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Briefly

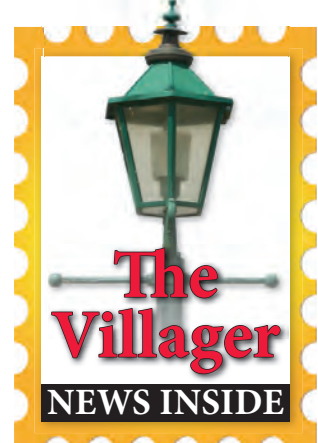
Lawn & Garden CHESTERVILLE – See inside for our spring Lawn and Garden section. Get the most out of the season with garden tips, and where to go to find products and services to make your lawn and garden a relaxing retreat.

Categories open up for vaccine

ONTARIO – As of Tues., May 11, individuals with at-risk health conditions such as dementia, diabetes and sickle cell disease, as well as Group Two of people who cannot work from home, including grocery store, restaurant and transportation workers will be eligible to book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, effective Thurs., May 13, individuals turning 40 and over in 2021 in non-hot spot communities will also be eligible to book an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a mass immunization clinic. Book Online at Ontario.ca/bookvaccine or call (833) 943-3900.

THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD

Serving Stormont and Dundas Counties since 1894



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Take a look at trades

ONTARIO – Join Skills Canada - Ontario at their 2021 Virtual Skills Ontario Competition and Career Exploration Showcase to explore the skilled trades and technologies. Join them May 12 at 9:00 am for this fun and unique virtual live experience. Explore exhibitor booths, attend the conferences, network and connect with experts, and participate in the fun virtual scavenger hunt. Secure your spot at <http://skillsontariosoc.vfa.irs.ca>.



Celebrating 45 years serving Chesterville and area
While co-owner of Mike Dean Local Grocer Julie Jeaurond looks on, Orlan Crump, left, receives a \$45 gift certificate from Gordon Dean. Ten \$45 store gift certificates were provided to customers in celebration of the 45th anniversary of the Chesterville store on May 11.
Thompson Goddard Photo

Serving Chesterville for 45 years

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Forty-five years ago, on May 11, 1976 Mike Dean opened the doors to his grocery store in Chesterville and began a tradition of committed service to the people of the village and the organizations in the community. He had begun working at Laflamme's Grocery located on King Street in Chesterville and a short time later purchased the store from owner Adrian Laflamme.

Dean had worked for several years as a meat manager in Dominion stores, and his son Gordon explained how his father had set up and ran the meat department in many of the new Dominion stores in Eastern Ontario before moving to Chesterville. Gordon and his sister Julie Jeaurond own and manage the stores now. Gordon commented how his father was significantly committed to the Chesterville area.

Continued on page 2

Municipality named general contractor of Crysler Fire Hall project

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

BERWICK – The Township of North Stormont's Public Works' superintendent Blake Henderson will take the lead in overseeing the municipality's Crysler Fire Hall project.

The decision was made in a four-to-one vote during the May 4 council meeting, where CAO Craig Calder recommended that the township be declared the general contractor, and Henderson the project manager for the building's construction. Councillor Roxane Villeneuve was the lone opposition to the recommendation.

"Everybody knows my intentions of trying to save taxpayer dollars," Henderson said, adding that he could focus on the project and allow his supervisor to take the lead on regular Public Works activities in the meantime. He said this would save the municipality money from having to hire an outside contractor, while at the same time giving Henderson's supervisor more responsibility and experience. Villeneuve interrogated Henderson about his qualifications to act as the project's general contractor. She said she was not asking about his years of experience, but rather his specific credentials.

"I was the main person on the Avonmore Fire Hall and even though we tendered out the North Stormont Place, I was the basic

Continued on page 3



May 11 celebrates **45 years** of serving the Chesterville community. We thank you for your support over so many years!

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Mike DEAN LOCAL GROCER

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North Stormont looks at adding logo to water towers

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

BERWICK – The township of North Stormont’s three water towers may, or may not, get an update with the addition of the municipal logo.

During the May 4 council meeting, Public Works’ superintendent Blake Henderson asked if the municipal politicians would like to see the logo added. He noted that the company contracted to do the interior and exterior rehabbing of the Chrysler Water Tower would do so for an additional \$17,000. The company is already contracted to put the village’s name on the tower as part of the rehabilitation work being done to the interior and exterior of the structure.

“My concern with putting a logo on an asset of the township is that the logos generally change

over the years. I’d prefer to just put the word ‘Chrysler’ on it,” Coun. Roxane Villeneuve said.

Henderson reiterated that the village name is already part of the current company’s contract and will be done. The remaining members of council voiced concern at the cost but agreed that adding the logo would be a good opportunity to spread brand awareness considering that not much is being done on economic development in the municipality.

“I think it’s really important from a branding perspective. We don’t spend a lot on economic development here. If we can do it cheaper, absolutely. If for whatever reason it can’t be done, I would support this regardless,” Coun. Steven Densham said, noting that North Stormont had recently done a logo update and it was unlikely

another would be done during the life of the water tower.

Deputy Mayor Francois Landry suggested hiring Chrysler’s Shane Signs, which led to the suggestion that a request for proposal (RFP) be issued for all three towers to have the logo. Landry said he would like to see a price for all three water towers with a report back to council.

“Keep in mind, this is if the contractor wants to work with us on this,” Henderson said, explaining that the company doing the rehabilitation work on the Chrysler Water Tower has already been awarded that job by council, but may be open to outsourcing the logo addition.

Henderson agreed to investigate the options. He said he would bring a report back to council for the May 18 meeting. All members of council agreed to defer the decision until that time.



Your turn is coming soon.

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Paid for by the Government of Ontario



Mike Dean

Continued from the front

noting how donations were made to local organizations on an ongoing basis and in a quiet manner.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions currently in place, Gordon mentioned the celebrations on May 11 were relatively low key. The store’s Facebook page had an anniversary slideshow, created by Julie’s husband Daniel, playing throughout the day and ten lucky customers received a \$45 store gift certificate following a game of “rock, paper, scissors” with either Gordon or Julie. He expressed the hope that in the

summer there can be a bit more of a community-oriented celebration, but of course this is dependent on pandemic precautions.

Information on their website located at www.mikedeans.com describes how the company has expanded to include additional stores in Bourget and Sharbot Lake, as well as providing “grocery and logistics service to Canada’s far North”, a central warehouse and online sales channel.

Mike Dean Local Grocer is a family run business, which has grown from its local beginnings to provide consistent quality grocery goods along with a strong commitment to the community it serves.



Gayle Poirier of Chrysler, on the left is presented with a \$45 gift certificate from Gordon Dean of Mike Dean Local Grocer in the Chesterville store. Ten \$45 store gift certificates were provided to customers in celebration of the 45th anniversary of the Chesterville store. Thompson Goddard Photo



Fill-a-bag out; nutrition bags in

One of the signature events of the year for Community Food Share has become the Fill-a-Bag Food Drive. Unfortunately, that event was cancelled last May, and the same thing is happening in 2021. We have so many wonderful memories of the community coming together for our Fill-a-Bag food drive. Volunteers working together on two consecutive Saturdays brought in thousands of pounds of food to help feed those members of our community who need help; we can't wait to do it again in 2022.

In the meantime, the good news is that we have received emergency funding to provide food for anyone who needs it. Our locations in Morrisburg and Winchester are

open and ready to help anyone who can't manage to cover all their expenses and put food on the table. For locations and hours of operation, check out our website: <https://www.communityfoodshare.ca/>.

Student nutrition bags

Last year, to help families whose children were learning at home, we were fortunate to receive funding to provide food for student nutrition bags. We are pleased to again be able to offer that service to families with school aged children from 4 – 17. Any family, whether they are food bank clients or not can access this program which runs through to the end of August 2021.

All families of school-age children in Dundas and Stormont counties can access a week's worth of healthy breakfast and snack foods, including oatmeal, yogurt, fruit, granola bars, as well as a variety of cheese, veggies, hummus, and pitas.

This program is supported by Upper Canada Leger Centre for Education & Training (UCLCET) which administers and distributes funding for breakfast and snack programs in over 225 schools. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UCLCET is diverting funds to local food banks.

Any family with school-aged students may access this program by contacting Community Food Share. To maintain social distancing, an appointment is required to arrange pick up. Please email coordinator@communityfoodshare.ca or call

All families of school-age children in Dundas and Stormont counties can access a week's worth of healthy breakfast and snack foods, including oatmeal, yogurt, fruit, granola bars, as well as a variety of cheese, veggies, hummus, and pitas.

one of our locations (leave a message) for more information. In Morrisburg the number is 613-543-0065, and in Winchester 613-774-0188.

Crysler Fire Hall project

Continued from the front

general contractor. I did all the civic work – water and sewer, electrical. So, I have experience doing this," Henderson said. "And we have a professional engineer overseeing the whole project and inspecting the project. The engineer designs it, does the plans up, and I'm taking the plans and doing the RFQ [request for quotes] for them, and making sure everything is being done. I'd be doing all the civil work, the groundwork."

Henderson said he has been with the municipality for 34 years and acting as superintendent for roughly 20 of those years. Villeneuve pushed for credentials for things like electrical or plumbing.

"It's not the fire marshal who builds the firehall, it's the building code. What we have here is a project manager who will line up the right people," Deputy Mayor François Landry said, adding that he did not see the relevance of Villeneuve's questioning.

Calder said Henderson would not be doing this alone. He said he would have the appropriate township staff assisting on administrative and financial aspects of the job.

"This is not going to be a soldier of one; he's going to have an army behind him," Calder said.

Villeneuve then questioned whether Henderson would be following the procurement policy for things like the electrical and plumbing work. She wanted to know how council could be sure he was doing so.

"You are being informed all along the project," Henderson said. "Right now, it's just May 4; if we can get a fast jump on this in the early construction season, we can be sure to get subcontractors to get their bids in."

Mayor Jim Wert agreed. He said an added benefit of having Henderson in control of the RFQ process would be ensuring that the local businesses had a chance to bid and potentially take on the jobs. Hiring an outside general contractor would mean losing that control, he said.

"I know this is my first term as councillor, but I've lived here 25 years and I've seen the work that has been done through our Public Works," Coun. Steve Densham said. "We have the same amount of kilometres as all the other municipalities, yet we do, I think through the creativity of our Public Works' department, we do amazing stuff for much less. So, if there's somebody who knows our business and can help maneuver through – granted we have a challenging time with COVID-19 and pressures – but if there's somebody who can help us maneuver through that, I think it is our superintendent of Public Works."

The discussion ended with Villeneuve calling for a recorded vote.

Hallville Park Development funding approved

HALLVILLE – North Dundas announced that the federal and provincial governments, as part of the "Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program" will collectively be providing the township with \$2,000,950 in funding to launch the development of the eagerly anticipated Hallville Park, with the township contributing \$727,742.

The project will see the creation of a multi-purpose park with play structures, picnic tables, paved bike and pedestrian paths, an outdoor rink, accessible swings and tables and a pavilion. This will provide the residents of Hallville and surrounding area with a venue to enjoy the outdoors and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

Stay tuned for the public meeting coming shortly to discuss the details of the project and the development options.

Read the May 7 Media Release on the township website: <https://northdundas.com/.../2-million-in-funding-for-the.../>

The press release stated: "As the mayor of the township of North Dundas, I want to express thanks to both levels of government on behalf of the rest of council as well as the



residents of North Dundas and especially those living in and around Hallville. The financial support provided by the federal and provincial governments will allow this plan for an eagerly awaited Hallville Community Park project to break ground soon. My thanks to Ms. Meerburg and her staff for preparing the grant submission. Excellent work. Thanks to MPP McDonell for also being a champion of this project. This is an exciting day and once again, thank you to all for supporting this project," said Mayor Tony Fraser.

The funding is part of a \$2.3 investment announcement by MPP Jim McDonell aimed at improving recreation infrastructure in Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry.

Six local projects including the one in Hallville will benefit from the funding.

McDonell said in a press release: "As the weather begins to get warmer, the need for sport and recreational infrastructure becomes even greater as it provides members of the community an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle." That's why our government's investment into local community, culture and recreation infrastructure projects like sport arenas and play structures could not have come at a better time. "Other regional projects are the refurbishment of the Glengarry Sports Palace in North Glengarry, the Char-Lan Recreational Centre ice pad replacement in South Glengarry, Safe and functional community Hub Centre Charles-Emile-Claude in Cornwall, the Community Parks – Pavilion Projects in South Stormont and two play structure upgrades in South Stormont. "All of these local infrastructure projects support families and communities as Ontario continues to protect people's health and economy. Getting shovels in the ground will positively impact the lives and well-being of every resident in each of these towns for years to come," said Laurie Scott, Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure.

 P.O. Box 489, 636 St. Lawrence St.,
Winchester, Ont. K0C 2K0
Tel. 613-774-2105
www.northdundas.com

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY CANCELLED

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the May 15th Hazardous Waste Day has been cancelled.

The next scheduled day will be June 12th.

Any questions, please contact:
Doug Froats, 613-774-5157



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EDITORIAL & Opinion

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Demand for better broadband

Dear Editor:

This letter is a call to action for your readers, especially those in Eastern Ontario who have poor or unreliable access to broadband.

Recently, both the governments of Canada and Ontario brought down their budgets. Combined, they dedicated \$7-billion for broadband expansion. We applaud both levels of government for taking this step, but there is much more to be done.

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) has been working for several years on a project to bring high speed, reliable and affordable broadband to Eastern Ontario. EORN's proposed Gig Project, will reach not only the urban centres, but also the many rural and remote areas of our region where broadband is limited or nonexistent.

EORN is requesting \$200-million each from the federal and provincial governments. This represents 5.7 per cent of the total funds the governments of Canada and Ontario have committed to broadband expansion. Given that recent analysis shows rural Eastern Ontario accounts for about 30 per cent of all under-served households in Ontario, the project offers tremendous value.

We have not received an answer to our request for funding and time is running out. Our MPs and MPPs need to know that you want broadband improvements that serve your needs not just today but into the future. The Gig Project that delivers up to 1,000 Megabits of speed will do just that. Let us fix the problem once and for all.

Access to broadband is not a luxury but a necessity, as we have all witnessed during this pandemic.

Children are expected to learn online, but how does one's child or children do that when broadband connections are sporadic.

Our health-care system has had to pivot to virtual care. While much of this care is occurring over the phone, the ability of physicians to see patients virtually means more people can receive care without having to leave their homes or take time off work. The Gig Project will make this a reality. It is a comprehensive solution critical to our region's economic recovery and future growth.

We are writing to ask you to call and email your local MP and MPP and ask them to put their support behind the EORN submission. Contact your municipal councillors and ask them to advocate for the project and join our lobbying efforts.

The federal and provincial governments are committed to broadband expansion, now is the time to let them know that residents support a regional approach where no one is left behind.

Working together is our strength.

Yours truly,

**J. Murray Jones, Chair, EORN
Warden, Peterborough County
warden@ptbocountry.ca (705) 743-0380**

**Debbie Robinson, Chair, EOWC
Warden, Renfrew County
warden@countyrenfrew.ca (613) 735-7288**

**Diane Therrien, Chair, EOMC
City of Peterborough
DTherrien@peterborough.ca (705) 742-7777**

The amazing people behind the curtain

Just like a reluctant spring, we are all at the point when the pandemic finish line might be in sight.

The case numbers are down, then up, then down but the general feeling is that change is coming and with the amount of effort people have put into following the rules, that change should be a positive one.

More and more people have had the opportunity to get the vaccine and the experts say once vaccinated, your chances of holding your own against Covid go up dramatically.

It has been a long time coming but if you believe at all in science you have to figure the finish line has been crossed the moment that first vaccination went into that first arm.

There should not be any last minute reversals to worry about. The naysayers at the beginning of the pandemic were convinced that humanity's tendency to

survive was kind of guaranteed, even if nothing was done to protect us from the virus. Luckily, most of us were paying attention during our collective Grade 7 science class and acquired a healthy attitude about how science (not wishing and hoping) for an end to the pandemic was our secret weapon.

Science is the only language the virus speaks. A vaccine is the words used to put it in its place.

When this is over the general population should at the very least thank the science in their lives not just for their Wi-Fi and high-speed internet, Netflix and incredibly efficient gas furnaces, but also for the scientists working off in the corner of the shop on issues like disease, and viruses.

Yes, they could move down the hall to work in the cosmetic section of the factory or help with creating the perfect ear of corn but instead they stuck with the

less glamorous career of coming up with vaccines to counter old, new and to come viruses.

Often overlooked in the general population but respected within academic circles, the vaccine researcher must have an impeccable education in science to succeed.

Usually, prospective scientists begin their career working with vaccines with undergraduate degrees such as a Bachelor of Science (BS) in fields such as cellular or molecular biology, chemistry, biochemistry, or microbiology.

This is not a course list for the faint of heart.

Having a combined strong background in high school science classes and a natural sense of curiosity is a must. Many vaccine development jobs require masters and/or doctorate degrees (MS and/or PhD)

that require several years of additional study beyond the BS degree.

Clearly the average scientist or researcher toiling away on vaccine related research cannot help but be aware of the immense pressure to perform a miracle and find short cuts in the normal 10 to 15 years it traditionally takes to perfect a vaccine.

Well, these scientists, the world over, must be wearing their running shoes and working through their lunch which explains the how and the why you have been able to get a vaccination as quickly as you have been able to.

So, when the pandemic is all over and done with and you are out their partying don't forget to raise a glass, bottle or French fry to the unnamed scientist, secure in his or her's windowless basement, who brought the finish line closer and helped you across it.

Joseph Morin

Up for the challenge... it's your time to shine

Calling all residents. Yes, that means you!

We at Etcetera Publications (*Chesterville Record*) are looking for you.

Did you know that 2021 is a special year for an amazing flower?

The National Garden Bureau has declared 2021 as the "Year of the Sunflower".

I know, that little tidbit of information has just made your day.

Sunflowers symbolize adoration, loyalty and longevity. The meaning of sunflowers stems from the sun itself. Sunflowers are known for being "happy" flowers, and that makes them a perfect gift to bring joy to your day.

In sharing this sentiment,

and being your weekly publication, that can bring some of those happy moments to you as you peruse through our pages, we want to celebrate this with a friendly competition.

Take a spot in your yard or a pot on your balcony and plant some sunflowers.

There are so many different varieties available that anyone and everyone can participate in this challenge.

Check out next week's issue for full contest details. We are so excited, and we are sure you will be too.

Just think about all the happy spots there will be throughout the region.

Let's help bring sunshine to where you live.



NDDHS Report

By Jamie Wilson
Student Council Communications



Getting Environmental

Last week Taryn Cooper and I, along with our staff supporter, Mrs. Durant, attended the Frontenac Arch Biosphere Youth Climate Summit. It was a two-day virtual event filled with engaging guest speakers and a presentation on creating a climate action plan for your school. We discussed everything from Climate 101 to the effect of climate change on Canada's north. We are very excited to bring our new knowledge back to the school, continue improving the school's ecological footprint, and increase awareness of climate issues among students and the community. During the rest of the school year, we plan to have environmental-themed challenges for students to participate in, so stay tuned! We hope this will encourage students to be mindful of climate change's effects on our lives, learn about what we can do, and get outside to appreciate nature. If any students are interested in participating in climate action within the school, potentially getting involved with a team or club next year, please contact Jamie Wilson or Taryn Cooper, or send a message on the Student Council Instagram.

This week is National Nursing Week. Nurses have a critical role in patients' healthcare journeys. The pandemic has brought to light how much these people do for our communities. Since the beginning, they have been on the frontline, working long hours to combat the virus and care for those suffering from it. We want to thank all the nurses, especially those in our community and at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital, for all they do. We would not be able to fight this virus without their hard work and dedication.



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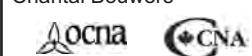
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AGHS growing bigger and better

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BRINSTON – Advanced Grain Handling Systems (AGHS) is moving full steam ahead, developing, creating, installing, and growing.

Since AGHS got its start in Brinston roughly 12 years ago, the business has grown to include several new services, as well as additional skilled tradespersons to keep everything moving and growing. With another location in Brantford, AGHS services all of Ontario, as well some parts of Western Canada. Today, between the two locations, the company employs 50 people with plans to expand up to 75 people this summer, but it wasn't always that big.

"We started just building grain bins," operations manager Ian Streight said.

Although they were busy, the work was seasonal, which created some challenges in finding and keeping skilled workers, Streight said. He noted that, as one might expect, most people don't like being laid off, and so the AGHS team found ways to grow and evolve that would allow them to offer some permanent full-time positions.

"We looked at ways we could benefit the company plus maintain our critical staff," Streight said, adding that the company focus is diversification.

It began with the Fabrication Shop, which was started to keep employees busy during the slow winter months. With this addition, they were able to hire millwrights, machinists, and electricians. Streight said the creation of the Fabrication Shop was important because it allowed AGHS to keep its key staff and, since then, they have grown to the point where they now have created six full-time positions in addition to avoiding seasonal layoffs for other employees.

"We have that real family feel and we're here for each other. Everyone wants to see the company grow," Streight said.

While AGHS focuses on selling and building grain bins, Streight said the Fabrication Shop, one of two new service additions, is where they manufacture their own material handling parts. They also added an Agriculture Commercial Industrial (ACI) division. ACI services include electrical, millwrighting and rigging. AGHS also has an engineering group that designs and plans projects



Advanced Grain Handling Systems (AGHS) in Brinston recently took on two high school co-op students from St. Mary Catholic High School in Brockville and is introducing them to tradeswork. Donovan McNeiloy (left) said he has wanted to be an electrician since Grade 8, while Colton Plumley said his interest is in welding and millwrighting. They are pictured in front of an AGHS-designed and built hopper.

Courtesy Photo

specifically for each customer, this allows AGHS to provide customers with complete turn-key solutions.

A few years ago, with two millwrights and two electricians on staff full-time, AGHS was able to start offering apprenticeships. The program worked quite well, Streight said, noting it not only gave apprentices the experience they needed, but also gave AGHS access to more skilled tradespeople.

"There's lots of interest. Everybody likes the opportunity," Streight said.

Most recently, the company's Brinston location took on two high school co-op students from St. Mary Catholic High School in Brockville who are looking to become skilled tradespersons themselves. Both in their final year of high school, Colton Plumley said his interest is in welding and millwrighting, while Donovan McNeiloy said he has wanted to be an electrician since Grade 8.

"They're learning to weld and to use the machinery," Streight said, adding that they have been offered summer positions where they will be part of the grain bin crew and the millwright crew. In addition to paying well, he said the students will have the opportunity for an apprenticeship when one comes available. "It's why co-op students fit well. The job pays well, and they learn the industry from the ground up."

Streight said he would like to see the co-op placement program continue. He said he is hoping to meet with both Seaway District High School in Iroquois and North Dundas District High School in Chesterville to hopefully bring on some first semester students in the fall. He noted that skilled trades are not offered in the high schools like they once were and that's where AGHS can help.

"I'd like to have it as an ongoing thing. It's nice to do some good stuff for the community you work in," he said, adding that he'd like to expand the co-op program to

the company's Brantford location, as well. "I think it's a great opportunity for these kids to get out and learn a trade and to find out if that's what they want to do for a living. They're trained from the ground up the way we want them trained for the ag sector."

With a focus on safety and training, Streight said the company's Brinston location is currently able to work with just two co-op students at a time, but it is something he would like to see grow. He said there is lots of opportunity in this sector for people who are willing to work. The AGHS crew work collaboratively together, and employees are trained on several machines, almost all of which require computer knowledge and skills. In addition to offering skilled trades' work, AGHS is also ready to help those students interested in general labour.

"They can make a good living and still live in their community without having to move," he said. "We really pride ourselves on helping local people and providing jobs for local people."

While things slowed down a bit during the first COVID-19 lockdown, Streight said AGHS has been busy. He said the

company and its employees have been fortunate, as the work this year has been non-stop. He said waiting on parts or getting some materials and supplies might be slower than usual, but they are able to incorporate that into their planning.


"We have a really good bunch of people. Everybody here is happy to help someone out," Streight said. "We want to grow. There's a strong ambition to grow and we're setting ourselves up for that."

AGHS sells and installs grain handling equipment for the agricultural, commercial, and industrial sectors. They are an official Brock Grain Bin dealer. They are CWB certified and do custom fabrication work, servicing all of Ontario. If you check out their website (aghs.ca) you will discover that they have a vast amount of knowledge and experience in grain conditioning, handling, and storage needs. They deal in bins, hopper tanks, sweeps, unloading systems, conveying systems, grain spreaders, centrifugal or axial fans, heater, or automated control systems, and more. The Eastern Ontario location is stationed at 4124 County Road 16 in Brinston.




- OBITUARY - WOOD, GARY WAYNE (Retired Detective Chief Superintendent OPP)

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Thursday, May 6, 2021 with his wife Moya and daughter Dana by his side. Gary, beloved husband of 53 years to Moya (nee Cunningham). Loving and devoted father to Dana Wood and cherished grandfather to Breaghan Richards. Dear brother of Earl (Janet), Linda McCaslin (Lee), and predeceased by siblings Marjorie Barkley (Garnet), Bert (Edith, surviving), Don (Muriel), Paul (Debbie, surviving), and Evelyn Wood. Brother-in-law to Dorre Cunningham, and Terry Cunningham and remembered lovingly by his many, many nieces and nephews. Sadly missed by his Pugwash golfing friends and fellow OPP Officers. Son of the late Burnice Wood and Thora Robinson. A Private Funeral Mass for Gary was celebrated in St. Alphonsus Liguori Church, Peterborough on Wednesday, May 12th at 11 a.m. You are invited to watch the mass via live stream by clicking the link on Gary's tribute page on the Highland Park website. Interment will take place in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Nepean at a later date. In memory of Gary, donations to PRHC Foundation, March of Dimes, Peterborough, or Ronald McDonald House Charities, Toronto would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences may be expressed at www.highlandparkfuneralcentre.com.




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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Chesterville and Morewood Presbyterian Church will be closed for in-person services for the duration of the provincial lockdown. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Winchester remains closed until May.

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No Sunday School or Nursery during these current restrictions. Contact the church office if you have any questions regarding this or any other meetings.

NOTE: Registration to attend is required our Sunday morning service. Please call the church office to reserve your spot.

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Visit us online for Sunday Service at our links below.
On Facebook at The Anglican Parish of North Dundas at St. Clare's.
On YouTube at St. Clare Anglican.





Township employees make the difference

The Township of North Dundas staff is key to the delivery of quality customer service to our residents and visitors. Several employees reached "Years of Service" milestones in 2020 and the township recently recognized them for their dedication, hard work and loyalty. Please join us in a special congratulations and thanks to Robert Durant (left) and Tom Sloane (middle) for 25 years of service and Laurie Piche-Gibson (right) for five years of service. The "Years of Service" certificates were presented by North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser.

Courtesy Photos

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A SPECIAL SECTION TO THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD/THE VILLAGER – MAY 13, 2021

Planting for pollinators grows in Canada

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – The Butterflyway Project, No Mow May, Got Milkweed, Native Pollinator Initiative, and Pollinator Week are just a handful of initiatives aimed at protecting Earth’s pollinators, and thus humans, from extinction.

“Pollinators are organisms that help transfer pollen from one flowering plant to another. This fertilizes plants so that they can produce seeds and fruit,” the Government of Canada states. “With over 700 native species in Canada, bees are the most common pollinators. Other pollinators include butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, some types of beetles, hummingbirds, and certain bats. Bees and other insect pollinators are critical to the production of many crops and play an essential ecological role. Crops that depend on the work of pollinators include tree and berry fruit, canola, alfalfa, squash, and melon.” Locally, Christina Enright and Carole Fiddler, chosen by the David Suzuki Foundation (DSF), have introduced residents to the new Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG) Butterflyway Project by

way of a new Facebook page, infographics, and a letter-writing campaign to all municipal governments within the SDG area.

“Our volunteer role involves recruiting individuals, businesses, municipalities, and others to create ‘pollinator patches,’ thereby building a new pathway for our local pollinators and working together to replace vital habitat lost through urban development, clear cutting, roadside cutting, herbicides, and climate change,” they said, adding that pollinator patches can be any size, but must include at least 50 per cent native plants, flowers, shrubs, or trees.

For a list of native plant species to include in butterfly gardens, visit the Pollination Guelph (pollinationguelph.ca/downloads), a charitable, federally incorporated non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation and development of pollinator habitat. Another great tool is the Eco-Regional Planting Guides (pollinator.org/guides). For several years, the DSF has also promoted planting Milkweed to try and save the Monarch Butterfly population through its Got Milkweed Campaign.



“Several pollinating butterfly and bee species have recently been listed as species-at-risk in Canada,” Wildlife Preservation Canada (WPC) states on its website. WPC has an At-Risk Pollinator Program and a Native Pollinator Initiative, which recognizes that 90 per cent of all flowering plants cannot reproduce without the help of pollinators. “And those plants, in turn,

support thousands of other species. That makes insect pollinators such as butterflies, flies, moths, beetles, and bees a cornerstone of natural ecosystems (not to mention crop production).”

Pollination Guelph’s goals include education,

research, engaging the community, advocacy, and conservation. As such, they will be offering special events during international Pollinator Week (June 21 to 27, 2021), including two free online seminars. To learn more about Pollinator Week, and for some fantastic resources, visit Pollinator Partnership Canada’s website (pollinatorpartnership.ca).

Another local campaign to protect pollinators is taking place in the township of Russell, where council members and businesses a break from a bylaw that requires grass-cutting upkeep. Those wishing to participate in the No Mow May Campaign can do so without threat of bylaw fines. Among other groups, the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) has suggested leaving lawns alone for the month of May.

“By letting flowers bloom on your lawn, including dandelions, you can provide an important source of nectar and pollen for wild bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects,”

NCC’s senior conservation biologist Dan Kraus said in a recent press release.

According to one of Bees Matter’s infographics, the estimated economic contribution of the honeybee population to the production of fruit and vegetables in Canada is roughly \$720 million. Visit the Bees Matter website (beesmatter.ca) for educational programming, videos, posters, infographics, lists of native plants, articles and more.

“Pollinators are responsible for one out of every three bites of food we take. They ensure reproduction of over 90 per cent of flowering plants in the world. They are vital, not only to our existence as human beings but to our planet,” Canadian Wildlife Foundation (CWF) states. CWF is participating in field research, public awareness campaigns, farmer assistance, partnerships with food industry, developing pollinator-friendly practices, as well as agricultural policy recommendations to save Canada’s wild pollinators.

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Spring is here

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

MORRISBURG — Over the winter, many people enjoy dreaming of the vegetable and flower gardens they will create once the warm weather arrives. The

Garden Centre at Laura's Valuemark in Morrisburg, open daily between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., has a wide selection of perennial plants, trees, shrubs, and garden accessories to help turn those winter dreams into reality.

The Garden Centre opened recently, with

owner Laura Callery explaining that the inventory will be increasing over the next few weeks with annuals, mulch and soil arriving in time for the May long weekend. She continued the plants available for sale at this time are hardy enough to withstand the early spring temperatures.

When asked about the effect of COVID-19 on gardening, she mentioned last year

there was a high demand for garden products and expects this will continue this year as well. Callery continued as the Garden Centre is considered as an "enclosed space", COVID-19 protocols, which include a maximum of 12 people allowed in the area at any one time, face coverings, hand sanitizing and social distancing are to be followed.



From the left: Sarah Backes, Maggie Joldersma and Rebecca Wiseman are pictured inside the Garden Centre at Laura's Valuemark in Morrisburg. Thompson Goddard Photo

A bird bath is a welcome addition to your garden

CHESTERVILLE – Gardens are special places to be in. Sitting in the middle of a garden surrounded by the scent of flowers, and the colourful picture they paint is hard to beat on a cool summer's day.

Adding finishing touches to this special place is easier than you might think. Adding a bird bath can make your garden visit fun and at the same time help out our little feathered friends.

The simplicity of the birdbath design has made it a garden item that has lasted longer than the Roman Empire and has become an iconic feature in gardens and lawns today. The history of the modern day garden birdbath is interesting. Archaeologists have found that in the Mediterranean culture, constructed wash stations for its local bird population.

The concept behind the basic bird bath goes back several millennia. In areas near Mt. Vesuvius, excavations have unearthed artistic

depictions of them on walls. Archaeologists have noted marble remnants of birdbaths among the first-century ruins of Herculaneum.

Also, in nearby Pompeii and Oplontis, villa paintings of birds perched on and around bird baths have been found.

In one painting from Roman times, coming from Pompeii's Villa Livia, an oriole, magpie, sparrows, and pigeons, among other species gathered together at a birdbath is depicted. They are sitting around a basin-shaped bowl atop a pedestal. It is unmistakable. Researchers believe the birds are gathered around a bird bath designed especially for them.

Birds bathe to maintain the health of their feathers as well as for hydration.

The birdbath in your garden resembles the typical bird bath from 2,000 years ago in its simplicity and design and is a fitting addition to any garden.

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Ron and Margy's Crafts: Invite a bird for lunch in your garden

A garden can be many things to many people.

A place to grow your favourite vegetables and a place to find some measure of peace surrounded by colourful flowers, delicious scents and the sound of birds singing.

Even in ancient times people tried to attract birds to their individual garden sanctuary.

One way to bring birds to your garden is to provide a safe place for them to eat; of course, you are expected to provide lunch.

One easy solution is to have a bird feeder in your garden and an easy way to get one is to get in touch with Ron and Margy's Crafts in Williamsburg.

The couple make and sell several items including bird feeders and bird houses.

What began as a hobby after Ron Peters retired has turned into an eight-year adventure.

Ron's wife Margy said, "It was supposed to be a

hobby but that did not work out."

She said, "We started out doing the farmers' market in Morrisburg then last year we switched over

with wood.

As far as the bird feeders go, Margy said sometimes Ron works from a plan and other times he just works from



Ron and Margy sell bird feeders and bird houses. They come in all kinds of different shapes and sizes.

Courtesy Photo to the Williamsburg Country Market. That's his own ideas. The resulting bird feeders are great for your garden.

where we will be going this year once it opens up." The couple also sell their items online.

"He sells bird feeders, bird houses, he does butterfly houses. Now we do park benches and small furniture.

Ron also makes any

number of interesting wood items from children's chairs to wooden platforms for cat and dog food bowls.

Ron and Margy's Crafts

have a home on Facebook at ronandmargyscrafts.

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Community beautification at its best

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Throughout the village of Chesterville there are several flower beds that add to the beauty of our community for residents and visitors during the summer months. This is due to the dedication and gardening abilities of a group of community volunteers known as the Green Action Gang (GAG).

Chesterville resident Shirley Coons explained GAG had its beginnings in a group of residents who worked to replace trees damaged by the ice storm which ravaged the local area in January 1998. Following the completion of their project, they decided to continue working together to beautify our community by creating and maintaining flower beds throughout the village.

The original Green Action Gang members included Peter and Pauline Vankessel; Corrie McRae; Gail and Tommy Parker; Joe and Dianne Cass; Lee and Margaret Hutt as well as Bernie Curran and Shirley Coons. The group set about creating or maintaining flower

gardens at several locations in the village including the three entrances to Chesterville, Flynn Park, the Chesterville Waterfront and the park adjacent to ScotiaBank.

Coons explained that funds for the continuation of the beautification of Chesterville are raised by several means including a plant sale, 50-50 draw, quilt raffle and a grant from the township of North Dundas. As spring begins, group members begin planning for the coming year which involves deciding on what plants will be used, planting and maintaining the flower beds as well as having volunteers watering them using their watering machine every couple of weeks.

Current GAG members include Gail Parker, Shirley Coons, Kaireen Cotnam, Yoka BenWindeen and Connie Gruich as well as a group of several young women who recently joined. When asked why they do it, Coons replied, "we are always trying to beautify the village" and the evidence is there for all to see during the summer months.

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Time to get your garden ready

CHESTERVILLE – Spring is here. As each day moves into the next and as temperatures begin to rise, the time is right to get your garden ready for another growing season.

To look after your garden, you need the right tools, seeds, and gardening equipment not to mention ideas and knowledge to make your garden what you want it to be.

Cotnam Ace Hardware in Chesterville is ready to give gardeners a hand.

Store manager Gerald Laurin said his store has everything you might need to get ready for spring.

Laurin explained, “I have some soil at the moment. I still have quite a bit that is still on the way.”

The store is able to order in whatever they may not have in stock and have it arrive in a day or two.

“I have seed starter kits and fertilizers.”

Laurin said he is slowly getting all of his spring items in.

Laurin said, “I know that in this area here in Chesterville a lot of people do grow their own vegetables which is really nice so we try to keep everybody happy with the

soil they require and the fertilizers and the knowledge that is quite appreciated at times.”

He said, “Usually in the beginning of April a lot of people are looking for their potting soils for the seed starter mixes so that they can start germinating their seeds. In late April and early May that is when it’s time to transplant them to their gardens so that is where the garden soils and garden mixes come in handy along with fertilizers.”

The hardware store which has been a fixture in Chesterville for years also sells typical hardware items along with garden and animal accessories.

While, they do not have the space to display everything they sell, they are able to get any item from a garden patio stone to a bird bath for their customers quickly and efficiently.

You can find just about everything and anything for your garden at the store.

Laurin jokingly said, “If I do not have it then you do not need it.”

The hardware store has an interesting history and has grown and changed

along with the character of Chesterville.

“It has seen quite a few changes over the years,” said Laurin.

“There has always been a hardware aspect to it but in the beginning, it was a feed store with a few little hardware items for sale, then over the years it evolved into the kind of hardware store it is today,” said Laurin.

“Progressively over the years it has actually migrated more to the hardware store. We still carry the feed, we still deal with the poultry, cattle and horses, and pigs.”

The store caters to farmers and gardeners and still features a healthy hardware section.

“This year there have been a lot of people ordering up birds and layers. Frey’s hatchery sends us the birds for our customers.

The hatchery supplies

quality chicks, turkeys, ducks, pheasants and ready to lay pullets for the family farm.

Getting ready for spring means getting ready to cut your grass. You can order in a lawnmower through the

hardware store anytime.

“We do not hold any in stock because our store is not a very large store. We are a small community store, but we can order items.” For example, said Laurin last week we ordered

a dethatcher roller, the kind that attaches to a lawn tractor.”

Drop by Cotnam Ace Hardware in Chesterville and see what they have to help you get your garden ready.



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How to beautify your fence

In addition to offering privacy and making your yard safer for children and pets, a fence has the potential to beautify your outdoor living space. Here are a few ideas to inspire you.

- If you opt for a wooden fence, consider painting it to match your deck or patio. This fencing material can be stained or painted a new colour at any time, which makes it easy to freshen up the look of your backyard.
- A vinyl fence is able to resist the elements, but it can lack character. To amp up its appeal, decorate your fence with flowering vines or hang planters and fairy lights from it.
- If you want a stylish fence that’s easy to maintain, choose one made of high-density polyethylene in your preferred colour. This type of fencing is also an ideal option if you want to section off your pool or garden.
- Complement the clean lines of your iron or aluminum fence by suspending potted flower arrangements at regular intervals. To further elevate the look of a metal fence, consider adorning the posts with decorative caps.

For advice on the ideal fence to suit your yard and budget, reach out to a local fencing contractor.



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RUSSELL – Beyond the House in Russell is a different kind of gardening centre.

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The store sells indoor plants, trees and shrubs, indoor pots, fruits and perennials.

If you are new to the art of gardening they can help you. If you are a plant lover, Beyond the House has varieties you most likely have never seen before.

“You name it we have it,” said owner Cindy Cluett.

Their nursery and greenhouse is open to the public but their retail store is closed.

This spring she has noticed the pandemic has had an effect on what her customers want to get.

People want to become a little more self-sufficient and grow their own vegetables.

“Gardening is really big right now. It is huge. It is the one thing people can do safely.”

Beyond the House is an essential service so customers can come and see



Cindy Cluett owner of Beyond the House invites you to get ready for spring with her plants, flowers and gardening accessories. Courtesy Photo

what they have to offer for their own garden, but the centre is only able to operate at 25 per cent capacity.

Beyond the House offers a full range of gardening products as well as giftware, art and outdoor support for garden spaces. They offer

workshops and a full range of indoor-outdoor plants.

The pandemic has caused people to rethink what they want the space they live in to be.

“There is a huge growth in the industry right now because people are stuck at

home, they are trying their hand at it,” said Cluett. She said they are seeing people they did not see before. “We have many new customers.”

She said people seem to be accepting their stay at home situation and want to make their backyard space beautiful to be in.

When you decided to enhance your garden area with different plants this spring or you want to learn how to grow your own vegetables Beyond the House, is the place to go.

Their knowledgeable staff and wide array of gardening products in their greenhouses and gardening

accessories make taking up gardening easier than ever.

For more information about Beyond the House please go to beyondthehouse.ca or call

them at (613) 445-5214.

They are located at 144 Craig Street in Russell and their email is: info@beyondthehouse.ca.



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There is a great deal to look at and enjoy at Beyond the House. Courtesy Photo

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My garden

Carol Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

A few years ago I asked Joan Davis of Morewood, who at that time had a landscaping business, if she could make a pathway in my front yard from the street to the front entrance. She did a lovely job and for a couple of years the "garden" area of the pathway was planted with annuals and a couple of perennials. I began to get a bit tired of mowing my postage stamp sized front yard and so decided to develop a front yard perennial garden. Joan had planted a dogwood shrub near the front of the pathway so that my cat Tiger the second could watch unnoticed as people went by on the sidewalk so next to it I added a Loyalist Rose bush and a War of 1812 rose. Unfortunately, my War of 1812 rose bush didn't survive its first winter as I neglected to wrap it up in burlap. After three years of purchasing all sorts of flowers, herbs



Spring in my garden

After waiting until it is warm enough for all the tiny insects who overwinter in my garden to wake up, the busy season of my garden begins. There are leaves to rake, dead branches to clip, soil and mulch to add with spring is usually the busiest time in my garden.

Courtesy Photo

and perennials the garden began to take shape. Over the years I have added various rosemary, sage, a garlic bulb or two, a holly hock plant and of course the 12th of July lilies, so called because they bloom around that date. Throughout the garden are ornaments, some of which

have been gifted to me by "golden friends" from Chesterville, a gnome or two, carved wooden birds and some annuals to add a bit of colour throughout the flower bed. Each season has a particular charm associated with it, different amount of work but even in winter as the garden sleeps



Enjoying nature in summer

As spring turns into summer, flowers start blooming and different fragrances fill the air. From the early roses on my Loyalist rose bush to daisies, lavender, purple coneflowers, sunflowers and a multitude of other plants, their beautiful blooms provide a canopy of colour throughout the summer.

Courtesy Photo

there is the opportunity to remember the year before and dream of the arrival of spring.

One of the most interesting things growing in my garden is an oak tree, for which I have to thank a forgetful squirrel who hid the acorn and then forgot to retrieve it. Birds, honeybees, butterflies, squirrels, and rabbits have all found my garden a place to spend a few minutes or perhaps in the case of the rabbits a bit longer. The other houses along my street have lovely, manicured lawns of grass with small flowerbeds, but in my yard it is the opposite – a flowerbed with a small piece of grass!

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AB Greenhouse in Chesterville is getting ready for the 2021 gardening season

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – AB Greenhouse owned and operated by Andrew and Elizabeth Brunner is getting their customers ready for another spring garden season. They are located outside the town of Chesterville and sell annuals, bedding plants, planters, hanging baskets, and various vegetable plants.

At the moment, the couple is working to get all of their orders ready for spring.

They are working at transplanting their stock and they have a great deal of it.

Based on their experiences last year the greenhouse has increased its stock of items that sold out quickly last spring.

“If everything goes right, we should be open the first week before Mother’s Day. Now we are accepting orders for pots to fill,” said Andrew.

He said in a Facebook post, “We will be needing the



Large selection of plants for your home and garden needs.

Courtesy Photo

remainder of the week to focus on transplanting and planting our shipments that we received to ensure our plants are healthy and thriving. We want to reassure everyone that we are not sold out. Some items do go quickly, but we still have plenty of stock.

We will post when we are ready to receive more orders.”

Andrew said his customers are asking for

flowers and vegetables.

“People are planting tomatoes and cucumbers. They do not take up too much space,” he said.

If you want to place an order for baskets/planters or any other items, please send them to abgreenhouseorders@gmail.com.

The order forms can be found on our group page. If you have any difficulty locating them, feel free to email the above address and

we will send you the forms via email.

Andrew said they will be open the end of April; however customers are welcome to drop off planters or baskets you want filled. Customers are not currently allowed to visit their greenhouse.

He is anticipating a busy spring season with his customers from across the county dropping by to pick up their spring garden orders.

He is asking that customers complete an order form to make things easier for any planters or baskets that are dropped off.

The forms can be found on the AB Greenhouse group page.

AB Greenhouse is located at 13625 County Rd. 9 Chesterville. You can call them at 613- 448- 2428 or email them at abgreenhouse@sympatico.ca



A look inside the AB Greenhouse filled with plants almost ready to move to your garden.

Courtesy Photo



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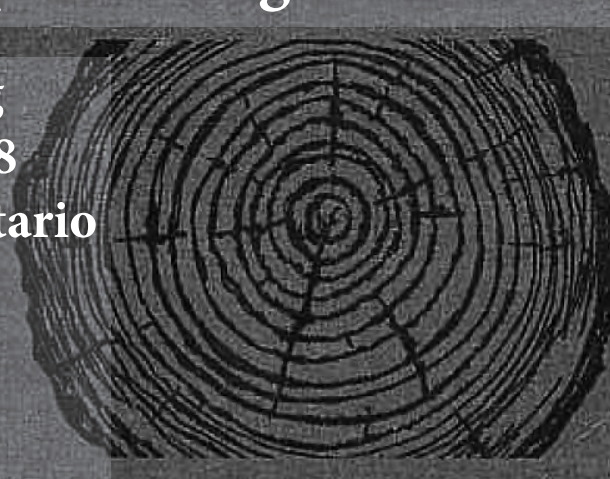
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Rural Rascals, Cockwombles and Legends

Ian Cumming's book, *Rural Rascals, Cockwombles and Legends* is as much about the authors perception of a rural landscape as it is a narrative of the people who live in that landscape.

The book is populated with different themes about the many characters Cumming has run across during his writing career with *The Ontario Farmer* a weekly publication.

"I come from an old farming family. I dairy farmed in Glengarry for 30 years," said Cumming.

In 1995 he became a reporter for the publication, *The Ontario Farmer*, a job he never thought was something he would ever have the opportunity to do.

"I was full-time farming and [working] a little bit with them, with [the] column and that has morphed into [what it is now]. When I am in my 60s [it will be] full-time and my son [can do] the farming. Because I have been immersed into the agriculture community it has been a good fit," he explained.

He described his entry into the world of agricultural journalism as being, "out of the blue."

In 1995 Glenda Eden was the agriculture reporter for *The Ontario Farmer*. Nobel Villeneuve had just been elected and became the agriculture minister and Eden went to work with him. Cumming's had written odd the piece of agriculture by this time so he was asked if he would like to take over when Eden moved on.

He was unsure if he would like the job but all of these years later he is still there.

"When you are writing for a farm paper and you are farming the stories come easily," he said.

In fact he has become a prolific writer. In the last six months he has penned one-hundred and sixty-seven articles and columns.

"There has always been material," he said.

"I loved doing it. I always thought it would be a good 'old man's job' someday."

He remembers he had a great editor who stuck by him.

The material for his book came from many of the characters he wrote about during his career.

There are many stories in the book that were the result of simple and seemingly random events.

"I once was at a wedding in England for a girl that had stayed six months on our farm, and I happened to sit at this table with Sir Henry Plum. He asked me if I wanted to see the Queen's herd. I thought what the heck. I spent a full day with the Queen's herdsmen looking at her dairy herd."

He has had one interesting and sometimes hilarious adventure; one after another, as he goes about writing his stories.

He remembers being kicked out of a Tim Hortons in Quebec when he was traveling the countryside writing about several award winning dairy herds in Quebec.

Because of pandemic restrictions Ontario residents were not allowed to be in Quebec and when the store staff realized he was from Ontario he had to leave.

"I went to use a washroom in a Quebec diner and found out I needed to have a permit to use the washroom because I was from Ontario. It made for a great column," he said.

During his travels he has met interesting people.

"You [come across] people," he said. "You realize there is something special about this person. You do not need to agree with their politics or religion or whatever."

Those people seem to be at the centre of their own story.

"I have followed people like that."

The book *Rural Rascals, Cockwombles and Legends*, illustrates that Cumming's best stories are all about people.

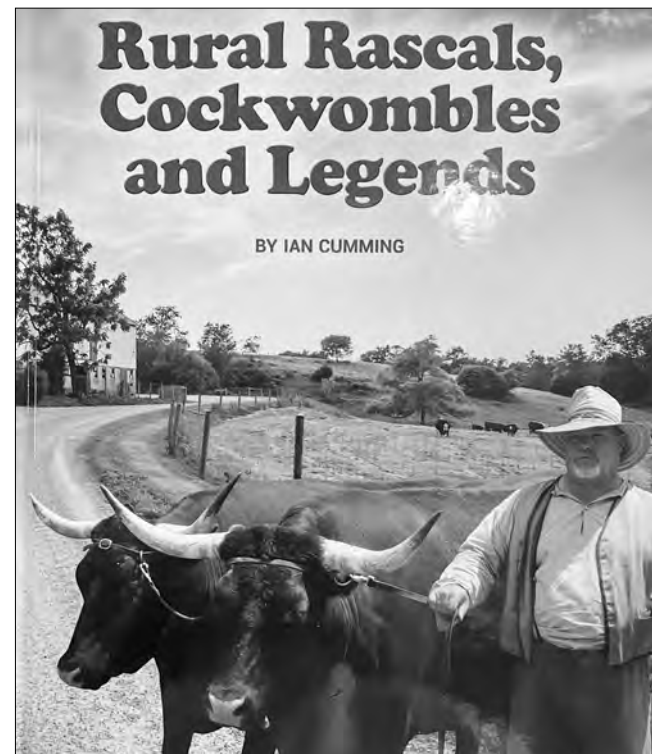
"I write about ordinary people."

In so many ways he could be one of the colourful characters in his own book.

Some of the characters in the book have passed on. The cover of the book features the late Peter Wensink with a pair of oxen at Upper Canada Village.

"Everyone loves a rascal," said Coming. He picked the expression *Cockwombles* which is an adjective from England that suggests that a person who is "possessing properties of striking idiocy".

"There are legends in there," said Cumming. "There is a guy named F.C. McLennan. He was a legend in his day. He



was a cattle dealer. Another was Bob Lang a member of the Agricultural Hall and Fame and a cow from Stormont County that sold for \$260,000."

He remembers driving by Dick's Country Store in Clinton County in New York State with a sign out front that proclaimed, Gasoline, Groceries, Guns and Guitars. "Now, how could you not want to go do a story on that," said Cumming.

The stories in the book are from the hundreds of articles and stories Cumming has written over the years.

"Farmers will love it," he said.

The book is \$40 plus postage and is a wonderful summer read.

For more information about how to get your own copy of *Rural Rascals, Cockwombles and Legends* you can call Ian Cumming directly at 613-525-1802 or email him at glengarryfarms@sympatico.ca.

Winchester Legion Branch 108, names volunteers of the Year for 2020

WINCHESTER – Winchester Legion Branch 108 would like to thank the many people who have volunteered their time to the Branch, from painting to

decorating to unclogging toilets and many, many other tasks. As a Branch we are incredibly grateful to have such wonderful people assisting us. It is only fitting

that Branch 108 has decided to name this year's Volunteers of the Year during National Volunteer Week.

Winchester Legion Branch 108 is happy to acknowledge the contributions of Blake Fawcett and Gil Yendall and name them Co-Recipients of the Volunteer of the Year for 2020. Both have gone above and beyond in offering their assistance to our Branch.

They were instrumental in demolishing most of our old front room, have made numerous trips to the dump and painted each and every ceiling tile that they could get their hands on. During the pandemic when the Veterans Lounge was under construction, they could be counted on to answer any questions the construction crew might have. From the beginning to the end of the

exceedingly long 2020 pandemic year both volunteers were helpful, industrious, and very task

driven. Congratulations Blake and Gil on receiving the Winchester Branch 108 Volunteer of the Year award.



Courtesy Photo



SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on May 21, 2021, at the South Dundas Municipal Office, 34 Ottawa Street, Morrisburg Ontario.

Description of Land(s):

Roll No. 05 06 006 006 94400 0000; 11557 County Rd. 18, Iroquois; PIN 66114-0147; **Minimum tender amount: \$43,835.29**

Roll No. 05 06 001 010 18000 0000; 3325 County Rd. 31/ Bank St., Winchester Springs; PIN 66144-0055; **Minimum tender amount: \$9,734.78**

Roll No. 05 06 001 008 62000 0000; PIN 66144-0077; **Minimum tender amount: \$4,513.48**

Roll No. 05 06 006 007 37600 0000; 10417 Hanesville Rd., Brinston; PIN 66113-0294; **Minimum tender amount: \$5,276.75**

Roll No. 05 06 001 004 30200 0000; PIN 66139-0079; **Minimum tender amount: \$12,987.92**

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. A full copy of the tax sale advertisement and further information about this matter is available on line at www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or www.southdundas.com or you may contact Sarah McMillan, Treasurer, The Corporation of the Municipality of South Dundas, 34 Ottawa Street, PO Box 740, Morrisburg ON K0C 1X0. Phone: (613) 543-2673



EMERALD ASH BORER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive insect that uses ash trees as their primary food source and habitat. The EAB is best known for the unique pattern it leaves behind, but it has caused the decimation of the Ontario ash tree population since 2003.

STARTING MAY 2021

Staff will be removing high-priority ash trees in 2021, followed by medium/low priority in following years. High caliper trees will be planted in these areas as replacements.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM IMPACT RESIDENTS?

From May to September, areas of parks or the waterfront may be closed on a day-to-day basis for tree removal. Please use caution when in the area of tree cutting and follow all signage and directions from the Municipality.

Go to southdundas.com to read the full management plan.



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:

For advertising and/or subscriptions: ads@chestervillerecord.com
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For news: editor@etceterapublications.ca

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unusual times.

Finch's Makenna Brownlee accepts scholarship from Aurora University

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

FINCH – Following your passion is a phrase often directed at students graduating out of high school and preparing to head off to university.

In the case of Makenna Brownlee, that notion could not be more accurate.

Brownlee is getting ready to begin her next educational chapter after graduating from Tagwi Secondary School in Avonmore.

She will be starting her first year at Aurora University in Illinois this August. Her educational path will take her to a Master's Degree in Athletic Therapy.

Along the way she will have the opportunity to play some great hockey.

The Finch resident was awarded a scholarship to attend the university based on her academic record. The fact that she gets to play university hockey at the same time is a bonus.

She said every one of her family has been super excited for her and has been very supportive.

"They know that this has been my dream since I started playing hockey - to play university hockey. I am very lucky to have them."

Her mother Susan is well aware of Makenna's dream.

"She has always had her sights on playing hockey at the university level. Her dedication, determination and commitment has helped her achieve this goal. We are very excited to see the experiences and opportunities Aurora University has to offer

Makenna," said Susan.

My family realized I am going away but they are with me 100 per cent with every decision I make in life; which is fantastic; I am so lucky.

"I am unbelievably excited to be going for the hockey, but I am lucky enough to be going to a school that has an amazing academic program," she said.

Her scholarship will follow her as she works for her academic goal.

"It's amazing," she said.

"I will have a Bachelor of Science in exercise science and then after two more years, I will have my Master's in Athletic Therapy. I hope to have it all done in five years," said Brownlee.

She began playing hockey when she was just five years old.

Eventually after playing hockey in Finch, Cornwall and then in Ottawa for the Junior Lady Grads Intermediate AA she was noticed by a scout from Aurora University.

Brownlee explained, "I played competitive hockey in Ottawa where I played for an intermediate team. They have different scouts at the various tournaments and one of their coaches reached out to me."

Even though there is not a scholarship attached to her university hockey opportunity, the sport will definitely help keep her focused on all of the aspects of her athletic education.

"It is super competitive because it is at a very high level of the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA). You are still competing. I

love it and I always wanted to play university hockey," she said.

The NCHA is made up of university teams from Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan.

"I am very excited to be getting a degree while playing the sport I have grown up loving."

She began her hockey path as a forward but over time gravitated to defence. At five foot seven that should make her a formidable challenge to any and all forwards coming her way.

"I really don't expect to play competitive hockey after university, but to have an opportunity to play at such a high level, that I never really imagined would ever be possible is exciting."

Having the opportunity to play at the university level and get a first-rate education at the same time is a remarkable set of circumstances.

Brownlee made her decision to accept the offer from Aurora University because of her impressions of the school when she took a tour of the university.

"There are lots of opportunities in athletics there," she said.

"It was more the atmosphere I felt when I visited in November. It is a very small school which is very nice because I come from a small rural area. It felt like home. It is very tight knit. It has such high-end academic programs," said Brownlee.

"The hockey was amazing, and the coaches are fantastic. You really feel like a family when you get there. That was what drew me in."



Makenna heads off to Aurora University in August. Courtesy Photo

Exciting news for SD&G

LONG SAULT – The Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in East Region is pleased to announce, that Marc Hemmerick is the new detachment commander. Inspector Hemmerick is a proven leader who began his career with the OPP in 2003 at The Toronto OPP Highway Safety Division Detachment in Downsview.

He has worked as a front-line constable, a detective, a platoon sergeant, staff sergeant and interim detachment commander in Hawkesbury and Lanark Detachments. Inspector Hemmerick returned to SD&G detachment in 2008



The new Stormont Dundas and Glengarry detachment commander is Marc Hemmerick. Courtesy Photo

and moved to platoon sergeant in 2013.

The inspector has returned home to his roots as he was raised in nearby Cornwall, Ontario.

He said, "I am extremely honoured and excited to be the detachment commander of SD&G as this is my hometown. I strive to be a compassionate leader and

always have the wellness of our members at the forefront of my mind."

He added, "I look forward to leading our members and providing the public we serve the highest quality of service. I am excited for the opportunity to work in conjunction with our community partners during these difficult times and beyond."



Rideau Auctions Inc.

As per the current COVID-19 mandates, we are offering ONLINE Auctions and allowing 20 people in our Liquidation Centre at one time.

Check the website for our Upcoming ONLINE Auctions for both Public/Vehicle Auctions and Misc. & Furniture Auctions.

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Public Notice of Pesticide Use

For the promotion of public health and safety as noted within subsection 7.1 (2) of *Pesticides Act*, the Municipality of South Dundas intends to utilize Green Stream Lawn and Vegetation Management Inc. to control noxious weeds along the following rural roadsides:

Flagg Rd, Zeron Rd, Deeks Rd, Hutt Rd, Shannette Rd, Strader Rd, Orvill Rd, Lightning St, Thunder Rd, Billy Ln, Forest Rd, Coughler Rd, Caughnawaga Rd, Saving St, Robertson Rd, Smith Rd, Richmire Rd, Dejong Rd, Crowder Rd, Whittaker Rd, Tollgate Rd, Froatburn Rd, Saddle mire Rd, Boucks Hill Rd, Garlough Rd, Barkley Rd, Marcellus Rd, Gary Rd, Brooks Rd, Hummel Rd, Froats Rd, Weegar Rd, Pages Corners Rd, Toonders Rd, Cassie Rd, Young Rd, MacKenzie Rd, Grantley Rd, Beckstead Rd, Ferguson Rd, Colquhoun Rd, Stevens Rd, Pigeon Island Rd, Prunner Rd, Archer Rd, Haystead Rd, Mels Ln, Nudell Bush Rd, Whipperwill Ln, Dons Rd, Roy Rd, Salmon Rd, Grace Rd, Norgaard Rd

The Contractor will be using the following pesticides:

Clearview Herbicide, active ingredients Aminopyralid, present as potassium salt, Metsulfuron-methyl, (Reg. #29752).

Gateway Adjuvant, active ingredients Paraffinic Oil, Alkoxyated alcohol non-ionic surfactants emulsifiable concentrate, (Reg. #31470).

Commencing on May 19, 2021 (weather permitting) and ending June 25, 2021

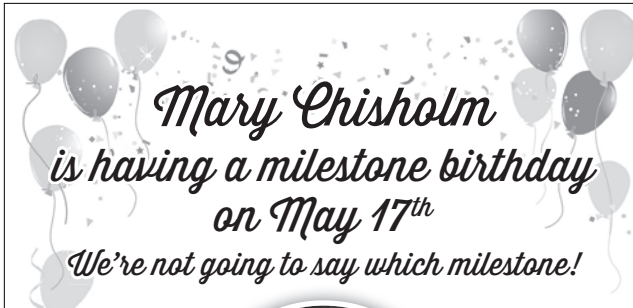
For further information contact:


Green Stream Lawn and Vegetation Management Inc.
Call Collect- 1-905-510-1229

or
Municipality of South Dundas 613-543-2673 or Toll Free 1-800-265-0619

Please contact the Municipality if you require more detailed information regarding our program - including additional information on how to post "no spray" signage in front of your property.

This information is available on the Municipality of South Dundas Website: (www.southdundas.com)


Mary Chisholm
 is having a milestone birthday
 on May 17th
We're not going to say which milestone!



Happy Birthday Mom
 We love and miss you and can't wait until we can celebrate in person
 Love RD, Donna, Brandie, Michael, Liz, Matthew & Jennifer

Serving his community

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

LONG SAULT – Cornwall resident David Hill was the proud recipient of a 2020 Ontario Volunteer Service Award in recognition of his 25 years of volunteering with the Lost Villages Historical Society. Hill, one of 45 volunteers from Stormont-Dundas and South Glengarry to be honoured, was recognized for his contributions during a virtual ceremony held on March 23.

Jim Brownell, president of the Lost Villages Historical Society, commented in an email to *The Chesterville Record*, how Hill volunteers “with many aspects of work at the Lost Villages Museum” and is “eager to step to the plate to help out.” He has served on the executive of the Society and has been a regular contributor to its recorded history as well as physical contributions to the organization and museum. Brownell mentioned “the historical society is appreciative of his interest and dedication to preserving the history of the Lost Villages” commenting how “David has always had a keen interest in the history of the Lost Villages, particularly his “hometown” of Moulinette.

Hill mentioned how he had been a youngster in Moulinette during the Seaway construction and so his experiences were different from those of his parents and grandparents. While he enjoyed seeing the

construction process, the older residents of the villages which were drowned by the Seaway project had to deal with the loss of their jobs, their homes, and their communities. His father, who had worked at the paper mill in Mille Roches, assisted members of his church in making difficult decisions about their loved ones who had been buried in the church cemetery for which he was responsible.

While his home was able to be relocated to Long Sault or Town No. 1, his grandparents’ home was not. After spending two days in the “stop over house” while their house was moved, they were able to return to their home in its new location. A couple of months later they moved into “a double tenement my dad had constructed on Frost Avenue with his grandparents living on the other side of the house.” Hill explained it was from his grandfather that he first heard many of the stories about life in the “Lost Villages of Eastern Ontario.”

It is this love of storytelling and the hearing of other people’s stories which Hill mentioned as one of the enjoyable aspects of volunteering at the Lost Villages Museum on the outskirts of Long Sault. He enjoys having the opportunity to tell people the stories associated with the Lost Villages and hearing their stories as well. As a retired educator, he is pleased to see young



David Hill is shown holding the Ontario Volunteer Service Award presented to him this year in recognition of 25 years as a volunteer with the Lost Villages Historical Society. He continues to support the Society in many ways with a willingness to serve, so the stories of the Lost Villages of Eastern Ontario will be remembered for future generations.

Courtesy Photo

students visit the LVM eager to learn the history of these villages and the people who lived in them. He seemed especially pleased and proud to see the barbershop where his grandfather Zina Hill worked now located on the grounds of the LVM.

When asked where his sense of volunteering originated, Hill mentioned how his grandparents and parents were active volunteers in their community and church. He spoke with pride about his mother and father starting a choir in their new community, called Hill’s Angels which provided

entertainment to people for many years.

As a young man he volunteered with minor hockey and lacrosse as a coach and has been involved as a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters before becoming a volunteer at the LVM in 1995. He mentioned how volunteering in his community allowed him to “give back to society,” continue to be involved in subjects he is passionate about and provides him with the opportunity to assist in the development of the next generation of volunteers. He expressed his thanks to his wife Nancy, who is herself a dedicated volunteer, for the support and encouragement provided to him through the years.

Perhaps this gentleman summed up the experience of volunteering best by commenting “I think when you’re volunteering you receive more than you give.”



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- Clean driving record with minimal 3 years of driving experience
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF PESTICIDE USE

For the promotion of public health and safety as noted within subsection 7.1 (2) of *Pesticides Act*, the Township of North Stormont intends to utilize Green Stream Lawn and Vegetation Management Inc. to control noxious weeds along the following rural roadsides:

Ashburn Rd., Benoit Rd., Casselman Rd., Concession 1-2 Rd., Concession 2-3 Rd., Concession 3-4 Rd., Concession 4-5 Rd., Concession 5-6 Rd. Concession 6-7 Rd., Concession 7-8 Rd., Concession 8-9 Rd., Concession 10-11 Rd., Concession 11-12 Rd., Courville Rd., Farley Rd., Finch-Osnabruck Boundary Rd., Finch-Winchester Boundary Rd., Finch-Cambridge Boundary Rd., Forgues Rd., Goldfield Rd., Macmillan Rd., Manley Rd., Marionville Rd., McDermid Rd., Murphy Rd., Nine Mile Rd., Noel Rd., Ouderkirk Rd., Reveler Rd., Shane Rd., Smirle Rd., St.Luke's Rd., Yelle Rd.

The Contractor will be using the following pesticides:

Clearview Herbicide, active ingredients Aminopyralid, present as potassium salt, Metsulfuron-methyl, (Reg. #29752).

Gateway Adjuvant, active ingredients Paraffinic Oil, Alkoxyated alcohol non-ionic surfactants emulsifiable concentrate, (Reg. #31470).

Commencing on May 10, 2021 (weather permitting) and ending June 25, 2021. For further information contact:

Green Stream Lawn and Vegetation Management Inc.
Call Collect – 1-905-510-1229

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The Township of North Stormont 613-984-2821 ext. 227

Please contact the Township if you require more detailed information regarding our program - including additional information on how to post “no spray” signage in front of your property.



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Iroquois home to Oneida Grand Event Centre and Bistro

IROQUOIS – The village of Iroquois is a special place; it has the best scenery around, kind and gracious people and now the small oasis by the St. Lawrence River can boast of having one of the nicest places to go for an event or supper in the area.

The greatly anticipated Oneida Grand Event Centre and Bistro in Iroquois is now open.

The pandemic has delayed the full range of services the Oneida Grand plans to offer and for now, takeout is the only way to take a delicious peek at what the new Iroquois attraction is all about.

The centre will be offering a contemporary casual, modern and trendy bistro following eco-friendly protocols and serving unique, healthy food options featuring fusion cuisine.

Owner Ky-Lee Hanson has been working on renovating the former Iroquois United church and manse.

“We held our soft opening this week,” said Hanson. “It has been a year. Originally, I bought the building to be an event centre but then Covid happened right after the purchase. So, I decided to focus on the catering and kitchen to start,” she said.

Not knowing what the timelines would be before she could open the event and dining section of the Oneida Grand as planned, she chose to offer a takeout service to get the ball rolling.

Along the way she finished setting up her patio and got ready for the return of outdoor dining.

Word was getting out about the great location and dining features of the Oneida

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Ky-Lee Hanson is bringing delicious ideas and interesting events to Iroquois. Courtesy Photo

Grand Event Centre and Bistro and soon she was getting inquiries for weddings.

“Then the second lockdown happened so we delayed our opening. Then another lockdown happened, and we could not wait any more -we decided to open just the takeout component and see how things go,” said Hanson.

The event centre was the original plan, so Hanson is still expecting to be able to include events in her operation once the pandemic is over.

Born in British Columbia, Hanson came to Ontario in 2009.

She had already been infected with the entrepreneurial spirit and is an award-winning author, entrepreneur and business owner. She is the publisher of Golden Brick Publishing House. That business started up in 2017 and has some 50 titles to its credit.

One of her dreams was to own and operate an event centre. The opportunity to purchase the former church was just too good to pass up.

“The event centre was the original plan, and it would be amazing to still be able to do that,” she said.

“The building brought me to here,” she said. “It offered a lot of the things I had been asking for.”

The soft opening and takeout service is giving Hanson and her staff a rough idea of what to expect when the pandemic disappears.

“It has been going pretty well,” she said.

“It checked all of the boxes for a building that could offer a lot.”

Her family moved to Iroquois in anticipation of helping start a family business. The pandemic has made that challenging but Hanson is determined to see her vision through.

“There is so much potential here,” said Hanson. She said the community was beautiful.

“They have been saying that they want growth in the municipality, so I am hoping that now is the time,” she said.

Despite the pandemic Hanson is determined to carry on. “We have opened up the portions of the business we are allowed to. We are just waiting for the updates and waiting for the world to get healthier.”

The Oneida Grand Event Centre and Bistro, when fully opened will offer the perfect Seaway venue for weddings, retreats, workshops, acoustic music and even an evening set aside for comedy performances.

For more information about the Oneida Grand Event Centre and Bistro please check them and their great menu out on their Facebook page. Just look for Oneida Grand on Facebook.

Their phone number is 613-669-2097 and their hours are: Thursday to Friday, 11:30 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

If you would like to have a light shined on your business, please contact us at: editor@etceterapublications.ca or call us at 613-448-2321.

SNC planting a record 230,000 trees this spring

FINCH – South Nation Conservation (SNC) is helping to plant over 230,000 native trees and shrubs throughout its watershed jurisdiction this spring.

This will mark the most trees planted by SNC in a year; the previous record dates to 1993 when 193,000 trees were planted by the Conservation Authority, and the average amount of trees typically planted annually by SNC is about 150,000.

Public interest in conserving forest cover, along with people spending more time at home, and outdoors, during the Pandemic may have helped contribute to record tree orders.

Tree planting services have been deemed essential and will continue to go ahead as

planned this spring with the appropriate health and safety precautions in place.

Tree seedlings are a perishable, agricultural product that need to be planted within a limited season to ensure that the seedlings can survive being lifted from nurseries and planted in their new homes, in idle fields, windrows on farms, along watercourses and within managed forests

to maintain a global supply of forest products.

Most of the Authority’s trees will be planted on private properties thanks to subsidies available to property owners to create windbreaks, control erosion, and for small to large reforestation projects. Through these programs, seedlings can be sourced and planted by SNC for as little as \$0.25/conifer or \$0.55/deciduous tree.

Trees will also be planted on public properties, along county roads, in Larose Forest in Prescott and Russell, and in public natural spaces such as Conservation Areas.

“We couldn’t be more excited to plant a record-breaking number of native

trees this spring to increase local forest cover, and work on behalf of our member municipalities and residents to deliver essential environmental services throughout the pandemic,” said Caroline Goulet, one of SNC’s foresters.

This spring, SNC will also be distributing 10,000 free tree seedlings to residents throughout Eastern Ontario thanks to fundraising initiatives and in partnership with member municipalities and the Raisin Region Conservation Authority.

Residents who registered for a chance to receive a bundle of free seedlings will be contacted to pick up their trees at a municipal

curbside location in May.

SNC’s record-breaking tree planting season comes on the heels of one of the

Conservation Authority’s busiest years on record, despite the pandemic. In 2020, over 140,000 people visited Conservation Areas and SNC planning staff processed a record number of development files that required environmental reviews to protect people and property from natural hazards and support sustainable development activities.

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'Biggest project in Russell Township history' on track

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

EMBRUN – The township of Russell's Recreation Complex project is on schedule and on budget.

"I'm pleased to reach another milestone today. It's the update we've been waiting for because we will be able to look at the results from the survey that was conducted back in March," director of parks and recreation Céline Guitard said during the May 3 council meeting.

In addition to the 45 pages of information from background history, status updates, survey results, and meeting/consultation minutes included in the night's agenda package, Guitard introduced Colliers project leaders representatives who provided a presentation and answered questions.

"We are on track for Phase 1 and 2. Right now, we're at the tail end of the design of the park and the courts and that's submitted for site plan review this week, so we'll be going through those exercises to make sure we get site plan approval and continue on with the further procurement of some other pieces of that project," Colliers' senior project manager Scott O'Hearn said. "For Phase 2, which is probably the main topic of this presentation, we have completed our public consultation."

In addition to conducting a survey for Phase 1, an Environmental Impact Study, and Geotechnical Investigations, Colliers has completed the community consultation, issued expressions of interest for local contractors and businesses, and hired the prime consultant for Phases 1 and 2. They are also coordinating and collecting comparable operational costs data, O'Hearn said, noting he has already heard from several interested contractors.

"Today we have brought on the architect and their team with landscape designers and mechanical electrical engineers who have been completing the drawings for Phase 1," O'Hearn said. "The same architect will be completing the schematic design for the

facility based off the community feedback we've received to date, so we can have more of a visual tool to proceed with decision making later on."

O'Hearn's presentation included a graphic of the layout for the playground, courts, and parking. Councillor André Brisson noted only two parking spots reserved for handicapped individuals and suggested there should be more considering the goal is a fully accessible park. O'Hearn also presented photos of comparable examples of junior playgrounds and senior exercise equipment, all accessible, to be included in the park. He said the group is preparing a pre-purchase Request for Proposal (RFP) for the equipment to avoid any potential time delays.

Councillor Jamie Laurin said he had an issue with the wood mulch base surface. He said this base had been replaced with sand at another park. Guitard said this base is different, but she will confer with Colliers about the potential of a popular rubber product base, which would be better but more expensive. CEO Jean Leduc confirmed that the base will be a hard surface like the rubber product Guitard had mentioned.

Mayor Pierre Leroux mentioned L'Original's Sacha's Park and said he anticipated the Jonathan Pitre Accessible Park to be similar. He said he would like to look beyond the minimum standards and provide something better with higher standards.

"We're moving along fairly well. I'm excited to get things starting on the site," O'Hearn said.

The Phase 2 Community Feedback included consultations with more than 45 user groups, as well as two public consultation meetings. More than 1,000 people completed the questionnaire. Community feedback showed that residents' key interests are in a pool, multiple arenas, a gymnasium with a stage and seating, and storage, all with a focus on accessibility and sustainability. Feedback showed that for most responders, a pool was the highest priority.



Opening day at Metcalfe Farmers' Market

There was a steady crowd of people attending opening day at the 2021 Metcalfe Farmers' Market on Sat., May 8. Organizers explained that there were 40 vendors inside the two barns due to inclement weather; COVID-19 protocols were in place, including social distancing, wearing of face covering with available hand sanitizer. People waited patiently in a socially distanced line to enter buildings where vendors were located. With a wide selection of vendors selling all kinds of merchandize, there seemed to be something for everyone at the event.

Thompson Goddard Photo

O'Hearn said next steps for Phase 1 include completing the site plan review, pre-purchasing playground equipment, and issuing a general contractor RFP. Next steps for Phase 2 include completing the first draft of the facility schematic design and beginning high level operational cost modelling.

Leroux requested that O'Hearn's PowerPoint presentation be added to the municipal website under the Recreation Complex Project so residents can look it over if they wish to do so.

"I just want to make sure everybody has access to the documents," Leroux said, adding that he would like the presentation forwarded to council, as well.

Echoing Leroux's earlier comment, Coun. Mike Tarnowski asked for confirmation that the park, facilities, and parking would all meet the highest standard

for accessibility. Guitard said staff has consulted with the township's Accessibility Advisory Committee. Laurin referred to Brisson's comments about accessible parking spots, noting that he would like to see more spots available, as well. Leroux agreed, noting that the park may draw more families with children who have accessibility needs to move into the area, as this seems to be the case near Sacha's Park.

"The thing that jumped out at me was the fact that over 45 groups participated, which was fantastic, but there was also about 20 to 25 who did not participate, and I found that a little bit unfortunate that all these user groups did not participate. I was hoping for much more public feedback," Leroux said. "We're looking at the biggest project in Russell Township history, therefore I think that more participation would have been better."

Russell set to release resident satisfaction survey soon

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

EMBRUN – Residents of the township of Russell will soon have an additional opportunity to exercise their voices when the 2021 Citizen Satisfaction Survey is released this month.

Local politicians provided input on CAO Jean Leduc's draft of the survey during the May 3 council meeting. The survey is expected to launch early this month and

is to be available until mid-July. The township's Customer Service Policy bylaw includes an annual satisfaction survey, but due to COVID-19, the 2020 survey was postponed.

"A complete review of the survey format and questions is proposed for 2022 upon adoption of a new Communication Plan and Policy by the end of 2021," Leduc said.

While consistent with 2019's survey content, it was noted that two items had been removed and

three added to the 2021 survey. Questions about the transportation service and preferred new retailers were deleted. Additions included accessibility accommodations for a service rating on Question 3, opportunity for resident input via Question 13 on what should be in these surveys going forward, and the addition of "other" and "prefer not to identify" as potential answers to Question 14.

Councillor Mike Tarnowski suggested

rewording Question 13 to avoid residents questioning why they should participate in the 2021 questionnaire if it is to be completely revamped in 2022. He suggested adding questions about the library and its service, and a demographics question to identify the first language spoken at home.

Leduc said he will tone down the language for Question 13 and he will add a question asking for the first language spoken at home. However, he said he did not want to step on the library's toes by adding

questions pertaining to them. Leduc also noted that the survey is already 15 minutes long. Leroux suggested adding the library as a service to Question 2, which asks how satisfied residents are with specific services, Tarnowski agreed.

The mayor suggested adding a question or questions about council advisory committees to determine how many residents are aware of their existence. He said the point of the committees is to encourage and include public engagement so it

would be important to find out how many residents know about the various committees.

"We didn't have the survey last year. We normally have a good response rate in our surveys but I'm hoping with COVID-19, and taking place in June and July this year, that there will be sufficient response to help out with some actions that we need to develop for next year or for even the end of the year," Leduc said. "I hope that there's a good public response to our survey."

Ontario looks to update municipal codes of conduct

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

EMBRUN – Along with every municipality in Ontario, the township of Russell will be participating in a town hall session addressing codes of conduct for municipal councils.

At the May 3 council meeting, Leroux shared a letter from Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark asking for a township representative to join an upcoming telephone townhall session on how to strengthen accountability for municipal council members. The letter noted that members of council representing each of Ontario's municipalities will participate in one of two hour-long sessions. The Eastern Ontario session is set for May 20.

"We want to ensure that councillors and heads of council maintain a safe and respectful workplace and carry out their duties as elected officials ethically and responsibly," Clark said in the letter. "This session will provide participants with the opportunity to share their valuable feedback on what changes or mechanisms

are needed to better hold council members accountable for municipal code of conduct violations, how to effectively enforce these codes, whether a broader range of penalties for violations of the codes of conduct are needed, and the circumstances in which these potential penalties could be applied."

The letter requested that council identify one member to participate. Leroux asked members of council if any were interested, noting that he and Coun. Cindy Saucier have each expressed interest, but he feels it might be more in line with the role of mayor.

"You're the mayor, I think you should do it," Coun. Mike Tamowski said. Councillors Jamie Laurin and André Brisson agreed.

Leroux reminded council they have an opportunity for input through the ministry's online survey. Like Clark in his letter, Leroux asked that everyone consider filling it out.

"We have also launched an online survey to seek input on ways to strengthen accountability mechanisms for municipal council members. I encourage members of council and municipal staff to provide their input on this important topic through the online survey," Clark said, noting the survey would be available online until July 15.

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