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Briefly

Tractor parade in Winchester

WINCHESTER – The 17th Annual Farmer John and Gramma Linda tractor parade will take place (weather permitting) on Sun., August 8. The parade will start at Farmer John's Big Blue Shed at 1:15 p.m. Friends may join in when they go by Country Kitchen Restaurant (approx. 1:30 p.m.). You can also join at the Winchester arena at 1:45 p.m. The parade's goal is to be visiting Dundas Manor at 2 p.m. The parade will then continue touring around Winchester, past the Fire Hall and then Lions Hall proceeding west on Main Street finishing back at the Winchester Arena, where each driver can proceed home at their leisure.

Thank you in advance. Hope to see you there.

Farmer John & Gramma Linda from Cloverdale

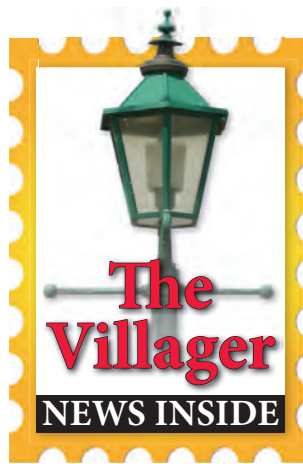
BBQ time in Long Sault

INGLESIDE – Ingleside Long Sault Lost Villages Lions Club are holding a barbecue on Sat., July 17 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the plaza in Long Sault. Bring your appetite for some hot dogs or hamburgers and help support your community.

Treat yourself on McDougall's day

FINCH – Treats & Treasures at 9 Front St. on County Road 43 in Finch is hosting McDougall's Day on Fri., July 16. Bring in your Insurance card and receive a free gift. Offer only available on July 16.

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From soccer field to mountain

The soccer fields at the Winchester Public School are getting a complete makeover from improved drainage to enhanced sporting facilities. *Morin Photo*

North Stormont prepares for second shot at funding

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BERWICK – While the township of North Stormont lost its first bid for funding through Phase 2 of the province's Natural Gas Expansion Program, the municipality is preparing to submit a second application in the hopes of finding success in the next round.

"While I appreciate your interest in Phase 2 of the program, I regret to inform you that we will not be able to provide funding for the Avonmore, Monkland, Bloomington, and Moose Creek proposals at this time," Ontario's Associate Minister of Energy Bill Walker said in a letter addressed to Mayor Jim Wert.

The letter was included in council's June 15 agenda package under correspondence items. Local politicians discussed the letter briefly at the close of the public portion of the meeting.

Continued on page 3

Winchester Public School renovations in full swing

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – Winchester residents are being treated to daily construction at their local public school in the centre of town, as the school undergoes renovations years in the making.

Last February, the Upper Canada District School Board, (UCDSB) announced that it had finally received Ministry of Education approval to go ahead with the Winchester Public School childcare project.

The plan is to upgrade the field beside the school as well as build a new addition which will be the home for Happy Face Nursery School. The local nursery school currently has locations in: Chesterville,

Morrisburg, Nationview, North Stormont and Roxmore.

The municipality has been working with the UCDSB for several years to come up with a plan that would be beneficial to the town as well as to Happy Face Nursery.

This spring, all the plans came together with school board and municipality in agreement about how to go forward.

The original idea was announced back in November of 2015. The renovations will include a three-room childcare centre addition to the existing school building.

At the moment, the most startling site for Winchester residents is the sight of the school's soccer field being worked over by a bulldozer from McDonald Brothers Construction.

Continued on page 2



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Treat time in Chesterville

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – It was treat time in Chesterville when the BeaverTails' Mobile visited the parking lot of the Chesterville Pharmachoice on July 6 and 7. For a few hours each day, visitors and residents were able to enjoy a sweet treat and

take advantage of some in-store specials and contests in the pharmacy.

Shannon Barkley, pharmacy front of shop manager, explained she was approached by BeaverTails to have their mobile unit visit the village, noting that the response both days was "awesome". During a July 6 interview with *The Chesterville Record*, she



It was worth the wait as people lined up in the Chesterville Pharmachoice parking lot for the opportunity to enjoy a BeaverTails' pastry on July 6.

Thompson Goddard Photo

Winchester Public School renovations

Continued from the front

When the school renovation is complete, the field will be home to swing sets, a basketball court, triple long jump, a soccer pitch, baseball field as well as a play area. The existing parking lot will be extended to allow for staff and on street parking from Louise Street and Clarence Street and there will be a new school bus pick up and drop off lane to improve safety for the students.

The school board will be leasing parts of Louise, Clarence and York streets.

York and part of Louise Street will be changed into one-way streets.

In addition to the child care project, Winchester Public School's existing infrastructure will also undergo capital improvements including a gym floor replacement, updated roofing, video security installation as well as new doors, new boilers and new rooftop mechanical units, painting, exterior site signage and classroom sinks. Improved parking and landscaping are also part of the project scope.

This project represents a \$5.4 million investment in the school and is part of the province's capital investment program to support students with better learning spaces.



McDonald Brothers Construction is building the new addition to the Winchester Public School. The addition will be home of the Happy Face Nursery School. Morin Photo

Canada Day fireworks in Moose Creek

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

MOOSE CREEK – Residents of the Moose Creek area were once again treated to a spectacular fireworks display on Canada Day 2021. The Moose Creek Recreational Association (MCRA) asked people to watch from their homes and not park or watch the fireworks at the Recreation Centre.

During the evening, volunteers from the MCRA walked throughout the community providing residents and visitors with a coupon for the beach at Countryside Adventures as well as free freezies and popcorn.

Lorena Sollows, president of MCRA, told *The Chesterville Record* that the budget for the fireworks this year was \$6000 with the largest donation coming from GFL Environmental.



One of the MCRC Canada Day Fireworks' volunteers is shown just prior to leaving the Moose Creek Recreation Centre on July 1. Volunteers handed out popcorn, freezies and a coupon for Countryside Adventures to residents and visitors. Courtesy Photo

explained people were lined up for the 11 a.m. opening, and since then, people have been lined up non-stop for those delicious Canadian pastries. She explained how the event was planned to spread some summer-time happiness, and in-store

there were some customer specials as well.

Barkley mentioned there was a 10 per cent price reduction, a free re-useable bag with a \$10 purchase. Additionally customers received a ticket for a draw with any \$25 or more

purchase; excluding prescriptions, gift cards, lottery tickets and St. Albert's Cheese. The winner of the draw for a back rest was Judy Munroe. Youngsters were able to guess the number of jellybeans in a jar, with

Howie winning a child's variety gift bag for guessing closest to the actual number of jellybeans.

On behalf of the Chesterville Pharmachoice, Barkley expressed thanks to the community for their ongoing support.

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Hoople Creek habitat protection discussed

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

LONG SAULT – During the June 23rd South Stormont council meeting, John Sliter made a presentation concerning a proposal to revive the walleye fish population in Hoople’s Creek. The walleye is a freshwater fish and a member of the perch family that prefer cool deep waters; native to Canada and the more northern areas of the United States, they are one of the “most popular food fish in the local area,” according to Sliter.

Sliter explained how the Hoople Bay and Hoople’s Creek area are locations where walleye return to spawn each year. He noted the problems associated with the decline of this species of fish dates to the

St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project which flooded vast areas where the walleye would return to spawn on a yearly basis.

Sliter provided a timeline between 1958 and the present of where and when the walleye population fluctuate, and attempts have been made to either create or enhance the spawning area that resulted in a dramatic increase in the walleye population. He noted “tens of thousands of walleye” were returning to the Hoople Creek area to spawn each April.

In 2010 there was a rapid decline in numbers which are attributed to several factors that Sliter explained include fluctuating water levels, nitrogen runoff from tile drainage and the loss of a fence barrier to “land adjacent to the spawning

area in Hoople’s Creek.” Sliter mentioned other aquatic animals, such as frogs, turtles and other fish “along this area of the St. Lawrence River, bays and tributaries are also affected by these factors. He commented how “unfortunately these environmental issues are not afforded priority over other interests.”

Sliter described a four-point plan which begins with the assessment of the spawning grounds, monitoring the fish run for two years, restoration of the habitat and stocking with walleye three-inch fingerlings, and monitoring subsequent fish runs.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources designate Hoople Bay to be a fish sanctuary during the

spawning season with Sliter commenting having land adjacent to the area designated as “No trespassing for fishing or hunting purposes” would be beneficial in the restoration of walleye in this location.

He mentioned how a group of concerned individuals have formed Friends of Hoople Creek, a not-for-profit organization, which will work with stakeholders to have a site assessment done, perhaps install underwater cameras and re-construct a barrier to the area.

Sliter mentioned the municipality may be able to assist in this undertaking by assisting both in a financial manner and consultation with other stakeholders. He did mention South Nation Conservation has agreed to coordinate a meeting with



John Sliter displays a walleye caught in local waters. Walleye are sometimes incorrectly referred to as pickerel and grow to 31 inches with a weight of 20 pds.

Courtesy Photo

these organizations and Friends of Hoople Creek agencies soon. can be found on their Facebook page.

NS second shot at funding

Continued from the front

“We’re back at the table working on this,” Wert said. “There are other avenues that are being explored. The partners in this project are very well respected, so I have not given up hope yet. We’re in the early stages of recalculating what direction we’re going in right now.”

All council members agreed that the news was disappointing. Coun. Steve Densham, who has been pushing for the township to hire an economic development officer for quite some time now, said this is another example of where having an EDO could have been beneficial.

“It’s no surprise to me that we were declined,” Coun. Roxane Villeneuve said. “I believe our local [Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry] MPP Jim McDonell has

dropped the ball on this. It’s unfortunate that we didn’t have a political strong hand. I’m very disappointed with our local representative that he couldn’t get this in place. It’s very unfortunate. However, I’m happy to hear that he’s reached out for the stakeholders to reapply. This could have been different, if it had been handled differently.”

Wert quickly responded to Villeneuve’s attack on McDonell. He said that the local MPP had reached out and that he has “had a hand in getting this thing looked at.”

As for the letter from Walker, it included a lengthy explanation of why North Stormont’s application was denied. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) received 210 applications from across the province. Together, the 210 applications represented a funding request of roughly \$2.6 billion. The province’s budget had been increased, but only to \$234.24

million, which is far less than needed to approve every application.

“I can assure you that, in assessing the project submissions, my ministry used consistent criteria to assess each and all projects,” Walker said. “Our top priority was to connect the most customers, as broadly across the province as possible, in the most economically feasible way. To account for these factors, we used the OEB’s Profitability Index Indicator to guide us in recommending the most suitable projects for eligibility under Phase 2.”

Chief administrative officer Craig Calder, has provided a brief update on the Natural Gas Project in his report to council for the July 13 regular meeting. Here he’s noted that the township is working with all levels of government, as well as the township’s energy and landfill partners, to complete the application for the second round of funding.

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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.

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Looking beyond

Working from home was once considered a privilege and only a very select few would ever be given that opportunity.

That environment has changed over the past year and more companies are embarking on the ability to provide better work life balances for their employees.

Not having to commute to and from work is a large factor but the flexibility of being able to work flexible hours or having the opportunity to put a load of laundry in on your break or starting your meal prep adds to the benefits of working from home.

Albeit there are challenges. For some being able to still accomplish their work without being distracted can be a struggle, but if you truly value the added quality time it is time to figure out how to make this work.

I spoke with a colleague last week, and mentioned how productive many employees were and how much happier they seem to be with being able to have flexibility in their schedules, and bonus' that don't affect the workflow but let them know in a small way that they are truly appreciated. His come back was he could not wait to get all his staff back in the office. He was struggling with missed deadlines, lack of employee engagement and his overall unhappiness with his staff.

There are always two sides to the story but if you have employees, and your business can allow for that flexibility you may be able to provide those extra little perks that let your employees know you value them even if you cannot always financially show it the way you would like to.

The government has announced that on average small businesses have taken on an additional \$200,000 in debt due to the COVID pandemic. That is not an easy number to bounce back from. That is one more hurdle for small businesses.

These new programs can be beneficial but don't be fooled. There have been regulations around alot of these programs and many small businesses do not qualify for them.

With projections that food costs will rise by six percent in 2021, and all necessities are on the rise as well. The advantages of working from home may just outweigh the negatives.

Employees can also embrace the efforts and if you do enjoy having that little extra freedom and maybe a few extra recharge days then this initiative will help.

There must be appreciation from both sides but sometimes it may be the little things that make the biggest difference so whether you are the employer or employee consider the options that can help with both sides of the equation. The financial burden is on both sides and working together will benefit all involved.

Consider the impact and improved quality of life that can be shared and enjoy the oportunities that can arise from the once elite group that were able to enjoy these benefits.

Linda Vogel

It's all in the mug

I am not superstitious. I do not believe what I do, what I think, the way I am sitting and the pattern on my lucky shirt has any effect on anything, however the past tragedy of the Montreal Canadiens not winning the Stanley Cup may be tied to what happened to my favourite glass mug.

Despite my declared non-belief in superstition, I have empirical proof that there is some factual connection between my mug and the Canadien's unexpected and surprise run for the cup.

I know. This is a startling bit of information that may change the way I think about everything.

As the Toronto Maple Leafs got ready to knock the Canadiens out of the first round of this year's playoff hockey, I watched and held my breath in between sips of water from my special mug. The mug was a beer mug that was a

Christmas present long ago that I would occasionally put beer in. I am not a beer drinker, but it was a nice mug.

The Canadiens won the series and the number of sips of cool Inkerman well water equaled the number of shots on goal by the Montreal team.

When that playoff series was over I cautiously started to think that it was just a happy coincidence that Montreal vanquished the evil Toronto Maple Leafs while my mug watched from the sidelines.

Next was Las Vegas.

For that series, even though I had changed my socks at least once and was wearing a variety of pants and shirts, I made sure to keep my mug close and it appears to have paid off.

Not being an expert in statistical evidence I could at least notice, even though it was beyond my understanding, and had to admit that whenever my

mug was present my team came out on top.

Also, I noticed that xplornet went off in the final moment for a second in every sudden death period and came back on just as Montreal was celebrating a surprise game winning goal. Another coincidence? I was starting to think there was some kind of cosmic machinery working away pulling the Montreal Canadiens inevitably toward the Stanley Cup.

Then an event happened that changed everything.

It was a very windy afternoon in North Dundas. We were having a small barbecue involving hot dogs. We were sitting outside enjoying a few moments of countryside tranquility. And yes, I had with me my magic mug.

When we had had enough of the great outdoors we packed everything up including a tablecloth and headed indoors.

I placed the increasingly sacred magic mystical mug

on a side table and gathered up the tablecloth. As tablecloths tend to do on a windy day it flapped around as I gathered it in my arms.

As I pulled the last of the cloth into my chest one corner of it snapped in the now gale force winds, and you guessed it; the corner of the tablecloth snapped out against all odds and smacked the mug which went flying.

As glass mugs tend to do when they hit the ground, it broke into a few thousand pieces and all that luck was shattered along with it.

The rest is history. Tampa was able to squeeze by the Canadiens and make off with the Stanley Cup in the final series and I have to wonder how things would have turned out had the Montreal mug survived the barbecue.

Remember it was only by one goal that Tampa slipped by the Canadiens.

One goal, one mug, one Stanley Cup. You have to wonder.

Joseph Morin

Life and death, and the love that's left behind

I've been thinking a lot about life recently. My Great Uncle Ross died on June 24. He was my paternal grandmother's brother. She had several. She's gone, too. She died in 2009. Twelve years ago. There are several siblings in that family, and I think most have passed, which, of course, makes me sad. But then I think more about it, about life, the cycles of birth and death and birth and death. Generations and generations of people coming and going, each with their own set of hopes and dreams, challenges and problems, loves and losses.

Uncle Ross touched a lot of lives. He was a son, a brother, a husband, a father, a grandfather, and, I believe, a great grandfather. He was a worker, a member of the community, a volunteer, a doer. He was a lot of things, different things to different people. When I think of Uncle Ross, I think about the times that he and his wife would visit my Nan. He was always kind to me, and I don't know if this is actually true, and I'm guessing not because life is hard, but he always seemed to be so full of that "life is great" enthusiasm that not everyone possesses. I think it's the thing that allows some people to positively change the world around

them, which I believe he did. While I'm sad that he's gone, I'm grateful to have known him. I'm grateful for the times he organized fun outings for the extended family, like horse carriage rides in the snow. That was awesome. I don't remember how old I was, but it impacted me, leaving a positive memory in its place.

So, where am I going with this? I'm not really certain of that, but the thing that I keep coming back to is who he was when he was alive. Who did he interact with and what did those interactions look like? What was he like as a teenager? How did he relate to my Nan when they were younger? Who was he, and who were they when they were my age? Did they wonder these things about their family members who had passed long ago? Will my children's children or my great nieces and nephews have similar thoughts when I'm gone? What value is in a life if it's only here for a brief time and then gone?

I think the value is in what they leave behind. Sure, we won't get to know everything they were thinking or feeling. We won't necessarily know their stance on this issue or that, but there are things we do know. We know how they made us feel

when we were with them. We know who they were by the words they used and the actions they took. My uncle was a good, kind, man. He believed in giving back to his community and to his family. He left a mark. There may not be a statue, or a school named after him, and, for most of us, that sort of after-death recognition isn't likely to happen. But he made a difference. The peoples whose lives he touched are different because of him. I'm different. He made me see that men can be good. I think he might have given me hope. Either way, I'm grateful.

So where does this leave me? Sad. At peace. Curious. Sad, again, but happy in a grateful sort of way. I miss my family, the ones who have died. I have memories and, for the most part, those provide a certain amount of peace. I'm still curious about who they were – the parts of them we didn't get to see, which, in turn, brings me back to a sadness for the lost opportunities where, if had, I could have gotten to know them more deeply. Life is precious, and it's short, even if you do live to be 90 years old. It ends. Love as deeply as you can for as long as you can.

Sandy Casselman

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From the left: Bernadette Van Gorp, Janice Beaverdam and Nancy Chapman are pictured following a boardroom meeting at the CLSC office in Cornwall.
Thompson Goddard Photo

Another successful online auction

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CORNWALL — The 50+ Community Club (50+ CC) recently completed another successful online auction and was able to provide Community Living Stormont County (CLSC) with \$1,000.

Bernadette Van Gorp, assistant executive director for CLSC, expressed her appreciation and thanks for the donation. She noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic there has been little opportunity for holding fundraising activities as their focus has been on ensuring client safety and well-being.

“We were honoured” to be approached by 50+ CC president, Janice Beaverdam regarding the online fundraising auction. She continued how the “club’s kindness and generosity to CLSC” has meant a lot to the organization.

Beaverdam explained how the online auction for CLSC received a good response from the community. She thanked her granddaughter Danielle Beaverdam for her assistance in setting up the auction and the CLSC for their media marketing of the event. Club secretary Nancy Chapman was “absolutely delighted at its success and the response of the community.”

Van Gorp commented CLSC supports

developmentally challenged people 18 years of age and older to live independently in either staffed group homes or apartments as well as community-based activities and assistance in securing employment. Van Gorp explained that services and programming is individualized so as to “meet the specific needs of each person.”



CHESTERVILLE RECORD SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE

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Inaugural farmers' market at Smokie Ridge Vineyard

Smokie Ridge Vineyard held their first farmers' market on Sat., July 10. The vineyard already hosts several different kinds of events and the farmers market is a new attraction for weekend visitors. The vineyard is located at 10090 Cameron Road in North Dundas. Here Carol Whelan poses with some of her creations from Caro Design.

Morin Photo


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TAGWI – Valedictorian speech

Good evening friends, family, staff and of course my fellow Tagwi 2021 Graduates. We are gathered here today to celebrate Tagwi’s graduating class of 2021. Can you believe we made it? Ever since we were kids, we have dreamed about growing up and becoming adults. I never really understood why people would tell me “Stay a kid as long as you can” but now I know. Meredith Grey said it best “We’re adults. When did that happen? And how do we make it stop?”

Many of us started this journey six years ago on a Tuesday September morning. I remember walking around this “huge” school and needing a map in Grade 7. Oh, and when we saw Grade 12s? we scattered out of their way so fast. And don’t any of you pretend you didn’t, we all did it! Before we knew it, we went from being scared little Grade 7s to being kids who could legally drive. What really amazed me was the freedom when you got your licence, or in other people’s cases, when their friends got their licence. Some of us, it took two tries, others three, I’m not going to name names though. Once we got our own vehicles it was suddenly Tim’s or the Mini Mart every day for lunch. I’m not sure if many of us realized the cumulative cost of a combo from Tim’s everyday or a chicken finger platter from the Mini Mart until we were going five times a week and bank balances dropped. Having a car came with freedom but maybe we didn’t pay enough attention in math classes over the years to budget? Mr. Grayson? Mr. Spencer? Did you retire because you were disappointed in our math skills? Don’t worry I can still tell how to solve for y in y=mx+b!

As graduates, we look back now at the last four years that were filled with many periods of us freaking out, but also enjoyment and entertainment most of the time. In a *Tale of Two Cities* Charles Dickens said it best, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” Mrs. Edwards that one’s for you, just to prove I did in fact pay attention to your class this final quad. Never has this quote been more accurate than in 2021. Really what could be worse, than starting your senior year, wearing a mask, lining up like we were in kindergarten again to get into the school, signing the washroom log every time you had to pee, sanitizing 99 times a day and staying two hockey sticks or 46 Timbits away from your friend. Really? If someone would have told us in Gr. 11, what Gr. 12 was going to look like, we never would have believed them!

That’s enough talk about the “worst of times” though.

We are going to forget about the present right now and take a walk down memory lane. 2017 was the year we started Grade 9 and had all of our high school firsts. First high school classes, first exams, first after school dances, first high school sports teams, first Oscars, first athletic awards, first Tagwi Trek, first running program with Mr. Roy and most importantly first time merging with another school.

By Grade 10, we had become more comfortable ourselves and our place in high school, as now we had the miner niners under us. We were WEB leaders, mentoring Grade 7 students, we tried out for junior sports teams, and when we wanted a break from the cafe, we started a habit of ordering Fat Les’s delivery to the school, where we had to walk to the flagpole to get reception for the debit machine.

Then came Grade 11 and suddenly, we were being asked ‘what do you want to do after high school?’ We demonstrated newfound leadership during spirit days, joined Link Crew, Tagwi Trek, OSLC, Athletic Council and we were allowed to sign up for one of Tagwi’s many SHSMs. We showed our Warrior spirit during pep rallies, the Terry Fox Run, Christmas Spirit Week, countless sports games, March Madness, Country Week, usually sponsored by our poster boy, Farmer Doug, Tagwipalazzo and so much more. If you wanted to join a club, there were many to choose from thanks to our amazing staff - Student Council, the Improv Team, the Tagwi Players, the Social Justice club, the Dance club, the T-sharps, the Gaming club, Alpha, and of course Yearbook where they captured all of our memories that we can look back at in years to come.

As you recall, things were going great and then Covid-19 happened. Most of us thought “hey cool, three-week long march break”!!! Hmmm, yeah, it’s safe to say that didn’t go the way we thought. Suddenly it was no more friends, no more shopping, no more in person activities and what? No parties?

2020-2021 was our senior year, the year we do everything and leave it all out there... It was supposed to be our year to try new things, to push ourselves to study hard so that we could get into a good school, to enjoy the last of everything that made Tagwi feel like home and to walk across the stage to receive that final recognition... it wasn’t.

And yet, we have learned a lot about ourselves during our senior year.

We learned that we can

adapt in the face of adversity, going from two semesters to four quadesters, and dealing with challenges of online learning.

We learned that we can look at the positive, especially when we recognized that we could sleep until noon if we had a spare in the morning or be done for the day at 11:30 a.m. if we had a spare in the afternoon.

We learned that we have amazing school spirit, having played countless rounds of school wide Kahoot, Name That Tune and online Bingo, and that Mr. Ware almost looks as amazing in an elf costume as Mr. Spencer does in a turkey costume. We learned that we are Warriors, and that we’ll find a way to the best of a bad situation.

We learned the importance of little things like time spent with friends in the parking lot at Tim Hortons and how much we missed seeing those people who chose to learn remotely this year. We became aware that things can change in a hurry, so we mustn’t take them for granted. Still, it’s good to know that some things didn’t change: Reese won the Oscar for best smile yet again and Mara maintained her reign as Sass Master.

When we left for ‘spring break’ in April, we really didn’t expect to end up in lockdown for the 3rd time. Not returning to say goodbye to our favourite teachers and standing with our peers in our caps and gowns leaves us all feeling very sad. I wish I could just walk down the halls one more time to chat it up with Mr. Ware – by the way, I hope you are wearing your grad outfit and shoes right now while watching our virtual grad.



Camden Tait is the Valedictorian this year for the 2021 graduating class at TAGWI Secondary School in Avonmore. In this photo she is joined by the school’s principal Ewen McIntosh.

Courtesy Photo

On behalf of my fellow grads, I would like to thank the entire staff for helping us reach this milestone. To our admin and awesome office ladies, our incredible teachers and EAs, our always forgiving custodians, we thank you for making Tagwi so much more than just a place to go each day.

Well, my fellow Warriors, we are no doubt the most resilient class to leave this building. No one

before us and I certainly hope no one after us, will have to live through a world-wide pandemic for their entire senior year of high school. This experience has left us with a better sense of self and certainly perseverance during difficult times. We are all richer for having known each other, and I will miss you all! As you head off to University, College, return to continue your studies at Tagwi, or

join the workplace I wish you the best of luck in your future.

I’d like to finish with this inspirational Mark Twain quote; “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

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Eastern Ontario Health Unit's Dr. Paul Roumeliotis takes the helm at Ontario's Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis ("Dr. Paul"), Medical Officer of Health at the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU), has accepted a new role as president of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), an organization that provides leadership, support and representation for Ontario boards of health and public health units. The new role will be in addition to his current position as Medical Officer of Health at the EOHU.

"I'm honoured to be President of ALPHA," states Dr. Paul. "During our current COVID-19 pandemic, ALPHA's role in advocating for and protecting the health of Ontarians is more important than ever." He adds, "I am looking forward to working with our multiple government and community partners and stakeholders as we plan for and enter the recovery phase of this pandemic." The organization advises and collaborates with

governments and other health organizations to advocate for a strong, effective and efficient public health system across the province. Throughout the pandemic, ALPHA has been a strong voice in the province's public health response to the COVID-19 crisis at both the provincial and local level.

Dr. Paul brings a wealth of experience to the role as ALPHA president. In 2007, he became the Medical Officer of Health and chief executive officer of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) where he is responsible for regional public health program delivery and administration. Early on during the COVID-19 pandemic, he was involved in coordinating the local response and media relations during the federal quarantine of the cruise passengers at the NAV CENTRE in Cornwall. He continues to lead the local COVID-19 response in Eastern Ontario, overseeing and

coordinating local case, testing and contact management, data collection and reporting, outbreak management, emergency measures and a mass immunization strategy for the region. He has also served as a key spokesperson for public health throughout the pandemic.

Dr. Paul sits on multiple provincial and regional COVID-19 committees/tables, advising the chief medical officer of health and other public health authorities and system partners. These include the Provincial Public Health

Measures Table, the Provincial Health System (R5) Table, the Education Sector Preparedness & COVID-19 Outbreak Planning Tables, and Ontario's Provincial Council of Maternal and Child Health.

About the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA):

ALPHA is a not-for-profit organization that provides leadership to the boards of health and public health units in Ontario. ALPHA advises and lends expertise to members on the governance, administration, and management of health

units. The Association also collaborates with governments and other health organizations, advocating for a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in the province. Through policy analysis, discussion, collaboration, and advocacy, ALPHA's members and staff act to promote public health policies that form a strong foundation for the improvement of health promotion and protection, disease prevention and surveillance services in all of Ontario's communities.



Dr. Paul Roumeliotis ("Dr. Paul"), Medical Officer of Health at the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU).

Courtesy Photo

Seeing the impact

Jane Adams

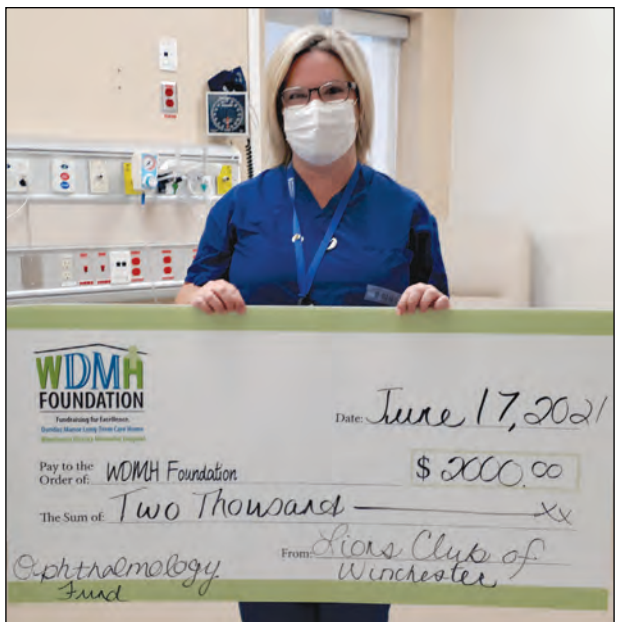
Special to the Record

WINCHESTER – Once again, the Winchester Lions Club has positively impacted the Ophthalmology department at Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH). Recently, the Lions Club provided a \$2,000 gift to the WDMH Foundation's Ophthalmology Fund. The donation will be used to fund the next piece of required equipment.

"The Winchester Lions are proud to be the Knights of the Blind and to support our great hospital in providing vision-related health care," noted the Lions Club executive. WDMH was chosen as a beneficiary for the Club's 'year-end' giving list.

"We are so grateful to the Winchester Lions for their help in ensuring that eye care services and surgeries are available close to home," added foundation managing director Kristen Casselman. "This industrious group has donated \$150,243 to WDMH and we are very thankful as this specialized equipment can be very expensive."

Most recently, the local Lions Clubs helped to purchase a new microscope that is used for cataract and strabismus eye surgeries. It acts as a very high intense magnification that the eye surgeon looks through at the same time as performing the surgery. The new microscope cost \$94,731.21.



Joanne Pollock, registered nurse and team leader in the operating room, accepts a cheque for \$2,000 for the Ophthalmology Fund. Courtesy Photo



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Mohawk council voices opinion on water tower symbol

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – “We support the decision made by your council to discontinue the use of the Indigenous chief on the town of Iroquois water tower and further encourage you to discontinue the use of this imagery if it exists elsewhere, as well,” Mohawk council of Akwesasne grand chief Abram Benedict said in a letter to the Municipality of South Dundas.

The letter, which came in response to a query from Mayor Steven Byvelts in early June, was read aloud at the end of the June 28 council meeting’s open session. Byvelts had contacted Benedict for his opinion on the water tower’s controversial Indigenous chief symbol, as council had voted to remove it despite backlash from a vocal group of residents. Benedict took the matter to the Mohawk council of Akwesasne for discussion and their response is contained in the letter.

“You’ve asked for our position on the decision made by your council. While the Mohawk council of Akwesasne appreciates the connection of our two

communities, the Indigenous chief image being used on the water tower is not at all representative of the Mohawk community of Akwesasne,” Benedict said in the letter. “The image depicted represents the plains-style Indigenous man and its use is not appropriate to represent the Mohawks of Akwesasne or the larger Iroquois Confederacy. Sadly, it was a common practice in the past for such a late-1800s stereotypical imagery to represent all distinctly and culturally different Indigenous Peoples from North America.”

Noting that she spends a lot of time on social media where she’s seen many of the discussions taking place about the water tower, Deputy-Mayor Kirsten Gardner said she would encourage people, if they still want to discuss this subject, to read the many books and articles available on Indigenous history. She expressed concern for those who may still be using outdated and incorrect informational resources.

“A lot of the history that we were taught as kids was not the history that actually happened, and I’ve noticed

that people are reciting the history that we learned in school as being the truth and it’s not,” Gardner said. “And now the truth is coming out. And I so respect [the Mohawk council of Akwesasne] for speaking to this and putting their opinions down in what can be seen as a very traumatic situation at this time.”

Acknowledging Gardner’s reference to the hundreds of bodies of Indigenous children being discovered at various former residential schools throughout Canada, Coun. Don Lewis said he supported the Mohawk council’s opinion. He also expressed remorse for the losses being uncovered.

“I’m very disappointed in what has happened over the years with all these deaths,” Lewis said. “So, as of tonight, I support what the Mohawks say and there’ll be no more discussion from me on this one.”

Councillor Lloyd Wells also made a statement. However, it remained unclear as to whether he had changed his stance on the issue of the Indigenous water tower.

“I’m kind of confused at

the end of the day, as far as we’re talking about an Indigenous symbol on the tower. Maybe we should direct our concerns to the 714 children that were buried there,” he said. “I’m still up in the air. I really don’t have an issue putting the symbol up there but at the end of the day there’s a lot I learned in the last month that I didn’t realize. It’s nice to see the letter even though it was against my decision. At the end of the day, it’s a tough call. If the community wants to keep doing this, I’m not sure how I’m going to end up at the end of the day.”

Councillor Archie Mellan, who has supported the decision to remove the symbol from the water tower from the beginning, said it’s time to make things right. He said the discovery of the hundreds of dead Indigenous children shows that the decision to remove the symbol was the right thing to do.

“I’ve said a lot on this topic and the only voice that needed to be heard tonight was that of our Indigenous neighbours,” Gardner said. “They’ve spoken loud and clear and I support them with compassion and empathy and with respect.”

North Stormont gets quick tutorial on 211

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BERWICK – The township of North Stormont welcomed 211 outreach coordinator Johanna Bakker to their final meeting in June, where Bakker introduced local politicians to the organization’s many additions and improvements.

With limited time to speak during the June 15 council meeting, Bakker was forced to fly through her presentation, but she managed to make it through each slide, dispensing as much information as possible. A free public information and referral service, 211 is now available throughout Canada through federal funding.

“We want to be that first point of access if you don’t know who to call,” Bakker said, noting that 211 offers callers an opportunity to speak with a certified Information and Referral Specialist from the caller’s region who can provide locally based information.

The service, which runs 24-hours per day, seven days per week, and 365 days of the year, is offered in more than 150 languages, as it can be found throughout all of Canada and parts of the United States. Bakker said the organization meets the quality assurance standards of the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) and is professionally accredited. The specialists undergo two months of training before they ever make their way to

answering their first phone call, she said.

In 2020, 211 handled 301,943 calls in Ontario alone. The organization provides services via phone, online chat, and email. The 211 website includes a directory of more than 60,000 services, which is available to the public. There is information covering community, social, health, and related government services.

The service also tracks caller needs, including those that are not met via the service. Bakker noted that in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG), that there are an “awful lot of people on disability support still looking for help,” which shows a misalignment between current government supports and resident needs. Information like this, she said, “can be shared with funders and planners to ensure that dollars are invested where they are most needed.”

Mayor Jim Wert thanked Bakker for her presentation, noting that 211 is “a great program.” He also said North Stormont would post the link to the service on its website.

“When you don’t know where to turn, call 211. We want to help,” Bakker said.

- In Memoriam -

James W. Godkin

April 21, 1937 – July 16, 2020

One year ago, you left, and my heart was broken. My dear beloved, life for me will never be the same.

I take one step at a time, one step slowly forward. They say time heals all wounds. That may be, but you are always on my mind and in my heart every morning and every night. And there you will always be. I love you and I miss you, Jim. I love you so much.

Love, Linda

Obituary

KATHY CARKNER

Peacefully at home on Monday, July 5, 2021 with her family by her side following a courageous battle with cancer, Kathy Carkner (nee Stewart) of Winchester, age 64. Loving wife of Dennis Carkner. Loving mother of Katie Lesage (Jason), Philip Carkner (Janice) and Matt Carkner (Kary). Beloved daughter of Betty Stewart and the late Kenneth Stewart. Dear sister of Dave Stewart (Greta), Larry Stewart (Elizabeth), Perry Stewart (Joanne), Jeff Stewart (Donna Sternbauer), Holly Hebert (Jack) and John Stewart. Kathy will be fondly remembered by her grandchildren Kylie, Cody, Dylan, Lily, Weston, Chase and Corbin. Kathy is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Due to the Coronavirus restrictions funeral arrangements will be private. Interment will be at Morewood Presbyterian Cemetery. Donations to Winchester Hospital or the Morewood Presbyterian Church would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. If you are making your donation online or by cheque directly to the charity, please include the following note with your gift “please notify the family”. Online condolences may be made at marsdenmclaughlin.com.

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OPP Conducts Operation Safe Driver Campaign July 11-17

ORILLIA —The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reporting a significant increase in commercial motor vehicle (CMV)-related fatal collisions - a clear sign that many drivers are disregarding the additional risks these types of collisions carry.

From Jan. 1 to June 30, the OPP responded

to 32 fatal crashes that involved a CMV, compared to 23 such collisions at this time last year.

Heading into the second half of 2021, 2,956 CMV-involved crashes have occurred, up nine per cent over 2020 and accounting for close to 13 per cent of the total number of collisions on OPP-patrolled

roads this year.

Improper lane changes, following too closely, speeding and driver inattention on the part of CMV operators and drivers of other involved vehicles are leading factors in this year's large truck-related collisions.

A CMV can weigh in excess of 60,000 kg and,

travelling at speeds of 80 to 105 km/h, generates significant momentum and energy, increasing the risk of fatality when involved in a crash with other vehicles.

During the one-week Operation Safe Driver campaign, OPP officers will be highly visible conducting enforcement and education aimed at CMV operators and other drivers, exercising

zero tolerance with any motorists observed engaging in risky driving in and around these large vehicles. CMV inspections will also be conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Transportation.

Operation Safe Driver is led by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), with enforcement and education initiatives conducted throughout North

America. The goal of the campaign is to enhance CMV and non-commercial vehicle driver safety.

On OPP-patrolled roads over the last five-year period (2016-2020) they found improper lane changes were the leading contributing factor in CMV collisions, and Seventy eight per cent of CMV collisions occurred on provincial highways.

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SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

Dream of walking through a field of gold

Jakob Vogel is no stranger to the agricultural world. He grew up on a hog and cash crop farm near Apple Hill and with grandparents on a dairy farm. With a family that is very active within the agricultural associations and his love of agriculture and most intensely on dairy there had to be a way to draw his nonfarm wife into his realm.

He started by having her attend the local dairy barbecues and Junior Farmers' events to meet other people with similar interests. When he married in 2019, his bride Stephanie was gently introduced in this different way of life. With his full-time employment and passion for agriculture he and his wife Stephanie wanted to be more involved in the farming community.

Yes, you may say, this is not new, a farm child marries a nonfarm spouse. That is true, but it can go one of two ways. The nonfarm spouse can either remain to not be an active part of the farming operation or they can bring new initiatives to the existing operations, and you see opportunities stem from that.

With Stephanie being a teacher, she wanted to be able to share in her husband's passion. Her words until that point were "I can make meals, that can be my contribution." Preparing meals was always a much-appreciated contribution but as they prepared to move forward with their adult lives, they wanted more than to just be occasionally involved in farm activities together.

These two motivated and enthusiastic people have combined their passions and



Jakob and Stephanie Vogel stand amongst their sunflowers that they are so proud to offer for your pleasure. The grand opening is scheduled for July 23. They have added many specialty events and they encourage you to check their Facebook page or website to see the opportunities available.

Vogel Photo

ventured into a new business with the support of local Agritourism initiatives. With agritourism increasing its portion of the agricultural promotion this is an opportunity unlike any other.

Their website quotes "Fields of Gold has been a vision many years in the

making, which combines Jakob's green thumb/love of farming with Stephanie's desire to spread joy and positivity with everyone she meets."

With 15 acres of sunflowers, they have many irons in the fire. People will be able to book a photo session with their

significant other, or family. Enjoy the outdoor skies. Take a walk through the fields and enjoy the beauty and tranquility that these stunning plants have to offer.

Fresh cut sunflowers will be available during the peak season.

When talking with Stephanie and noting that 2021 is the year of the sunflower and how appropriate it was to have this venture starting in 2021, she was well aware that was a highlight of the year. Jakob on the other hand was just excited to have found that initiative that allowed both to do what they love together. As Jakob puts it "she is the brains, I am the brawn."

Sunflowers symbolize adoration, loyalty, and longevity. The meaning of sunflowers stems from the sun itself. Sunflowers are known for being "happy" flowers and making them a perfect gift to bring joy to your day. These attributes show through in this pairing of the minds with Jakob and Stephanie.

What adventure piques your interest? Offering the opportunity to walk through the fields? To feel like you have taken over the world, while enjoying the fresh breath of country air with the splendor of beautiful sunflowers? Or the desire to take selfies and share on social media?

Not to give away all their hidden treasures, the couple invites you to come and visit their "Fields of Gold" and enjoy all the beauty and passion of their new venture. Check them out on Facebook at Fields of Gold, on their website at fieldsofgold.ca or email at info@fieldsofgold.ca.

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.

Getting ready for the Williamstown Fair

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

WILLIAMSTOWN – As in 2020, the Williamstown Fair will be held in the format of a Drive-Thru event due to the pandemic. The fair will be held on Aug. 7 between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. This year's St. Lawrence Valley Agricultural Society (SLVAS) president Chelsea Hope was happy to share with *The Chesterville Record* that it will, once again, be a free event for anyone that wants to attend and hopes that the community once again enjoys the fair spirit that will be on full display.

Hope continued that it is anticipated there would be

"more community groups and individuals" participating in the 2021 drive-thru event. She continued that there will be a "free tree giveaway at the exit gate" provided to people as a result of the partnership with the township of South Glengarry.

Unlike other years where the Scarecrow Contest entries are placed outside of people's homes and place of business, this year entries will be included as displays for the Drive-Thru. Information on the Home and Garden Class Listing is now available on the Fair's website at williamstownfair.ca. Hope mentioned that the number

of classes available has been doubled for 2021. The 4-H Show, Glengarry Holstein Show, Western Games and English Horse shows will take place at the fairgrounds as per usual but will all be livestreamed throughout the weekend over social media as they will not be open to the public.

Information on the Williamstown Fair Facebook page indicated there will be the opportunity to purchase "fair gear" such as bucket hats, t-shirts, hoodies, etc. at the Williamstown Fairgrounds on Saturdays between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and it will also be set up Aug. 7 across the street from the

Williamstown Fire Hall; as a drive-up as people leave the grounds.

Throughout its history, Canada's oldest annual fair, organized by the SLVAS, has sponsored sports' events including "a marathon race featuring the famous Canadian long-distance runner, Tom Longboat" in 1908, livestock shows, homecraft competitions and entertainment for people of all ages. Throughout the pandemic, Williamstown has continued to provide entertainment and information for participants in a safe manner.

For more information as it becomes available, please visit their Facebook page or website at www.williamstownfair.ca.



This year, volunteers will be providing people with the opportunity to purchase "fair gear" such as bucket hats, t-shirts, hoodies, etc. at the Williamstown Fairgrounds on Saturdays between 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Courtesy Photo



Rideau Auctions Inc.

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Russell residents get proactive to save library

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – During its last council meeting in June, the township of Russell’s politicians welcomed resident Cynthia MacRae who spoke about a campaign to save the local library.

“I represent the team of eight dedicated women that launched the Save the Russell Library Campaign,” MacRae said. “The intent of the campaign was to be proactive and informative so the perspective of township residents could be taken into account early, as planning for the recreation complex proceeds.”

MacRae’s group, which includes Joyce Cameron, Lynda Kemp, Karen Lovenuk, Lynn McKinnon, Jane Patterson, Kim Wijsman, and Chris Windover, started the campaign in response to the news that the future Russell Recreation Complex will have a library that could lead to an amalgamation of the already existing branches. The campaign kicked off on April 8, MacRae said.

MacRae’s presentation included a written report, along with survey results and resident testimonials. The objectives of the campaign included being proactive and informing council of residents’ views before the final plans for the new complex are set.

“I appreciate very much that you were able to get your group together and do this incredible analysis, if you will, of information that you received,” Mayor Pierre Leroux said. “I think that’s very important while we move forward with discussions and community engagement in the future. It’s nice to know that there’s a lot of engagement and I’m looking forward to having those discussions.”

During the group’s 54-day website campaign, roughly 1,063 residents expressed support for maintaining separate branches. The website campaign ran from April 8 to May 31. In addition to providing background information, the website included an online form for residents to complete, as a paper petition had been ruled

out due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

“We’ve had a library in the village core since the early 1800s,” Coun. Cindy Saucier said. “I thought that was kind of interesting. And as a user of the library, I also value it very much. I’m in many groups that are held in the library.”

MacRae’s presentation included a list of reasons to save the library ranging from sentimental to logistical. It was noted that the building is only 10 years old and built to be a library. It’s close to schools and residential areas, making it accessible by walking and cycling. The Russell Library, the group said, is a cherished hub.

“I love grassroots movements,” Coun. Mike Tarnowski said. “When it comes to the community, it’s great to see people come together, and it’s amazing what can be accomplished when it comes really from the community as a whole. So, congratulations on the efforts and all the work that went into doing that. It’s definitely appreciated.”

Tarnowski, who is also a member of the library’s board of directors, noted the absence of information about cost. He said that when it comes down to a decision, council will need to weigh cost versus service value.

The report testimonials included a 75-year-old resident who said the library is massively important for people in this age bracket because it’s easy to walk to and because it’s become an integral part of their life. At the other end of the spectrum, a village mom said her children love walking to the library after school and on Saturdays. Others talked about the safety of the library, along with all its services, including free access to the internet.

So far, there has been no official talk at the council level about closing the Russell Library, but it has been implied that with the construction of the Russell Recreation Complex, there is a possibility of amalgamation, which could lead to the potential closure of the Russell location. At this time, the question has not been put on the table for council to consider and no decision has been made.

The group can be found on Facebook under Save the Russell Library.

Russell’s Go Fund Me has a long way to go

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – The township of Russell’s Go Fund Me page is up and running, but there’s a long way to go before hitting the \$100,000 target.

Local politicians agreed to the new fundraising platform during their last council meeting in June. With the loss of

fundraising time and opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, director of parks and recreation Céline Guitard, suggested the online format in order to raise as much money as possible for the construction of the township’s Jonathan Pitre Park project.

The fundraiser, which started earlier this month, has raised just over \$4,000 as of July 11. The Go Fund Me

campaign will run through to Sept. 5 and Mayor Pierre Leroux is hoping that people from Canada and from around the world, that followed Jonathan Pitre’s story might consider contributing to the fundraiser.

“I think this is a good initiative,” Leroux said during the June 21 council meeting. “I wouldn’t be surprised if we see funds coming in from all over the world.”

The township’s Go Fund Me page provided a brief history of both Pitre and the accessible park that’s being named after him. A former resident of Russell, Pitre “fought a difficult and long battle with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) and unfortunately passed on April 8, 2018. He is known as the Butterfly Child due to his disease, which made his skin as fragile as a butterfly’s wings. His strength, courage, and determination during his fight inspired us all to thrive, no matter the different barriers we may face.”

The Jonathan Pitre Park, which is part of the municipality’s larger Russell Recreation Complex project, is estimated to cost upwards of \$250,000. The “one-of-a-kind” accessible park will include accessible play structures at roughly \$89,000, exercise components for roughly \$19,000, and a rubberized surface that is expected to cost roughly \$143,000. Guitard said there would be further expenses to accommodate the addition of tennis and basketball courts, pathway and parking lot paving, benches, trees, and flowers.

Visit the municipality’s website at russell.ca or contact the township directly for more information, and a link to the Go Fund Me page.

Fair time in Russell!

Carolyn Thompson
Villager Staff

RUSSELL – For 163 years, the Russell Fair, organized by the Russell Agricultural Society, has brought fun and enjoyment combined with celebrating the role of agriculture in the community. Planning for the 2021 Russell fair is underway; it will be taking place from Aug. 20-22. RAS president Mhairi Rowland mentioned that it will be an in-person fair this year. She explained in 2020 that COVID-19 pandemic restrictions resulted in the Society holding a virtual fair and as such participation in the virtual event was low. Therefore, the decision was made by the RAS to hold, if possible given pandemic precautions, an in-person Russell Fair in 2021.

While fair plans were being formulated over the past several months, the Society has been working closely with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) and keeping a close eye on restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19. Rowland explained it was their expectation that Ontario



File Photo

should be in Stage 3 of re-opening plan by fair time. She continued there will be a few changes at the fair, including the cancellation of some events and the need to follow Covid-19 protocols.

On Friday evening there will be a local talent show in the shelter, with the bar open in that location on Friday and Saturday. Education Day and Homecraft displays will be available for viewing in the Curling Club. Rowland mentioned that the Saturday entertainment includes displays of

antiquities with performances by the Superdogs, Little Ray’s Nature Centre in Ottawa, along with the walking dinosaur and on the Sunday the Shilo Club “will bring a Gymkhana.”

The Russell Agricultural Society is “currently exploring the feasibility of hosting a Youth Sheep Show and a Cattle Show according to Rowland who disclosed that the Homecraft prize book and registration is now available on the organization’s website located at www.russellfair.com under ‘Exhibitions’.

Admission will be by donation only, with Rowland saying the goal of the 2021 Russell Fair is to provide people with an opportunity to safely enjoy an outdoor community event and to “give back to you, our loyal members and supporters.” She mentioned how the Russell Agricultural Society is always looking for new members and volunteers and asks for those interested in joining the organization to contact an RAS member.

More information on the 2021 Russell Fair is available on their website or Facebook page.

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