in Ottawa, Belleville, at Ridley Funeral Home in Toronto and finally settled at the J.B. Marlatt Funeral Home in Dundas in 1978 where he served many families in his caring and compassionate manner until he retired in 1997. Bob continued as a part-time funeral director for another 20 years. He also assisted his friend, Chris Franklin at the Futher-Franklin Funeral Home in Wellesley. There he would enjoy watching the Amish horse and buggies drive by or see the horses plowing the fields. When he was a boy, he would watch the steam locomotives pass by the family farm, igniting his passion for trains and model railroading. He could always be found with a camera and radio scanner in his hands as he chased trains across the country. He also spent many hours painting model trains with meticulous precision. Bob was an active member of the Dundas Lions Club serving as Club President and other executive roles. Thanksgiving weekend was always reserved for his beloved Rockton World’s Fair. Bob became an Honorary Board member and served on the Hackney Horse committee and was instrumental in the Ag-Alive displays. He even enjoyed welcoming guests to the fair while volunteering on the parking gates. In accordance with the regulations of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario due to COVID-19, all events are restricted to a specified number of attendees. Please RSVP for visitation in advance by calling 905-627-7452. All visitors are asked to remain in their vehicles until their allotted time. Please follow the directions of the funeral home staff upon arrival. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering and practice social distancing. Friends are invited to share memories at the MARLATT FUNERAL HOME “SWACKHAMER CHAPEL”, 195 King Street W., Dundas on Wednesday, February 24th from 11 a.m. till 8 p.m. A private funeral service will be held in the Marlatt Dundas Chapel on Thursday, February 25, 2021. Followed by interment at Grove Cemetery with his wife Sarah. Everyone is invited to watch the online livestream of the funeral at 1 p.m. on Bob’s webpage at www.marlattfdundas.com and clicking on “Join Livestream” under the Service section of the webpage. Donations in Memory of Bob may be made to the Rockton Agricultural Society or the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides would be appreciated. Funeral arrangements assisted by Futher-Franklin Funeral Home, Wellesley.

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: Due to current COVID-19 restrictions our church building is temporarily closed. Telephone calls are answered at 613-448-2532.

**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

Worship services are resumed on Sunday, Feb. 21st at 10 a.m. - Chalmers Finch with Rev. Lois. ALL COVID rules will be followed. Masks are mandatory.

ST. LUKE'S - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FINCH

MINISTER: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Gaver 613-918-0506 Church: 613-984-2201
cgaver@cogeco.ca www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca

Closed until further notice.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Morewood
ST. ANDREW'S - Chesterville ST. PAUL'S - Winchester**

Interim Moderator Rev. Samer Kandalaft 613-258-4136

St. Andrew's, Chesterville, and Morewood Presbyterian Churches are closed for the duration of the provincial COVID-19 lockdown.

NATIONSIDE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Rev. Edwin Valles
Email: 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
Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Evangelical Missionary Church

12010 Ormond Rd. & Hwy. 31 613-774-5170 www.harmony-church.org
Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

Join us via our youtube channel for our live stream at 10:30 a.m.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy_DABz4REc-A76-EvRA
No Sunday School or Nursery provided at this time.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226
Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick
infostmarysrussell@rogers.com Website: 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 for the link.

St. Mary's Church is engaged in actively sharing God's unconditional grace and love.

WINCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH

486 Main St., Winchester
Pastors Bud McKibbin and Mollie McKibbin

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On YouTube at St. Clare Anglican.

Residents at Garden Villa receive vaccine

CHESTERVILLE – Residents at the Garden Villa Retirement Residence received their COVID-19 vaccine on Sat., Feb. 20. Staff from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit along with the EMS administered the vaccinations.



Pictured above, left to right are: Margie F, Edith B, Lorn R, Anita W and Betty S.

Courtesy Photos

SDG sets 2021 budget with an eye to easing taxpayer pressures

CORNWALL – The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry has approved, in principle, its 2021 budget, which may result in a tax savings for many residents this year. Counties council, at its Feb. 17 meeting, put the finishing touches to the budget which calls for a 0.74 per cent tax rate decrease.



fiscal decisions that lay a solid foundation for economic growth, while also acknowledging the reality of the pandemic and its impact on our region.”

“Staff are aware of external pressures created by the pandemic,” said counties CAO Tim Simpson. “We have a responsibility to ensure our residents continue to have access to the services we provide, while at the same time acknowledging the desire to mitigate COVID-19’s impact on the bottom line for ratepayers.”

Prior to budget deliberations counties council approved more than \$7 million in reserve transactions – moving surplus funds from 2020 into reserves to be used for 2021 projects.

Many different line items

make up these transactions, including the roads resurfacing reserve (\$1.5 million), roads project reserve (\$1.258 million) and the bridge reserve (\$973,000) to name a few.

“Reserves are a financial management tool that is part of a sound fiscal plan to address long-term objectives and provide budget stability,” said financial services director Rebecca Russell.

“This is evident in 2021, as the counties aims to maintain service levels while collecting less money from taxpayers.” Counties council is expected to formally approve the budget at its regular meeting in March.

• In 2021, an average SDG residential property’s assessment is \$221,633, increasing 0.53 per cent

from 2020 at \$220,459.

• 2021 counties taxation totals \$50,690,910; an increase of \$33,065, from 2020.

• The largest counties road project is the Morrisburg roundabout/streetscape rehabilitation, which is estimated to cost \$4.1 million. The counties will receive \$2.5 million through the Canada Infrastructure Program.

• The counties are partnering with South Stormont on a \$700,000 St. Andrews West urban renewal project. The scope of work includes paving, the replacement of sidewalks, replacement of curbs, driveway culvert, repairs, some storm sewer repairs and ditching improvements (with minor areas filled).

• The counties will spend more than \$3.4-million on bridge repair and rehabilitation in 2021.



Pictured here are Bob and Jannie VN. Courtesy Photo



Pictured here are Jim and Helen G. Courtesy Photo

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Ready for 2021

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE—The Chesterville & District Historical Society (CDHS) held their annual general meeting virtually on Tues., Feb. 16.

After calling the meeting to order, CDHS president Caroline Roberts provided an update on the activities of the Society during 2020, which included the rescheduling of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. She mentioned how the committee was working on publishing an update to “The Time That Was”, the Tweedsmuir history of Chesterville, and how they had been quite busy holding meetings and gathering information. This book will cover the years between 1990 and 2020, covering the life and times of village residents as well as chronicle the history associated with farming locally. She commented there have been several government grants and donations from businesses and individuals toward the publication of the book.

Gail Parker provided an update on the history book. She reported that the committee have been petitioning municipal counties in SDG for financial assistance, as the expected publication of the book becomes closer, noting community businesses and individuals have been generous in their donations to the project.

Parker explained there would be maps of both the township and the village in the book, and noted that most of the content had been received. As such, they are currently dedicating their time to checking for accuracy in the articles and will shortly

begin reviewing submitted photos and making decisions as to which will be used. She commented there is a real air of excitement in the community regarding the book and expressed the incredible support shown to the project by locals.

She thanked all those who contributed stories, photos and expressed a heartfelt thanks to Kim and Bruce Henbest who have spent a significant amount of time editing the work. The couple were presented with an honorary Society membership for their work. Bruce mentioned that there were approximately 200 articles by 187 authors submitted, with more expected in the future.

The collections committee had previously submitted a report on the work being done to ensure the vast holdings of the CDHS are catalogued and procedures for the proper storage of artifacts followed. There are plans to make information more accessible to the public in the future.

Roberts continued the Society has been working with the municipality on several issues, and while they are not looking to have a dedicated summer student in 2021, it is hoped the municipality will be able to assist them from time to time with a summer student.

Following this, the annual election of the executive and board of directors was held, with Caroline Roberts continuing as president, Gerry Johnson as vice president, Verne McMillan as treasurer, Kim McInnis as secretary. The board of directors for 2021 include Lester McInnis, Ian Reveler, Carolyn Goddard, Murray Inch and Gail Parker.

The meeting concluded with Roberts discussing plans and looking forward to a time when meetings are able to be held in-person.

United Way SD&G provides funds to buy 120 snowsuits for kids

MOUNTAIN – Children in Dundas County stayed warm this winter thanks to our local United Way.

The United Way of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, provided approximately 120 snowsuits to kids in need. A total of \$4,000 was split evenly between the North Dundas Snowsuit Fund and the South Dundas Snowsuit Fund. An additional \$1,000 went to Heat for the Holidays,

which provides eco-energy hardwood logs to heat people's homes.

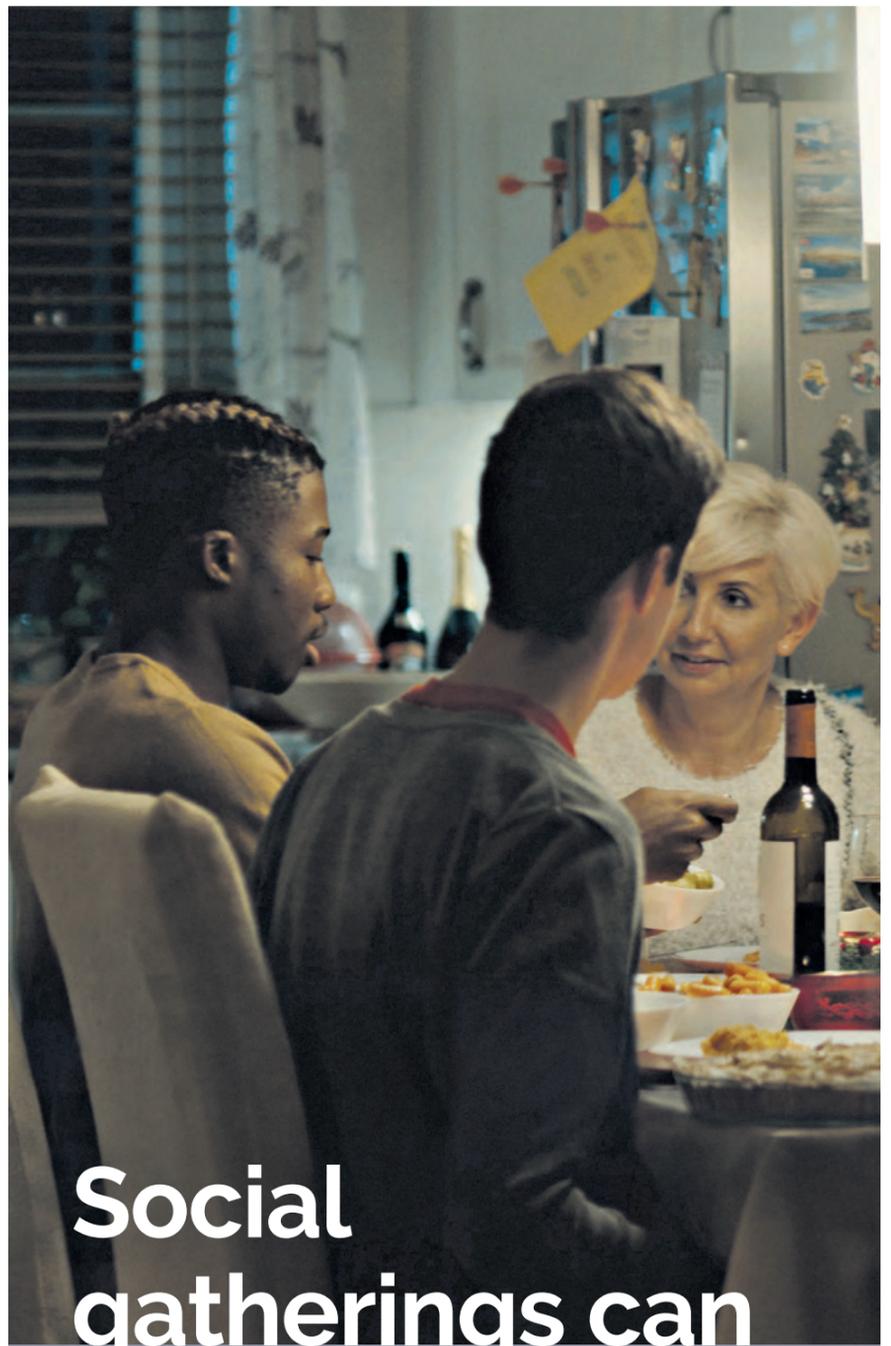
The \$5,000 grant came from the COVID-19 Emergency Community Support Fund, established by Employment & Social Development Canada. House of Lazarus applied for the funds, which were then distributed by the United Way.

“The snowsuit funds came up short because the pandemic made typical fundraising very difficult,”

noted Cathy Ashby, HOL executive director. “We recognized that there would be a greater need for those programs and wanted to ensure the money was available to provide enough snowsuits for local families.”

Ashby says it is important for the community to stick together through difficult times.

“The HOL was happy to secure this grant on behalf of the community and we know those dollars made a big difference in people's lives.”

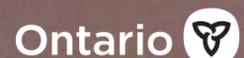


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ACAA holds successful bottle drive

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

AVONMORE — One thousand four hundred and ninety-seven dollars and forty cents was raised by a bottle drive held at North Stormont Place (NSP) on Feb. 21; it was hosted by the Avonmore Community Athletic Association (ACAA), in support of the re-development of the community park in Avonmore. EOHU COVID-19 protocols were followed by event volunteers with people dropping off bottles outside NSP, where they were taken inside by volunteers wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing. After the empties were sorted at specific physically distanced tables, they were packed into either oversized clear plastic bags or boxes before being provided to the volunteer drivers outside the designated exit door to be transported to Barkley's Store for return.

ACAA president Sophie Branchaud explained that the money raised would be provided to the Avonmore Park Project. She continued the teeter-totters and swing set

are ordered with a spring installation planned, before mentioning the group are close to raising the money needed to purchase a play structure for the park. Recently the ACAA has established a recreational committee which will be planning activities in the community. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact the ACAA.

When asked about upcoming events, Branchaud commented there were preliminary plans underway and suggested visiting the ACAA Facebook page where information would be provided as plans materialize. She took a moment to thank the volunteers, those who donated their empty bottles and a special thank you to Barkley's Store for all their support.

Johanne Gagne-Brown, who with husband Mike own Barkley's Store, mentioned they were very happy to be part of the fundraiser, commenting it is an opportunity to give back to their community; and as "they support us, so we support them."

Thanks for your support.



For the second time, Barkley's Store in Avonmore has supported the ACAA bottle drive by providing a location to return the donated bottles. Sophie Branchaud, ACAA president, extended a heartfelt thank you to owners, Johanne Gagne-Brown and Mike Brown, for their assistance. From the left: Volunteer Jason Alexander, Johanne Gagne-Brown and volunteer James Branchaud.
Thompson Goddard Photo

Enjoying the great outdoors

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

MORRISBURG— There were plenty of people enjoying the great outdoors this past weekend at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary (UCMBS). Ross Miller, president of the Friends of the Sanctuary, commented how the weekend was busy and people seemed to enjoy either walking, snowshoeing or cross-country skiing on the trails.

The Visitor Centre opened for the first time since mid-December when COVID-19 restrictions necessitated its closure; it provided visitors to the UCMBS the opportunity to rent snowshoes or cross-country skis.

Miller continued that a maximum of ten people are allowed inside the Visitor Centre (VC) at any one time.

With the four volunteers on hand to ensure EOHU COVID-19 were followed, it meant that six people were able to be in the centre at the same time to rent equipment.

He explained people had to wear a mask to enter the VC, with a volunteer providing a sheet to visitors outlining EOHU guidelines and a self-assessment questionnaire before entering.

Miller mentioned how a mask must be worn to enter the VC, but once on the trails no masks are required but individuals are responsi-

ble to follow the EOHU guidelines.

The very popular Moonlight Snowshoe/Ski event is being planned for Sat., Feb. 27 and is set to begin at 7 p.m.

More information on this event will be made available closer to the date on the Friends of the Sanctuary Facebook page.

Council doubles water and sewer connection fees

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

BERWICK — Township of North Stormont politicians have approved a more than 50 per cent increase to the municipality's water and sewer connection fees.

During the Feb. 16 council meeting, Roads Superintendent Blake Henderson recommended that council increase the fee for water and sewer connections. The current fee sits at \$2,254.11 for each, for a total of \$4,508.22.

"With municipal assets aging and the cost of material and maintenance increasing, council should consider raising the connection fee for water and sewer," Henderson stated, noting that North Stormont has one of the lowest connection fees in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.

Council approved the recommendation, increasing the fees for each to \$5,000 for a total of \$10,000 for both water and sewer connections together.



Celine Clement of Long Sault begins an afternoon ski at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary on Feb. 20.
Thompson Goddard Photo

From the left: ACAA president Sophie Branchaud and vice president Jo Poirier take a moment from their hectic morning of ensuring the smooth running of the ACAA bottle drive held at NSP on Feb. 21 in support of the Avonmore Community Park project.
Thompson Goddard Photo



A SINCERE Thank You FROM THE FAMILY OF DEBBIE STOODLEY

...to our communities for your encouraging support throughout Debbie's illness
 ...to (her second family)-doctors, nurses, co-workers, and all hospital staff, for your TLC—your care was exceptional
 ...to those who drove Debbie to appointments
 ...to Victoria's Quilts for the beautifully crafted quilt
 ...to those who made handmade blankets and shawls to comfort her
 ...for the numerous delicious meals brought to our homes
 ...to all who cared for our grandchildren
 ...for help with milking and chores
 ...for the friendship and laughs shared by the Garden Club Girls
 ...to Patient Transport staff for bringing Debbie home for Christmas
 ...to all who visited Debbie and sat with her in her final weeks to make her last days special
 ...for the beautiful tribute made to Debbie on Move100
 ...to Winchester Hospital for the honour of having flags at half-mast as Debbie left the hospital for her last time
 ...to Vicky at Byers Funeral Home for your kindness and professionalism—you went above and beyond
 ...to Rev. Brian Barr for your comforting words and sharing of beautiful poems
 ...to Tony Hicks for videoing the service, and to all who participated
 ...to the nurses who lined the streets outside the funeral home
 ...for the beautiful cards, heartfelt messages, flower arrangements and acts of love
 We thank you—our friends, neighbours, co-workers and families—for your outpouring of love and support in helping us get through our tremendous loss.
 "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count, but the life in your years."
 — John, Tim and Ashley, Melissa and Scott, Jonathan and Amber, and Families

Thanks

I would like to thank all my family and friends who reached out to me during the loss of my husband, Alex. Thank you for – all the beautiful flower arrangements that I received, the many sympathy cards, the numerous Facebook comments, the phone calls and the memorial donations. These acts of kindness were very much appreciated. Losing someone you love is always hard but even moreso during this pandemic. But, all of the support that was shown to me was heartwarming and helped brighten my days.

Freida McDonell

Seed and forage competition is on for this March

BRINSTON – This year's Dundas Soils and Crop Improvement Association's (DSCIA) Seed and Forage competition is slated for Thurs., March 4.

The event shaped by COVID -19 regulations is hosted by Tibben Farms Inc. – Work Shop.

The annual competition is open to all farmers in Dundas County who are members of DSCIA and all exhibits must have been grown in 2020 by the exhibitor.

There are a few rules to follow.

Competitors must be willing and ready to take out an affidavit to this effect if requested.

All samples are to be dropped off at the workshop. Organizers ask that anyone entering the shop wear a mask and individuals who are not from the same household or bubble are expected to

practice social distancing. Tags and bags will be provided, and exhibitors will be responsible for properly preparing samples.

Entries must be double tagged (one tag on the inside and one tag securely fastened to the outside of the exhibit).

Any exhibit not meeting standard specifications and weight will be removed from the show.

If, in the opinion of the judge, an exhibit is not worthy of first place, a prize worthy of the entry will be awarded.

The management will not be responsible for loss or damage to any exhibit or for the return of exhibits or containers.

Up to two exhibits per class as approved by the judges will be eligible for competing at the Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

To be eligible to show at the Ottawa Valley

Farm Show, all exhibits except the pedigreed classes must have been judged at the Dundas Seed, Forage and Agricultural Show.

All exhibits not proceeding to the

championship show in Ottawa will be discarded.

Premier and reserve exhibitors to be announced at a later date.

Competition organizers have not asked for any sponsors this year.

Consequently, there will not be prize money or awards presented this year. For more information, contact Mark Tibben at 613-341-1240.

You can email a copy of your completed entry form to marktibben01@gmail.com by March 2.

Please bring completed

entry forms with your exhibit.

Entries can be dropped off earlier, but must be in by 11:00 a.m. Thurs., March 4. You can drop them off at Tibben Farms Inc. - Work Shop (look for signs in yard) 11341 Henderson Road, Brinston, Ontario.



A great day for a birthday

Amelia Milne-Servage celebrated her tenth birthday on Mon., Feb. 22; however, the Grade 4 Nationview Public School student took advantage of the sunny weather on Sat., Feb. 20, to host a small birthday party for her and her schoolmates at the Inkerman outdoor rink. In this photo, Amelia is front and centre, while her friends remain socially distanced behind her.

Morin Photo

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We will be continuing to keep our Meals Delivery both At Home and Drive Thru Diners in March. Health & Wellness and Footcare programs will be by appointment. Please do not hesitate to call if you would like more information. Maureen and Kathryn, our nurses, will be happy to look after you at your appointed date and time. We continue to call our clients to reach out to see how you are doing. If you are not a client but wish to know more about the services we offer, give us a call.

Carefor introduced a new phone system mid-December as you might have experienced. The phone number is the same, but you will hear a new message. Our options are a little different. If you would like to talk to any staff member, Press 0. If you wish to talk to Susan Bradley, Program Coordinator Ext. # is 4604: Susan Smith, Admin Assistant is Ext. # is 4603: Caroline Rooney, Supervisor is Ext. # is 4609.

Our Drive Thru Diners Meal for March is Bacon wrapped meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, and upside-down pineapple cake for dessert. The dates are as follows:

South Mountain Drive Thru at Ag Hall is Thursday, March 4 at 12:30
 Chesterville Nelson LaPrade Centre is Tuesday, March 9 at 12:30
 Winchester Drive Thru Thursday, March 25 at 12:30

Please give us a call if you would like to book a pickup time for the Drive Thru Diners.

We continue to take our lead from Ontario Health and regional public health departments as we move into the month of March. This is done under the direction of our CEO Steve Perry and our management team. We look forward to the news of vaccination clinics as we move into spring.

Our staff are always happy to hear from you with any concerns or questions you may have.

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The sound of a healthy quality of life

Hearing loss can sneak up on you. We take our hearing for granted most of the time.

For years, we can go about our daily routine not realizing that our hearing over time (for several reasons), is starting to decay.

At Thousand Islands Hearing Centre in Brockville and in their satellite offices in Iroquois and Prescott, looking after a hearing loss is easier and more effective than ever before.

Owned and operated by Sophie Cushing a registered hearing instrument practitioner, Thousand Islands Hearing Centre can help those individuals who suspect or know they need some help with their hearing.

The hearing instrument specialists at Thousand Islands Hearing Centre offer a full range of hearing health services, from testing and hearing aid fittings, to hearing protection.

Using the latest hearing testing techniques in a personal and comfortable atmosphere, Sophie helps her clients make the best decision they can about their hearing and helps them select the best hearing device for their situation.

Sophie comes by her interest and commitment to helping people with hearing loss through her family.

"I opened my first location in 2016 in Brockville, I began a satellite clinic in Iroquois in the Gilmer Pharmacy and opened the second location in 2018, followed by Prescott in 2020. I have been working in the industry full-time since

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Sophie Cushing a registered hearing instrument practitioner, and the owner of Thousand Islands Hearing in Brockville, Prescott and Iroquois.

Courtesy Photo

2010. I previously worked for my father (in this industry) through[out] my university years. My grandfather and my father as well as many family members have worked in this field," said Sophie.

To test the hearing is not as simple as it sounds. "In Ontario, only audiologists and hearing instrument practitioners can test and recommend hearing instruments," said Sophie. "I am a hearing instrument practitioner. We write final exams and provincial exams after one year's internship. I have a Social Science university degree followed by Diploma in Massage Therapy (Sutherland Chan) and hearing instrument practitioner (Grant MacEwan University)."

Hearing loss does not discriminate between old and young. "We provide hearing tests and hearing instruments. We screen and provide custom hearing protection, and we provide cerumen removal (wax removal)."

All the hearing aids and devices used for clients at Thousand Islands Hearing Centre are also serviced there and guaranteed.

Sophie added, "We also help individuals outfit their homes with assistive listening devices."

Financing is also offered at her three locations.

"We do offer Paybright which is a financing company, and we have a small repayment protocol in office. We are approved for WSIB (work related) and DVA (Veteran Affairs), and social services.

One of the challenges regarding matching a client up to the best solution for his or her hearing loss, is ensuring that the hearing instrument and how it is programmed match up with the hearing and lifestyle needs of a client.

Sophie explained, "We are independent so we can determine what the client's hearing and lifestyle needs are, so we can match the correct instrument to the person. It is also very important to continue your maintenance appointments with our office. Hearing instruments need to come to our clinic every six months for a thorough cleaning. The instruments often have computer updates that the manufacturer sends out and that is usually yearly."

The staff at Thousand Islands Hearing Centre work closely with all six manufacturers in the industry.

"Each of them [has] different strengths," said Sophie.

"We are constantly training to stay on top of the ever-growing information of technology. Hearing instruments are very exciting, as they are becoming very user friendly. However, for those who wish to have something simple, we now can turn off features," she said.

All hearing devices have a three-year manufacturer warranty and unlimited in-house service plan. All accessories have a one-year warranty.

Contact directly at Prescott at 613-975-9933 or Iroquois at 613-652-2281 or their website at www.tihearing.com.

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Township staff provide detailed updates

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – Recently, six township of Russell employees presented detailed reports to local politicians, showing just how much staff have accomplished in the past six months.

The Feb. 16 council meeting included updates from the finance department, the asset management team, parks and recreation, the fire department, the clerk and the CAO. Various municipal staff were on hand to answer questions about each of the reports.

Director of finance-treasurer Richard Godin gave his report in French. A few key points included information about budgets and audits. The 2021 budget was officially adopted Nov. 2, 2020, while the 2020 interim audit was performed by BDO Canada during the week of Oct. 26, 2020. The full 2020 audit is set to begin on March 22. The finance department is preparing updates that will estimate the financial impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the township.

Godin gave a brief update on asset management department activity, noting that staff is

continually trying to keep up with the changing provincial regulations. The list of completed, ongoing, and capital projects are included in the report. Godin said the provincially mandated checklist allows the municipality to evaluate itself and keep council updated on what has been done and what still needs to be done.

The director of parks and recreation, Céline Guitard, provided a detailed report on infrastructure, as well as participation numbers for various programs. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an obvious impact on almost everything from day care registration, to how staff maintain and run facilities like the arenas.

"It's not the same kind of year," she said. "But we were happy to be able to provide all the services. A big 'thank you' to the team because it was a different way to work."

Several council members were concerned about encroachment issues, where some private homeowners are extending their lots into municipal parks or trails. Coun. Cindy Saucier mentioned an unnamed resident who extended their backyard by 20 feet.

"These things need to be

addressed sooner than later," Saucier said. Guitard agreed, noting the issue is being addressed.

Guitard is expected to bring a report to council in March or April detailing an overall financial impact report due to the pandemic.

The Fire Department report was given jointly by Russell fire chief Bruce Armstrong and Embrun fire chief Brian Duhamel, which included statistical charts and graphs. The new format breaks down the number of calls, the nature of the calls, the time of the calls and the location.

"We've listed most of our activities to show what we've been doing," Armstrong said.

Councillor Mike Tarnowski said he would like to thank the two retirees for their long-time service. Ron Hubbard served for 44 years, while Jacques Gregoire served for 36 years. Both Duhamel and Armstrong applauded their firefighters for their hard work, those leaving the department and those remaining. Armstrong said he was grateful that the team stayed together despite the stress and added regulations due to the pandemic.

Clerk Joanne Camiré Laflamme presented her

report, noting that work has already begun on preparing for the 2022 municipal election. She said she expects to be busy with that all this year. She said there has been three complaints in the past six months: one in July, which has since been closed; one in September, which will be included in an upcoming council agenda; and, one in November that is still to be addressed.

Mayor Pierre Leroux asked about the Freedom of Information requests, noting the disparity between the amount of staff time required to gather the information and the fee being charged for the service, Guitard agreed; she said the customer has the option to refuse the information and pay no fee after the information has been gathered.

In his report, CAO Jean Leduc said COVID-19 has had a big impact on service. With respect to human resources, he said it has been difficult to recruit people during the pandemic, noting it has been challenging to attract staff or call people back after the lockdown. He said he has been looking forward to having a full team.

On a positive note, he said the new website design should be ready by the end

of March or early April, making it easier to find documentation. The municipality's winter newsletter is complete and currently being printed. As for social media, Leduc said

followers have increased significantly over the past six months.

To see the full reports, open the Feb. 16 council agenda package located on the township's website.

Russell High School Report

Hey y'all!

This week, nothing exciting is happening due to Covid, which is really unfortunate. I bet we're all tired of Covid being a thing- but we still need to stay strong and united because we will get through this.

For this week's report, I thought that it would be an intriguing idea if I talked about a student's perspective during these difficult times. This pandemic is obviously new to all of us, everyone had to change how they live and how they go through life within our "new normal". Undeniably, everyone was impacted but I think one aspect that is overlooked is how students' lives have been severely impacted; not only because of constant switches from online school to in class learning, but also the quantity and quality we are learning.

This is affecting our futures. Without the proper knowledge and understanding of certain subjects like math or science, our opportunities for careers will be compromised or even in jeopardy. But I should also state that the teachers are doing their absolute best. I appreciate it, and every student praises their efforts. School is a progressive place where we as students are supposed to learn and grow as young people, to figure out what we like or don't like and to determine who we are. We want to discover who we are but if not now, when? Plus, we are teenagers becoming young adults, so we need to experience, and stretch our wings, and see what this world has to offer. But, with all the restrictions due to Covid, that is being robbed from us. So, speaking for everyone here at RHS, please continue to follow the rules and be cautious with all you do. In unity there is strength, and our unity is the only way Covid can be in our past.

I have full confidence that we will get through this. Keep smiling, as there is a light visible at the end of the tunnel. As Dory says, "Just keep swimming!"

Have a great week everyone and be safe out there!

Council passes new bylaw

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter
BERWICK – Township of North Stormont council members have joined municipal staff in planning for the future.

During the Feb. 16 council meeting, the municipality's politicians passed a bylaw

establishing a growth management and development allocation system for water and wastewater treatment systems. The new Water and Wastewater Capacity Allocation Bylaw took effect Feb. 16.

"The bylaw reflects similar bylaws in adjacent townships and provides consistency," CAO Craig



Calder said. "The regulations are also intended to provide an objective distribution for these services. The township must manage these resources

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responsibly." Prior to Jan. 31, the Public Works Department is expected to advise council on the available allocations for that calendar year.

Allocations are to be divided between general development at 80 per cent and infill development at 20 per cent.

General development is classified as residential, including redevelopment of existing residential lots, commercial, industrial, and institutional.

Infill development is development on vacant land

where the land is in an established area. "These annual reports, and council approvals, will ensure any capacity concerns are documented and provides a foundation to determine when capacity pressures will need to be addressed," Calder said.

Background information, including how to apply, is outlined in the document.

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SNC speaks with UCPR residents

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

FINCH – United Counties of Prescott-Russell (UCPR) residents had several questions for South Nation Conservation (SNC) representatives during a recent virtual meeting.

SNC was hired by UCPR and the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SDG) to undertake a Natural Heritage Systems' (NHS) study. SNC communications and outreach team lead John Mesman and SNC approvals team lead Alison McDonald hosted virtual presentations for both counties last week to report on the status of the study. The UCPR session was held Feb. 10.

The 45-minute information session included background information, along with an explanation of what an NHS study is, and why it is important. Time was also spent on outlining how the study might be used in the future, and how it will or will not impact residential properties and farmlands.

SNC defines a natural heritage system as a network of interconnected natural features and areas such as forests, lakes, rivers, agricultural lands, and wetlands. Municipalities are required by the province to identify NHS and preserve the diversity and connectivity of these features.

The main goals of the study include: identifying key natural heritage features and supporting areas; recognizing local linkages and wildlife corridors between natural heritage features; improving environmental policies; providing a scientific basis for land and water stewardship activities; protecting and enhancing regional biodiversity, indigenous species, and ecosystems; helping to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as flooding and drought; and, conserving natural legacy for future generations.

To view the session in its entirety, visit SNC's YouTube page (youtube.com/SouthNationCA) where links to both the Feb. 9 and 10 meetings can be found. To view maps and other detailed information about the study, visit nation.on.ca/nhs.

Q&A with UCPR

When asked what is being done to stop clear-cutting practices in UCPR, McDonald said the municipal tree conservation bylaws are the most common way of doing that in Ontario. She said many municipalities have had such bylaws for years, and

most try to work collaboratively with landowners through stewardship.

"There is always the option, if the municipality and the county decide it's enough of an issue for them to enact those tree conservation bylaws; and I think those are being considered in North Glengarry currently and Alfred-Plantagenet," she said. "That power truly and only rests with the municipality or the county. It's not something that the South Nation can regulate. The one exception to that rule would be within Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW). Our job is to make sure that no development or site alteration impact the hydrology of a wetland."

As for incentives for private landowners, Mesman referred attendees to SNC's many stewardship programs. A list of programs can be found on the SNC website.

Another resident asked if there was a way to stop big companies from buying farmlands, clearing those lands, and then releasing them to farmers with no regulations.

"It did come up as a concern in the agricultural community as well and, obviously, there's always a fear when outside landowners come in who don't know the values of the community and there's a lot more stewardship and best management practices by farmers who live here than by farmers who don't," McDonald said. "Really there's nothing that we or the municipality can do to prevent people from purchasing land."

Several questions revolved around protecting specific areas in UCPR, including Alfred Bog, Dickinson Creek, and Jessup's Falls. McDonald said that while she would not avoid responding to these types of questions, the answers would, unfortunately, not be satisfactory.

"We were able to protect part of the Alfred Bog and

some of it was lost," McDonald said. "There was a fund established at the time, so there are some funds left to purchase wetlands and to conserve them."

Mesman added that the effort to save acres of Alfred Bog peat moss was spearheaded by the community. Neighbours worked to bring partners like the Nature Conservancy of Canada together to help direct more funding to that area and to put some of the land in public trust.

"We see that happening in places all over the region," he said.

As for Dickinson Creek, McDonald said SNC is currently working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to get updated information to determine if it has PSW status.

"If so, maybe there's an opportunity to purchase more of those lands," she said, noting that both the county and SNC have lands in that area. "I also understand the ministry may be holding funds related to being able to secure more land, so hopefully it's going to be a good news story. You can tune in on Feb. 16 at Alfred-Plantagenet council where we'll be giving a presentation, specifically on that topic."

One viewer referenced the Jessup's Falls escarpment, noting that it took years of work to protect the area and to keep the groundwater safe. Mesman acknowledged the hard work that went into this project, as well as many others throughout the area.

"Those are a lot of great community-led initiatives," he said. "The people that lived in these communities valued these features and worked hard to protect them and we want to recognize that effort and we want to recognize that we share those values as well."

As for protecting bogs, swamps or marshes on privately-owned land, McDonald said if it's not



Larose Forest in Prescott and Russell is included in the draft NHS maps as a Core Natural area. Courtesy photo

identified as a PSW, there is a possibility for the municipality to make it a Locally Significant Wetland, at which point SNC could work with the municipality to regulate it.

In response to a question about municipal planning authorities developing bylaws to support conservation of the NHS corridors, McDonald said: "We really do hope that these maps and this landscape analysis is going to be used to direct things like stewardship, but also to direct things like bylaws. If you were going to pass a bylaw that would protect water courses, the ones along linkages would be considered the most important. We're hoping that that is valuable information for these municipal planning authorities."

A question was raised

about core natural areas and whether they correspond to the headwaters for creeks and rivers.

"For those familiar with headwater drainage features, they are the beginning parts of a river or stream system and are often some of the most significant, especially in terms of managing water and managing water quality, and so we, through our clean water program, direct as much effort as we can to headwater drainage work to make sure that those areas are protected and contributing to healthy systems," Mesman said. "There's a number of good examples in this map that include good headwater drainage features."

McDonald answered a question about how SNC collaborates with farmers.

"The original recommendation to look at

stewardship incentives was born out of our agricultural forest committee," she said, noting SNC has spent many years on various committees with farmers and other agricultural community representatives. SNC has used position papers from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and other farming-related agencies when designing policies.

"Many of us live and grew up on farms in the area," she said. "It's something that we've spent a lot of time, working with our agricultural representatives. Collaborating is sort of working together on this policy and mapping stuff, but I think the more important collaborations are what come after, where we try to put some projects on the ground with people who live and work and play in the system."



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Russell to apply for \$50,000 grant

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – If successful, the township of Russell could receive up to \$50,000 in grant money for a condition assessment for both the Embrun and Russell arenas.

Russell council members agreed with staff during the Feb. 16 regular council meeting, that the municipality should apply to the Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP) with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for monies to undertake the project. The agreement included undertaking the two condition assessment projects and paying 20 per cent (\$12,500) of the cost from the 2021 budget.

FCM announced the new round of MAMP funding in mid-January. The grant would see FCM

covering 80 per cent of the cost up to a maximum of \$50,000. Staff have estimated the cost of the two assessments to be roughly \$62,500.

Some council members questioned why Russell should pursue condition assessments on buildings that may become obsolete with the construction of the proposed Russell Recreation Complex. Director of finances-treasurer Richard Godin said that as two of the municipality's biggest assets it made sense to proceed with this investment.

He also noted that with the future of the buildings unknown, the assessment can only benefit the township. If the buildings are declared surplus, it will be important for Russell and for potential buyers to have updated

conditions' information. However, if Russell politicians decide to keep one or both of the arenas, the assessment will guide them in what needs to be done to maintain them going forward. It was also noted that these assessments are generally done every five years with the last one having been done in 2015.

"We know there are going to be some key decisions regarding the arenas shortly," CAO Jean Leduc said. "The conditions will have to be known to the purchaser or to council if they're going to be repurposed. There is a value to it and it can serve in two different ways.

Councillor Cindy Saucier questioned whether the proposed recreation complex would provide enough ice for

Russell's hockey players. She said she thought the idea was to keep one or both arenas in addition to the complex.

"It depends on what we

do with the complex," Mayor Pierre Leroux said. "It'll be nice to know where we stand before we make a decision on the future of those buildings.

If the complex is built with less than three pads of ice, then we will need to look at keeping others open. We need at least three across the municipality."

Limoges sees potential for new housing units

Sandy Casselman
LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – If all goes as planned, there will be new housing units erected in Limoges in the not-too-distant future.

During the Feb. 16 virtual council meeting, township of Russell politicians approved a staff recommendation for the allocation of 18.95 municipal water and sewer units for the "vacant lot at the corner of Oasis Street and Limoges Road in Limoges." The allocations are conditional upon the landowner submitting a site plan agreement before Feb. 16, 2023.

The staff report states that "the application was submitted by the property owner who is proposing to build a private road with 16 townhouse units off of Oasis Street and a mixed-use building with one non-residential unit and three apartment units." The report included site maps of the area in question.

In late 2018, Russell was allocated 187 equivalent units of water and 142 equivalent units of wastewater from the Limoges Water and Sanitary Sewer Systems. A bylaw established to guide growth and development dictates that 15 per cent of these units be used for priority development, 65 per cent for general development with no more than 40 per cent to one owner, and 20 per cent for infill development.

The Feb. 16 request included 16 water and sewer units for the Oasis Townhouse Project, which is considered general development, and 2.95 water and sewer units for the Limoges Road mixed-use building, which is considered infill development, as it's in an established area with existing development. The landowner has a two-year deadline to fulfill requirements before the water and sewer allocations revert to the township.

Tax problems? Get the help you need!

Review: Factors affecting your tax return

Whether self-employed or an employee, you may notice that your tax return for 2020 will be different from previous years; there may be multiple reasons causing this difference. If you are self-employed, you may find that your expenses are less, due to payments being stopped or slowed during COVID, such as interest payments or rent.

If you received unemployment compensation, there may have been no tax withheld or a tax held at a lower tax rate. Your charitable donations or medical expenses may be lower than in previous years.

Day care costs may have been reduced due to changes in your routine.

You may have taken money out of your investments to assist in getting through the past year.

Did you start a new business or have a side-gig to supplement your income in the pandemic?

You will notice changes to your T4. These additional boxes will assist the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) in determining whether you were working while also collecting benefits like the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) or the Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB). If you were receiving any of the COVID benefits you will receive a T4A or a T4E.

If you are an employee that worked from home for fifty per cent of the time, over at least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to COVID-19, you will likely be able to claim home-office expenses without having to worry about receipts or having to ask your employer to fill out paperwork. You will be able to claim a deduction of \$2 for every day you worked from home in 2020, up to a maximum of \$400.

While it may be your preference to file your return early in the season, it is important to make sure you have received all your slips. Be mindful of the slips you receive each year, and if there have been any changes to watch for with those additional slips.



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