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Briefly

Tractor ride in St. Albert

ST. ALBERT – On Sat., Aug. 14, beginning at 10 a.m., a parade will be hosted by the Vintage Iron & Traditions of Eastern Ontario.

Lead by club president François Latour, it will run from 10 a.m. to noon and will leave from the St-Albert Community Centre, 201 Main St. in St-Albert to Chrysler; the round trip is around 15 km. Last year there were 118 tractors in the parade and organizers are expecting more this year.

For more information call François Latour at 613-720-1845.

Iroquois Apple Festival

IROQUOIS – Get ready for the Iroquois Apple Festival on Sat., Sept. 18.

Vendors may register for the event by contacting Christine Hartle at 613-803-6835 or by emailing her at christinehartle@yahoo.ca.

Roller skating at Chesterville Arena

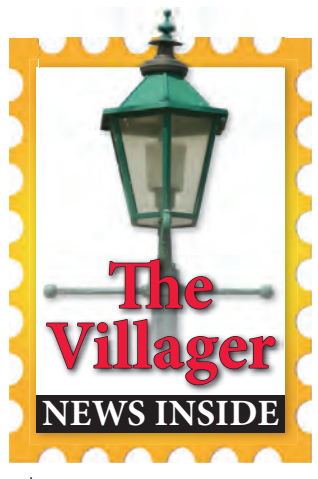
CHESTERVILLE – Looking for some summertime fun? Then check out Friday night Roller Skating at the Chesterville Arena 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Friday between July 23 and August 27.

Admission is free, helmets strongly recommended and a skate lending library available.

For more information call Aaron Dellah by phone at 613-441-2021 or aaron@dellah.ca.

THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD

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South Dundas Roundabout Project gets official nod

The Municipality of South Dundas Roundabout and Streetscaping Project officially kicked off with a sod-turning ceremony on July 22. Local dignitaries and project partners gathered in Morrisburg to mark the occasion. Pictured: United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG) infrastructure manager Mike Jans (left), Coco Paving's Dan Byvelds, Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry (SDSG) MPP Jim McDonnell, South Dundas Mayor Steven Byvelds, SDG warden Al Armstrong, SDSG MP Eric Duncan, and SDG transportation director Ben de Haan.

Casselmann Photo

North Dundas focuses on drinking water capacity before it becomes an issue

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – The anticipated growth in North Dundas has created concern about ensuring the municipalities' drinking water and sewage system is up to the challenge of more users.

North Dundas councillors and Public Works' staff has started out on a plan to get ready for any water and sewage issues in the future.

The municipality has already identified several different ways to deal with the new growth.

North Dundas has hired J.L. Richards and Associates to conduct a study covering the next 20 years regarding water needs.

In order to have good drinking water in the future, there are several options available to council.

Continued on page 2

Roundabout under construction in South Dundas

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – There were a host of dignitaries visiting the Municipality of South Dundas last Thursday to officially kickoff the already started Morrisburg roundabout project.

"I give a lot of credit to our previous council and [South Dundas economic development officer] Rob Hunter, without who we wouldn't be here today," Mayor Steven Byvelds said during the July 22 gathering. He also acknowledged the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG), as well as the provincial and federal governments for their role in making this transformation possible.

Byvelds was joined by Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry (SDSG) MP Eric Duncan, SDSG MPP Jim McDonnell, SDG warden Al Armstrong, Coco Paving's Dan Byvelds, SDG transportation director Ben de Haan, and SDG infrastructure manager Mike Jans. Hunter said that although the project has already begun, he thought it would be good to gather everyone together for a sod-turning ceremony to celebrate the momentous occasion.

"This is one of the last major intersections to be retrofitted with a roundabout," McDonnell said.

While the roundabout is the project's main feature, the work being done will transform more than just the cross section

Continued on page 3



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Welcome to Doyle's

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – John and Christina Thompson, joined by employees, dignitaries, friends and family officially opened Doyle's Pub and Eatery at noon on Sat., July 24. During an address to the crowd at the official opening, Christina commented "We're so grateful for the incredible community support and patronage we have received and are so proud to be of service in the hometown that we both love."

Christina continued the business is named "after my sweet mom, Edith

Chambers, whose family nickname was Doyle." Continuing how her mom was the inspiration behind "Doyle's Pub and Eatery and Doyle's Sweet Shop." Christina explained that her "gentle, genuine and quiet" mother treated visitors to her home as family and made sure "no one left hungry when going to Doyle's house to eat," with the goal of providing guests to the business experiencing the warmth, "delicious homemade meals and treats and attention to detail as Doyle would have."

The official opening of the business culminated in months of work which



Celebrating the opening of Doyle's Pub and Eatery are, left to right: Stacy Craig, North Dundas Councillors, Gary Annable, Al Armstrong, and John and Chrisy Thompson, Mayor Tony Fraser and Tina Bell. Morin Photo

transformed the building at 35 Main Street into a location where people could gather for a friendly visit while enjoying a sweet treat or meal in a welcoming atmosphere. While the COVID-19 pandemic

served to slow the progress, nevertheless the entrepreneurial couple carried on with making their long-held dreams of "opening up a little pub in town." Christina thanked

"family, fantastic friends and [their] team of amazing employees" for their support and assistance during the renovation period and "since the time following [their] initial opening" when dealing with the repercussions of Covid 19, commenting "we've had some amazing people in our court throughout it all."

When asked, Christina mentioned Lucky Ron performed on Friday at Doyle's Pub and Eatery with Kelly Latimer and Brian Farquar performing on Saturday. She commented both shows were "very well received" and there are plans to have live entertainment perhaps once or twice monthly soon.

Also in the planning stages are events such as "high teas, paint nights, karaoke, trivia nights and more bands" at Doyle's Pub. She continued people will be able to hold birthday parties for youngsters, where "themed activities" such as "Create Your Own Ice Cream Sundaes or cupcake decorating" will be available in the party packages which can be reserved by contacting the business. She mentioned they are investigating the possibility of bringing in "party supplies and some giftware from local artisans, as well as guest Pop Up Vendors."

For more information, please visit their Facebook page.

ND drinking water capacity

Continued from the front

They could decide to do nothing, which would abruptly end the explosion of growth in the municipality.

In the spring, the municipality had room for 300 water and sewer connections. Since then, 292 connections have been allocated to incoming housing projects leaving only eight connections available.

The decision to have more studies done is the first step in addressing potential issues over the next 20 years.

The municipality has several choices: 1. Do nothing; 2. Expanding the groundwater supply system – additional new well(s); 3. Connecting to other water system – South Dundas; 4. A new surface water treatment plant; 5. Combination of alternative 2 and 3. The municipality has been talking to property owners in the area about testing for potentially new wells if that turns out to be the answer.

The Public Works' report regarding

the need for more studies stated: "Five sites within Morewood Esker and Maple Ridge Esker, were shortlisted for negotiation with the property owners. The township is working toward securing an option to purchase agreement, subject to a successful pumping test. The intent is to perform the pumping test in August. The Ministry of Environment has issued the permit for the pumping test that includes all sites, subject to an agreement with the property owner. It is anticipated that cost of drilling one new production well, pump house, land purchase, hydro/generator and watermain extension will be approximately \$3M to \$4M, but varies greatly depending on the proximity of the well site to our existing watermains and hydro lines.

The option of getting some help from South Dundas is being investigated by the study.

J.L. Richards has reviewed the existing South Dundas water supply and has confirmed that South Dundas has the capacity to supply the North Dundas water supply shortfall. The study revealed that a South Dundas connection would likely be able to supply water beyond the 20-year look

at the North Dundas drinking water situation.

The Public Works' report concluded that even though North Dundas is currently drawing drinking water from eight active wells, that will not be enough to meet the demands expected over the next 20 years. The addition of several new wells will help but is considered to be an interim solution.

The report stated: "For the township to continue to accommodate the growth and provide for water security as well as quality for existing and new residents, it is highly recommended to secure alternate sources of water i.e., surface water from South Dundas."

The next steps identified in the report are: 1. Finalize option to purchase agreement with the property owner; 2. Conduct drill for test well to allow for pumping test; 3. Conduct environmental and field investigations related to watermain extension from South Dundas; 4. Conduct Public Information Centre in fall 2021; 5. Present the study findings and public input to the council; 6. Finalize the EA Study in late 2021 / early 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE TAYLOR ROAD BRIDGE CLOSED

Effective July 26, 2021, Taylor Road Bridge CLOSED to all traffic due to severe structural damage. The decision comes after a recent inspection from Keystone Bridge Management Corp. found perforated truss stringers that bear on the north pier floor beam. South Dundas Council will review the inspection findings and discuss next steps in the coming weeks.

The bridge is located between Gilmour Rd. and Kirker Rd. While Taylor Rd. itself remains open, detours via the cross streets will be necessary. South Branch Rd. also remains unaffected by the bridge closure.



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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.

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Fire destroys part of Winchester's downtown core on July 19, 1907

Ashley Harper
Special to the Record

WINCHESTER – By the early 1900s, Winchester was a thriving village with a population of about 1,100 people. Businesses were prospering in the downtown core (the area around Main and St. Lawrence Streets) and buildings were being erected to accommodate new merchants and tradespeople.

On the 19 July 1907, Winchester suffered a major blow when fire ripped through the village's business section. It originated just before 7:00 p.m. in the stables behind the Commercial Hotel on Main Street and quickly engulfed the structure, spreading to the hotel and the surrounding buildings. Within a short time, a large section of the north side of Main Street was leveled by the flames.

Thankfully, it was a calm night—a strong wind could have put the whole village at risk. Still, the newspapers of the time reported that it was the worst fire in the village's history. Three horses burned to death, but no other lives were lost. It caused an estimated \$50,000 in damages, only some of which was covered by insurance.

An inquiry was made into the cause of the fire, but the results of that inquiry are unknown. *The Ottawa Journal* claimed that arson had been attempted in the weeks prior to the fire.

A number of businesses

were affected by the fire. The Commercial Hotel, formerly known as the Alexandria Hotel, was completely destroyed. It was owned by Mrs. M. Reid and leased to Hiram A. Wallace. Another victim was the Bowen House, situated directly west of the Commercial Hotel and owned by Alexander McDonald.

To the east of the hotels, the tinsmith shop of William Holmes and George Armstrong, the F. S. Manning & Co. general store, and George Hart's law office and residence were all leveled. The medical office and residence of Dr. Peter McLaughlin and the home of Captain Suddaby, both west of the hotels, were also burned.

Fire insurance plans of the village show the devastating effect of the fire. A map from January 1905 depicts a prospering village with a built-up downtown centre, while a map from September 1908 shows the aftermath of the fire more than a year later.

By June of 1909, the Hotel Winchester was erected to replace the Bowen House and Commercial Hotel. It was a temperance hotel, as the village had gone "dry" in 1907. There were several fires in the Hotel Winchester and the top two floors have since burned and been demolished. The remainder of the building is now occupied by the Bank of Montreal.

Ashley Harper is a resident of Winchester with a passion for local history. She is currently a student at Carleton University and serves as past president for the Chesterville and District Historical Society.

Hotel Winchester, c. 1909. The burnt remains of the tinsmith shop, law office, and general store can be seen to the right. To the left is Dr. McLaughlin's residence.

Courtesy Photo



Roundabout in SD

Continued from the front

of County Road 31 and County Road 2. The project also includes a massive overhaul of a portion of County Road 2 located in the village itself. There will be new accessible sidewalks, lighting, as well as trees and other greenery to add to the new aesthetic.

De Haan said the project will not only transform the intersection, but it will give Morrisburg a "proper Main Street" and positively impact South Dundas as a whole. The \$4.9 million project is being funded through money from the federal government (\$1.5 million), the provincial government (\$1.1 million), SDG (\$1.9 million), and South Dundas (\$400,000).

Duncan said his job is to make sure that communities in SDSG, like South Dundas, "get our fair share back for projects like this." The project has taken roughly five years to get to this point, where shovels are in the ground and a major transformation is underway. The former traffic lights have already

been removed. Duncan said he thinks residents and visitors alike "are going to be very impressed with what they see as a finished product."

Coco Paving, the company contracted for the project, started the massive undertaking roughly a month ago. They are expected to be finished by the end of 2021. Hunter said he expects it to be done in November.

While most dignitaries agreed that the changes would improve Morrisburg's look, there was also significant attention given to the expected benefits of a safer experience for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. All commented on the ability of roundabouts to decrease the chances of accidents at intersections. De Haan said the change will mean a "negligible chance of a severe accident at that intersection."

In addition to lauding the safety benefits of roundabouts, Armstrong said the switch from traffic lights to a roundabout also means a better driving experience for both locals and tourists. He said the "continuous driving experience" will provide enjoyment to those travelling along "one of the most beautiful" scenic

routes in Ontario.

With the gathered group in agreement about roundabouts and their ability to make roadways safer, each also took the time to recognize the importance of partnerships. It was noted by each that without the support of the others, the project would never have happened, or at the very least, as Byvelds said, it wouldn't have been done right. He said it was the availability of significant funds that allowed SDG and South Dundas to explore several options before coming to a mutually agreeable design.



Byvelds said that with the roundabout slowing down traffic, drivers passing through will have the time to see that Morrisburg is a great place to stop, visit, and shop. Pointing toward the future and this time next year, Byvelds said the change will serve South Dundas well.

"The plan makes it safer and easier for pedestrians, while also encouraging traffic to stop in and support the local economy," he said. "We're excited to see the results of this investment."

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Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

Since its formation in 1992, Dundas County Hospice (DCH) seeks to provide Dundas County residents and their caregivers with support and assistance as they travel through the various stages of a terminal or life-threatening illness.

Information on their website, located at www.dundascountyhospice.ca, explains the services provided are free and designed to meet the goal of helping clients "maintain dignity, remain at home as long as possible and die in the place of their choosing" with staff and volunteers visiting clients in their homes. Staff take a team approach to palliative care, working with "community care workers, hospitals, the Local Health Integrated Network (Champlain) and Community Support Agencies" with volunteers carefully screened and trained.

DCH provides clients with a variety of services including non-medical services, home visits, equipment loan, assistance purchasing supplies, day programs, caregiver support and bereavement support. Recently DCH executive director Lisa Casselman and Lynn Gee, program assistant and volunteer coordinator discussed the bereavement support program which is open for anyone who has experienced a loss.



The program offered by DCH seeks to assist people who are experiencing any kind of loss, with no cost associated with the assistance and have volunteers who have completed bereavement training. Casselman and Gee explained the help provided is different for the different type of loss. As an example, Gee mentioned a person approaching death could experience a sense of loss of plans, hope for the future, referred to as anticipatory grief, which can also be experienced by those close to them. Following the death of friend or loved one there is what is commonly referred to bereavement grief which deals with a different type of loss.

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated changes to the bereavement



support program, with both women noting this form of support is becoming increasingly important due to the pandemic making the grieving period more isolated than ever. Pandemic restrictions have caused people to be unable to visit their family members or friends in hospital, don't have the opportunity to say good-bye, choices being made as who can attend the funeral and following a bereavement it is more difficult for the mourners to return to their lifestyle in the community.

She continued some of the resources which are available to those experiencing grief include a DCH organized visit to the Labyrinth at Lakeshore United Church in Morrisburg, book clubs as well as workshops on coping strategies. DCH are

investigating the possibility of holding a workshop for people dealing with the loss of a pet and welcome suggestions from people for workshop ideas.

DCH is a non-profit organization which receives approximately 55 per cent of their funding from the Champlain Local Health Integration Network. The remainder of their budget "is generated by donations and our own fundraising efforts."

The Hike for Hospice was once again held in a virtual manner, with Casselman commenting it was once again successful, raising approximately \$5,000 with between 20 and 25 participants.

The annual DCH Golf tournament is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 11 at Cedar Glen Golf Course, just outside of Williamsburg. Casselman explained there is the opportunity to have your name entered in a draw to win the use of two "fun" carts at the tournament for those who register before August 20. Gee explained the entry fee is \$70 per person for the 9-hole tournament which includes the use of a golf cart, barbecue lunch and a \$25 tax receipt.

More information on the services available through Dundas County Hospice is located on their website at www.dundascountyhospice.ca or by calling 613-535-2215.

When an election is called, let's remember we're in this together

Why does someone choose to become a politician? Is it because they genuinely want to make a positive impact on the world around them or is it because they want power, money, and prestige? As with everything else, I believe it depends on the individual. And taking it a step further, the individuals who go into politics looking to make a difference need to do so with an unfailing intention. They need to remind themselves every day why they entered the political realm because it's all too easy to slip into the mindset of those around them; the ones who are there for the wrong reasons.

Politicians, the good ones, the bad ones, and the confused ones, are on my mind as there's a federal election looming just around the corner. Those who know me probably assume I'm Liberal through and through, but I'm not. Yes, I have voted Liberal in the past, but I don't belong to any one party. In fact, I think the party system is not only ineffective but also damaging. It divides us. It pits Canadian against Canadian. Why? In essence, all politicians in every party should be working for the people of Canada in general, regardless of ideologies and whatnot. But that's not what they do, is it? Not from what I've seen.

I would like to see lies, tactical rumours, schemes, and other forms of deception completely abolished and replaced with truth, humane practices, cooperation, and zero deception. I would like it if all our politicians woke up every morning thinking, "How can I make life better for all the people in my constituency today?" Think about it, what kind of world would we live in if all politicians running for office wanted nothing more than to work with their neighbours to make the lives of their fellow humans, inside and outside their country, better? If that were the reality, I

would breathe much easier, but it's not.

We humans are prone to fear, which brings out our most basic instincts, including greed, envy, wrath, and so on. Sometimes it happens without our conscious awareness. None of us are immune. When it comes to politics, I rally behind politicians and parties that most closely fit my vision of how people – all people – should be treated. And sometimes I fall prey to wrath, and I cross the line.

An election is coming. It's on the horizon, and I live in a community that is divided along party lines. For me, I'm

going to do my best to remember my guiding intention, which is to stand up for what I believe in but to do it in a way that doesn't turn me into someone I'm not. I don't want to fall prey to the us-versus-them hate trap and my hope is that neither do you. My hope is that we can all move into the coming election speaking our personal truths but doing so in a way that doesn't pit us against one another. Let's focus on working together to make life better for everyone without exception.

Sandy Casselman

No flies on me

Every once in a while, the wild, crazy natural world pays me a visit.

Last year it was wasps that must have come into my house through a black hole and spent several autumn weeks trying to find a way out. Along the way it became obvious that they were ready to literally push out of the way anything and anyone who was standing between them and freedom.

I could describe to you the many hand-to-hand battles between wasps and myself that I had to endure but the horror of it all is probably too disturbing to read about.

In the end, I won the battles thanks to my keen reflexes and courage.

I have spent the summer months trying to put all of that behind me.

Leave it in the past I say, especially the buzzing I would hear, that buzzing that only wasps make.

At one point I was wishing for mosquitoes instead of wasps to be the issue but of course there was not a mosquito to be found.

This year I am not sure what to expect. It's very possible that the wasp tribe is still telling stories about how

dangerous it was to spend time in my house and I'm sure they are telling the stories of battles between us as nightmare cautionary tales to their little aspiring wasps.

This summer I am seeing a different kind of insect invasion.

There is at last count approximately 120,000 species of flies in the world.

It is also common knowledge that flies lay their eggs in the dirtiest places they can find. My house is fly free as I have mastered the art of vacuuming and normally there is not a fly to be seen. I let the odd spider I find in the house continue on its creepy way in the hope it will dine on the odd fly it comes across.

I have not seen a fly in the house in at least a year.

At least 164 of the world's species of flies live happily in Canada.

A few trillion of them likely reside in North Dundas, but not near me for some reason.

However, as I said Mother Nature has a strange unfortunate way of leaving her stamp on us all.

Last week I was talking to a neighbour and had left my back door partially open as I chatted.

I spotted a fly that was headed

toward the space between the door and the doorframe, but I did not want to interrupt my neighbour by slamming the door seemingly in their face as I tried to stop the fly.

The fly whizzed past my head unaware that it had broken a cardinal rule.

We finished our conversation, and closed the door, and I assumed the fly had gotten bored while inside the house and exited to a better life outside.

I was wrong.

There is now one, just one fly in my house and I will not stand for it.

The cat is enraged and most likely insulted that I would let this happen.

Just so you know, it is very difficult to track down one fly. There are countless opportunities for a single fly to avoid detection and death.

The average fly, and I assume this is a typical fly, will only live for a maximum of thirty days, and that is if I leave lots of food around for it to eat.

So, we have a standoff. I keep all the crumbs from my numerous treats off the floor and hopefully nature will take its course. And by the end of the month, my home will once again be a no-fly zone.

Joseph Morin

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Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Amanda Burger, founder and president of A Bunch of People Arts and Events, was pleased to announce on July 21 that a “Car Rally/Scavenger Hunt for Charity” will take place on August 21 and will start from the arena in Chesterville.

Event lead Suzanne Millaire invited people to “Grab a

friend, name your team, get in your car and find the answers to the clues. First team to win gets \$100. Burger mentioned Millaire’s idea of holding a scavenger hunt by car helps to “ensure we don’t get stuck because of Covid restrictions.”

The hunt will focus on “the North Dundas/North Stormont area.” Selfies will be taken with the found item and then submitted as proof of success. Pre-registration for the event can be completed by emailing abunchofpeopleartsandevents@gmail.com before Aug. 21. Check in begins at 10:30 a.m. at the arena, located at 153 Queen Street in Chesterville, with participants needing to “sign a liability waver and complete the registration information” before receiving the list of items to search for.

The hunt begins at 11 a.m., with the selfies taken and provided to “evaluators before 2 p.m. at the arena.”

Burger and Millaire have already completed the scavenger hunt “to see how long it would take and how hard it is.” Millaire commented that they had such a blast during their practice run; and that all profits would be going to local charities.

A Bunch of People Arts and Events, a not-for-profit corporation with headquarters in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, plans events in collaboration with “experienced and amateur physical, musical and visual artists” to raise money for charity. For more information, please visit their Facebook page.

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Fundraising ride

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

ST. ANDREWS WEST – Over the month of June, Rev. Louis Groetelaars of St. Andrews Catholic Church located in St. Andrews West, rode 476.06 km and raised \$16,155 for The Children’s Treatment Centre (CTC) in Cornwall. Rev. Groetelaars explained that his route generally followed the Stormont Recreation Trail from St. Andrews West to Cornwall Centre Road and back, a little bit more than 10 km.

Reverend Groetelaars, a volunteer at CTC commented he has been a participant “in the CTC

Bike-a-thon for many years” and has been a top fundraiser on at least two occasions, before explaining this annual event is an excellent opportunity “to raise money for the CTC and get together as a community.”

The Children’s Treatment Centre, located at 305A Second Street East in Cornwall, is a community funded organization which seeks to assist children in need and their families in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, Cornwall and Akwesasne. More information can be found on the CTC website, located at www.childrenstreatmentcentre.ca.



Reverend Groetelaars is shown with his 2007 Trek Madone, which he explains is “made of carbon fibre making” the 18-speed bike “very light” outside St. Andrews Catholic Church in St. Andrews West.

Courtesy Photo

North Stormont politician keeps staff on their toes

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BERWICK – On a monthly basis, township of North Stormont department heads provides regular update reports to local politicians, which are then reviewed, often in detail, during the municipality’s council meeting.

Councillor Roxane Villeneuve consistently comes prepared with a list of related questions or comments for one or more of the department heads. The July 13 council meeting was no different with Villeneuve raising questions to the fire chief, the Public Works’ superintendent, the chief administrative officer (CAO), and the director of finance.

A significant portion of time was spent on the failure of North Stormont’s first application through Phase 2 of the province’s Natural Gas Expansion Program. Villeneuve focused on the application failure, Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry MPP Jim McDonell’s role in that failure, and what the plans are for ensuring success with the second application.

“I fail to understand why our MPP has not fought for us at this level of government for us to be receiving this when there are two substantial players at play here,” Villeneuve said.

Mayor Jim Wert assured Villeneuve that all parties involved in the prospective natural gas project are working diligently toward making the vision a reality. In addition to the township, Green for Life Environmental Inc. (GFL) and Enbridge Inc. are the other two players in this project that Villeneuve had referred to in her statement.

Wert said several interested parties had met that morning in Cornwall to discuss what needs to be done, including McDonell. While Wert organized the July 13 meeting, he said McDonell has taken the lead and will be coordinating the next meeting.

“I think you’re underestimating MPP McDonell’s efforts in this process because as I’ve said previously, he contacted us prior as to why we weren’t successful. I think the vast majority of proposals weren’t successful. It speaks to the demand there is for these services,” Wert said. “Jim was there with us today. He’s firmly committed to helping us navigate this.”

During the last council meeting in June, the application’s rejection letter was filed under correspondence items. Penned by Ontario’s Associate Minister of Energy Bill Walker, the letter noted that 210 applications representing roughly \$2.6 billion had been received by the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). Despite the increase to the province’s budget for this funding program, Walker said there was only \$234.24 million available for projects. He said deciding which applications to approve came down to following the OEB’s Profitability Index Indicator.


“What’s going to be different from the first application to the second?” Villeneuve asked.

Wert said he didn’t have the answer to that question, but agreed it needed to be answered. He said he would find out and follow up with Villeneuve once an answer was in hand.

“Everybody is trying to make this work,” Wert said. “It’s just a mammoth project that requires millions of millions of dollars and it’s a time when governments are really tapped. I think there’s a lot of governments that are recovering from the pressures of COVID, and I think you have to make a very solid case in order to gain that support.”

Villeneuve also had questions about false alarms at the fire department, the estimated date of arrival for the \$300,000 in community funds from EDP Renewables in conjunction with the Nation Rise Wind Farm project, potential training of firefighters for water rescuing, recreational use of local waterways and what can be done to police activity, the amount of money spent on the Chrysler Fire Hall project so far, the amount of money spent on the consultant for the GFL waste management deal, clarification on the amount of a recent donation, why lifeguards appear on a financial statement when the pools aren’t open this season, and an updated status report on pandemic-related relief funds, including what’s been spent, and what remains.


Relevant departmental staff were on hand to answer Villeneuve’s questions, those listed above, and more. Villeneuve was assured she would receive a follow up via email for those questions that required additional information not on hand, like the detailed financial ins and outs of all COVID-19 funding. To listen in and follow along to North Stormont’s council meetings, visit their website for dates, agendas, and links to the virtual meeting. The next council meeting is set for Aug. 10.



- OBITUARY -

ELLEN COUGHLAN

Surrounded by her loving family on Sunday, July 25, 2021, Ellen Coughlan (nee Treacy) of Winchester, age 88 passed away peacefully at home. Loving wife of Thomas Coughlan for 57 years. Loving mother of Helen Maria Woodmass (Chris) of Williamsburg, Caroline Stickland (Martin) of Oakville, Patrick Coughlan of Winchester, Bernadette Wells of Apple Hill and Rosarie Coughlan of Kingston. Dear sister of Tom Treacy (Rosemarie) of Ireland. Dear sister-in-law of Nora “Nona” Treacy of Ireland. Ellen will be fondly remembered by her grandchildren Ciaran, Connor, Anna, Niall, Thomas, Jacob, Aaron, Madison, Teresa and Joshua. Ellen was predeceased by her sisters Mary Hallahan and Joan Kelly and her brothers Daniel and Noel Treacy. She is also survived by nieces and nephews in Ireland. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a private Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Bernard’s Roman Catholic Church in Finch. Interment will be at St. Bernard’s Cemetery in Finch. Donations to the Ottawa Heart Institute 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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Monkland couple bring dream to life with Fields of Gold

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

MONKLAND – Stephanie and Jakob Vogel share a vision and a passion.

Fields of Gold is the result of an idea they both fell in love with as they looked for ways to keep their rural connection healthy and strong and at the same time secure a rural lifestyle.

On Fri., July 23 they officially welcomed visitors to their Fields of Gold.

The 20 acres of magnificent sunflowers on their farm and the numerous pathways through the more than a million plants make the Fields of Gold a literal sight to see.

Stephanie and Jakob are hoping their farm will become a destination for families, wedding parties and tourists looking for a unique way to spend a bright summer afternoon.

“The idea came to us last summer,” said Jakob. The couple had been renting out some of their land to a neighbouring producer but they missed being part of the farming community.

When the two married and then later purchased their 75-acre farm in Monkland they were not sure what their next move would be.

Jakob works off the farm as a dairy nutrition consultant. Stephanie is a teacher in Embrun.

The couple wanted to be able to stay on their rural property, but realized the size of the farm was not going to be large enough to sustain cash cropping which they both loved, yet farming was in their blood.

Stephanie said, “It has taken a lot of work getting this up and running but now we can start to enjoy the fruit of our labour.”

She explained getting everything ready has taken about ten months.

“We are super excited,” she said. She encourages a visit with the sunflowers as they give people a chance to unwind.

Covid brought many restrictions and changes for everyone, but the need for flexibility allowed the couple to spend more time working on their dream. Stephanie found herself teaching from home. Not having the driving time to and from Embrun to her school meant she could do a bit more at home on the farm.

They have ambitious plans for their Fields of Gold. Currently they are welcoming families and other couples who just want to see all of those sunflowers in full bloom, but they expect the future will include new attractions. Jakob said, “We have had a few wedding parties ask to hold their weddings here, but we did not want to bite off more than we could chew so unfortunately we had to say no. Right now it is the ambiance and the feel and the opportunity for people to come out from the city to see something different.”

The sunflowers are the main attraction at Fields of Gold but Jakob and Stephanie had formed partnerships with others in the area to make their destination even more attractive.

A snack shack type business is expected to set up on their farm in the weeks to



MPP Jim McDonnell dropped by the Fields of Gold official opening on Friday, July 23. Left to right are: MPP Jim McDonnell, Jakob and Stephanie Vogel.

Morin Photo

come and they have plans to invite distilleries and food producers to drop by and set up for visitors.

“The potential is absolutely endless,” said Jakob. He said farming has always been his passion and the Fields of Gold will keep him and Stephanie connected to a farming lifestyle.

They have found a way to enjoy the very best from

the two worlds they inhabit.

The sunflowers planted in the Fields of Gold are Black Oil Sunflower. When the growing season has ended and it is time to harvest the plant, and the seeds from the flowers will be sold as bird seed.

To contact Jakob and Stephanie email them at: info@fieldsofgold.ca or call 613-363-1235.



The Fields of Gold is a wonderful opportunity to see agritourism at its best. In this photo this family from Cornwall took advantage of the great summer weather and the official opening of Fields of Gold sunflower farm in Monkland to have a visit on July 23. Pictured here is Alivia, Tana and Ava Tothfaluse.

Morin Photo

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North Stormont looks for probationary firefighters

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BERWICK – The township of North Stormont’s Fire Committee recently met for their second official meeting of the year.

In addition to approving the minutes of the last meeting, which was held six months ago, the July 22 virtual committee gathering included job description approvals, as well as updates and discussion on an assortment of fire-related topics. In addition to updates on the status of the Crysler Station project, the group discussed training, communication, and probationary firefighters.

The North Stormont Department of Fire and Emergency Services’ (NSDFES) includes four fire stations, one each in Avonmore, Crysler, Finch, and Moose Creek. Each station has been assigned its own deputy chief. The current deputy chiefs include Kerry Adams, Nick Forgues, Kevin Lapp, and Steve Tait. The Fire Committee Bylaw was established in 2016.

Official job descriptions for the positions of captain, deputy chief, and firefighter were presented for approval. The captain is expected to direct the activities of firefighters while they’re at the fire station, and possibly assume command at basic and routine incidents. As for complex incidents, once a senior officer is on site, the captain will most often be directly supervising at the tactical level rather than taking command. The

captain’s job description also notes that work is to be “done in accordance with established policies and requires sound judgement and good interpersonal skills.”

The new job descriptions also provide a list of specific responsibilities, as well as qualifications. A description of the potential working conditions is included along with a note about the NSDFES salary scale, which was not included in the agenda package.

“The deputy fire chief is primarily responsible for firefighting services, facilities and equipment maintenance, and training, and helps the fire chief in such areas as operational procedures, fire investigations, fire prevention and public education, in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code, township bylaws, and provincial and federal legislation,” the official description states.

In the firefighter description, it was noted that a firefighter could be responsible for fire ground and emergency operations before the arrival of either the captain or deputy chief. In addition to fire and emergency services, the firefighter is also expected to participate in public events, fire prevention programs, training programs, and other in-station activities.

During the council meeting held July 13, fire chief Nancy Ann Gauthier provided local politicians with an update for work concluded in June, as well

as for projects that are ongoing. In her report, Gauthier said interviews for probationary firefighters had begun and is expected to continue into July. At the time of the July 22 committee meeting, North Stormont needed to fill six firefighter vacancies.

Gauthier’s report also noted eight false alarms in June. When questioned about it during the July 13 council meeting, she explained that if a call is received then NSDFES must attend. Councillor Roxane Villeneuve inquired as to what happens in a false alarm situation, as every call comes with a cost to the township.

Gauthier said the first offence is just a warning, but the second offence results in a \$200 fine, while the third offence results in a \$400 fine. Gauthier assured council that fines have been issued for the false alarms in June. As with all township departments, Gauthier provides regular reports to council that are made available through the meeting agenda packages. The next North Stormont council meeting is set for Aug. 10. The municipality’s next Fire Committee meeting is set for Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m. There has been no indication as to whether this will be a virtual or in-person event.



Summer has arrived

The Winchester pool is open for swimmers. On Sat., July 17 Loni and her mother Stacey Johnston had a fun time with lifeguard Nakita Steele as Loni had a swimming lesson.

Morin Photo



Annual cleanup for Pioneer Park

Pioneer Park was on the list of places to go to by the Oak Valley spring cleanup crew on Sat. July 10. The crew made up of dedicated volunteers cut the grass, and cleaned up the area so that visitors could have a better visit when they stopped by the park. Here, crew member Kim McInnis takes a break beside the cairn commemorating the pioneer settlers of eastern Ontario.

Morin Photo

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 29, 2021

CLUES ACROSS

1. Language group with Iranian influence
5. No seats available
8. Health insurance organization
11. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
13. Defunct European economic organization
14. Dutch word for "language"
15. Hard to penetrate
16. When you'll get there
17. Iranian city
18. Small fishes
20. Dry white wine drink
21. Turkish city
22. U.S.-born people
25. Synthetic resin
30. Major nerve in human body
31. Type of recording
32. Small drum

33. Alters
38. General's assistant (abbr.)
41. Venezuelan capital
43. Free of deceit
45. Member of Ancient Hebrew nation
48. Competition
49. Launch an attack on
50. Cavalry sword
55. Spiritual leader
56. One point east of due south
57. Afflicted
59. Database management system
60. Snakelike fish
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. Small drink
63. Not wet
64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

1. Father
2. Performed perfectly
3. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
4. Thin, compact object
5. One attempting to find something
6. No longer working
7. Egg-shaped wind instrument
8. Book of Genesis character
9. Volcanic craters
10. Brand of American automobile (slang)
12. Hip hop icon Kool Moe _
14. Bangladeshi monetary unit
19. Self-immolation by fire ritual
23. Family of genes
24. Et _; indicates further
25. Pacific Standard Time
26. S. American wood sorrel
27. Women's _ movement
28. Chinese hoopster Ming

29. Layers of rock
34. Patriotic women's group
35. Solid water
36. Shade of brown
37. Very fast airplane
39. Put clothes on
40. Quality of one's character
41. Time zone
42. Primates
44. Pleasantly
45. Metrical feet
46. Rogue
47. German river
48. Relieves from
51. Swiss river
52. Prejudice
53. Actor Idris
54. Those who resist authority
58. Criticize

PUZZLE SOLUTION

THE BENEFITS OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Even though crossword puzzles have been entertaining and helping people pass the time for more than 100 years, the benefits of crosswords go beyond boredom-busting. Various studies have shown the positive effects crossword puzzles can have on a person's brain and capacity to learn.

- Improve vocabulary
- Strengthens memory
- Improve socialization
- Help relieve stress
- May help prevent brain diseases

Crossword puzzles can fill empty hours with an entertaining and educational activity. However, there are many other benefits to doing crossword puzzles that may surprise even the most ardent puzzle enthusiasts.

Love where you live: SHOP LOCAL!



3 reasons to choose local shops over e-commerce giants

Massive online retailers like Amazon have become a top choice for many shoppers because of their low prices and speedy deliveries. However, there are important advantages to supporting local businesses when you shop online. Here are three reasons to champion the merchants in your area when you want to buy something on the internet.



high priority to use renewable energy sources and eco-friendly materials when designing their products. In many cases, this means the item will be made better and last longer.

1. Shorter delivery routes

When you buy products from an international e-commerce company, your package may need to travel thousands of miles to reach you. This emits significantly more greenhouse gases than if you select items from stores that are closer to home.

2. Better use of resources

Small, local businesses typically make it a

3. Personalized services

Even if you shop from their online store, you can still speak with the local merchants you buy from over the phone or via a live chat platform. This gives you access to personalized advice and recommendations about your purchase that you likely won't get from an e-commerce giant. Additionally, you'll have the option to visit their store and see the products in person before you make a selection.

Next time you want to buy something online, be sure to reflect on these points before you check out your order.



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South Dundas looks at reckless driving issues

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – Municipality of South Dundas politicians have decided to add speed signs to Lakeshore Drive in Morrisburg, while advising staff to look into the cost of installing concrete boulders around the Earl Baker Park in Morrisburg; all in an effort to keep residents and tourists safe from reckless drivers. The only regularly scheduled meeting for the month, the July 19 council meeting lasted less than 1.5 hours. A significant portion of that time was spent discussing safety issues related to recent reports of reckless driving in the Morrisburg area, one on Lakeshore Drive and the other at Earl Baker Park.

“I received a letter today that concerned me enough to bring it to council this evening and it was a concern for Earl Baker Park and the traffic that was happening on it this weekend,” Mayor Steven Byvels said.

In addition to discussing the issue with

Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Constable Jim Blanchette early in the meeting during the local officer’s presentation to council, South Dundas politicians continued the discussion again later in the meeting, nearing its close. The agenda package included letters from residents who are concerned about pedestrian safety on Lakeshore Drive.

“I don’t know that it’s any more significant there than anywhere else,” Blanchette said, noting that data collected from the speed tracking signs installed on that road doesn’t support what would qualify as an issue.

Going forward, Blanchette invited residents to contact him directly, rather than the local municipal councillors. He said the data shows that roughly 80 per cent of the drivers on that road are within acceptable speeds. He said it appears the issue is a few speed racers who race up and down the road continuously rather than an issue of increased

numbers of people speeding in general.

Blanchette said the OPP has increased their presence in that area of Lakeshore Drive. He said a driver has already been charged with speed racing, which appears to be the main source of the speed safety complaints. As for what more might be done, Blanchette had only one suggestion for council. Because Lakeshore Drive is a very winding road, he said he thought additional signage at specific spots along that road might help.

Council discussed the issue further at the end of the meeting. South Dundas politicians approved the purchase of four additional 60 km speed signs for Lakeshore Drive priced at less than \$100 each. They also agreed that staff should research the cost of potentially putting concrete rock boulders around Earl Baker Park, ensuring that all open spaces with road access be blocked.

This would exclude the portions where a ditch separates the park from the road. Concern was



Jewelry appraisal at HOL

North Dundas Coun. Gary Annable and Tina Zerch were busy at the House of Lazarus tent jewelry sale on Thurs., July 22. Annabel was on hand to help people determine the value of any jewelry with an on-the-spot appraisal. *Morin Photo*

expressed for the safety of children playing, as reports of people driving their cars into the park and around the splashpad have been received.

“I don’t like the idea of cars and kids, it’s not a good mixture,” Mellan said.

Chief administrative officer (CAO) Shannon Geraghty said he will investigate the pricing for buying and installing the blocks around the exposed perimeter, and a report will be brought back to council at their next meeting. In the

meantime, staff have been advised to monitor the area and report back if quicker action is needed. Geraghty said COVID-19 funding could be used to fund these transportation issue requests, as this falls within the guidelines.



Thrift shop open for business

The Winchester Lions Club Thrift Shop is now open. The store will be open Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The store will also be open for special occasions whenever possible such as the Saturdays as The Planted Arrow garden party’s. In this photo, volunteers are standing ready to help you out. Left to right are: Charlie and Wanda Lanoue and Suzanne Belliveau. *Morin Photo*



SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

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 August 27, 2021, at the South Dundas Municipal Office, 34 Ottawa Street, Morrisburg, Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the South Dundas Municipal Office, 34 Ottawa Street, Morrisburg.

Description of Land(s):

Roll No. 05 06 001 003 08950 0000; PIN 66137-0249; PT LT 3 CON 2 WILLIAMSBURG as in WG16900; Description May Not Be Acceptable In Future as in WG16900; SOUTH DUNDAS. According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$40,500

Minimum tender amount: \$8,135.91

Roll No. 05 06 002 000 40200 0000; 42 Park Avenue, Morrisburg; PIN 66133-0195; LOT 154 PI 41; E ½ LOT 153 PI 41; DR39908, S/T DRB78E; SOUTH DUNDAS. According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$134,000

Minimum tender amount: \$17,975.81

Roll No. 05 06 006 007 01200 0000; 11397 County Road 18, Brinston; PIN 66114-0129; PT LOT 12 CON 5 MATILDA as in DR117501; SOUTH DUNDAS. According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is \$42,500

Minimum tender amount: \$7,085.24

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to, crown interests, or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. Any interests of the Federal or Provincial Crown encumbering the land at the time of the tax sale will continue to encumber the land after the registration of the tax deed. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit: www.OntarioTaxSales.ca or if no internet access available, contact:

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Treasurer
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Chesterville Pharmacy ready to expand community services

CHESTERVILLE – Chesterville, like many small villages across Ontario has lost its share of small business.

The pandemic as well as slipping economics made the difference to some business owners.

However, as the pandemic begins to become less of an issue and the notion of being able to get back to normal starts to look like that might be possible, business everywhere is starting to return.

The Chesterville pharmacy in Chesterville provides all of the services you would expect to find in a drug store, and now the centrally located store is gearing up to offer more health related services.

The drugstore is making room for the arrival of Chesterville Optical.

Pharmacy owner, George Zahalan sees a bright future for the pharmacy.

Before he took over ownership of the pharmacy he worked there.

“I had been working for the previous owner and forged some great relationships with the staff. It was always a dream of mine owning a store in a place like Chesterville, not too far from Edwards County where I was born,” said Zahalan.

Eye examinations and getting a pair of glasses just right for you is a crucial aspect of eye health.

A proper optical business is able to offer eye examinations by a qualified optometrist, different styles of eyeglasses and frames and best of all great personal service.

Managing the new optometry clinic is Paul Ibrahim. Paul and his mother Randa Sawma, both are qualified opticians have been busy ordering and setting up equipment while they prepare to welcome

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Paul Ibrahim and his mother Randa Sawma have been busy getting Chesterville Optical ready and open for business. Morin Photo

the clinic’s optometrist who will not be arriving for several weeks.

There is still a great deal to do to get ready.

Paul and Randa also have been managing another optical business in Gatineau.

When everything has been set up, Paul will be looking after the Chesterville location.

When a person has an issue with their eyes they will have an eye examination by a medical doctor, an ophthalmologist or from an optometrist (non-medical eye care professionals).

The examination will determine what

specification if any will be required to correct a person’s eyesight.

The patient is given a prescription to correct their vision issues and that prescription is then interpreted by an optician who will help a patient select the right lens and glass frames as well as any necessary accessories.

The optician will help you select the correct eyeglasses, contact lenses, low vision aids and prosthetic ocular devices in order to correct your vision as much as possible.

Setting up a new opticians’ office in Chesterville was originally an idea from the pharmacy’s owner.

He said, “I had the idea because I noticed that there were not many healthcare facilities in Chesterville or in neighbouring towns. Setting up an optical store is way easier (less red tape) than dental or medical offices. I wanted to try this out and see how interest was before trying other medical services out.”

Looking into the future, Zahalan has long-term goals for his business and the Chesterville community.

“My goal is to hopefully set up a full-service medical outfit for the town including doctors, dentists, optometrists and much more. This will help service the whole area,” he said.

The decision to come to Chesterville was very straightforward. The need was there and the necessary staff and equipment was available. Not so easy was to fit everything into a much smaller space than Paul and Randa were used to working in.

They have been busy converting one of two rooms at the pharmacy. One room will be for the actual eye examinations and the second room will be where clients can look at different styles of frames and glasses. The room features more than 300 different styles and types of glass frames.

No appointments are necessary and walk-ins are welcome.

Paul said he has already lists of people who are waiting to get an appointment and is looking forward to the challenge of starting up the new business in Chesterville.

Paul is planning to move to the Chesterville area and settle here.

You can contact Chesterville Optical at 343-574-4140 or email them at: chestervilleoptical@gmail.com.

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.

South Dundas alters funding application

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas is submitting two funding applications to the Canada Community Revitalization Fund.

The July 19 council meeting had only one action request. It involved a potential change to a decision made by council during its special council meeting on July 13. Communications coordinator Kalynn Sawyer Helmer said she had checked the federal

funding guidelines and discovered that, contrary to what was said at the last meeting, the township can apply for more than one project at a time.

She said the township can put in multiple applications and identify which one is their first choice and which one is second. At the July 13 session, local politicians were told South Dundas could submit only one application, and at the close of that meeting, council had settled on accessibility

upgrades to the Morrisburg Waterfront washrooms. However, the decision was not easily made, as another project came in at a close second, and council decided to make a commitment to move forward with accessibility upgrades to the washrooms at Matilda Hall no later than 2022.

With the updated guidelines, Helmer proposed changing the July 13 application decision. She recommended that council put in two applications with the waterfront washrooms

as the top priority and Matilda Hall’s washrooms as the second.

“This will give us the opportunity to apply for both for funding,” she said. “We feel that we can do this and if council is in support of this we’ll go forward.”

Lewis said he was happy that Helmer had gone back and reviewed the application guidelines. Mellan said he was also happy South Dundas can apply for both; however, he wondered if doing that might weaken the chances of success for both. Helmer assured him that this

funding program is quite different and submitting two applications will not negatively impact the chances of success for the township’s top choice.

Wells echoed the sentiments of his council colleagues but added that he would have liked to have seen more in the way of financial information. Noting

that if they were successful South Dundas would be on the hook for 25 per cent of whatever the project total might be, he said it would be good to know the numbers before applying. Byvelts agreed. Helmer said future application recommendations will include the requested financial implication information.

HELP WANTED

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- Takes initiative and able to work with limited guidance
- Hardworking team player

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OPP presents six-month report to South Dundas

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – During a recent Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) presentation, Municipality of South Dundas council expressed concerns about the rise in sexual assault, and the issue of speed racing on Lakeshore Drive, and wanted to know more about the OPP's mental health support professional ride-along program.

OPP Constable Jim Blanchette attended the July 19 virtual meeting where he presented to council the OPP's January to June 2021 report for South Dundas. Blanchette advised council that he will be the township's liaison with the OPP going forward. Having read the report prior to the meeting, council was asked for any comments or questions they might have about it.

"I don't think we have a lot of criminals," Coun. Don Lewis said, adding his thanks to that of Councillors Lloyd Wells and Archie Mellan for the "good report."

Mayor Steven Byvelds raised two concerns; the first being a significant increase in the percentages of sexual assault.

"I think what happened a lot was disputes in general within the home

are up and I think, just that confined space and our domestic violence occurrences are up and often these sexual assaults, not always of course, but these disclosures come as a result of a relationship ending and full disclosure of any and all issues that happened over the year come up. Most of these sexual assault incidents, and I'm not saying they're any less significant or any less important just to be clear, they're typically someone known to the victim, so it's not a case of where we have a serial sexual predator out on the loose or anything like that," Blanchette said. "There's a lot more information out there; the shelters are putting out information, the OPP, we put out a lot of information, there's media campaigns. I think people are just more comfortable, and rightfully so, coming forward and confronting their abuser, and having their day in court, and I think it's not necessarily indicative of more of them. I think it's more reporting, quite frankly."

Byvelds then asked Blanchette to comment on a speed racing concern on Lakeshore Drive in Morrisburg. Blanchette said the data collected from the speed tracking signs doesn't support what would qualify as an issue.

"I don't know that it's any more significant there than anywhere else," he said. "But there are a lot of people."

Because it's a very winding road, Blanchette said he thought additional signage might help. He also invited residents to contact Blanchette directly, rather than the local municipal councillors. He also said the OPP could increase their presence in that area for a time.

When asked to comment on the new ride-along program that sees a mental health professional teaming up with the OPP for some calls, he had a lot to say. Blanchette has been advocating for the program for several years, long before it was approved, he said.

"The data is absolutely incredible," he said. "I can do a full report on it at the next meeting, but I can tell you our diversions [and] involuntary apprehensions are half of what they used to be. Repeat calls to the same people are down probably in the neighbourhood of 70 per cent. Time spent in emergency rooms has decreased from about 2.5 hours to just under one hour."

"I just believe in the program, and I can tell you it hasn't disappointed," he said, noting the large amount of positive feedback from multiple sources and sectors.



Corn-u-copia of local food

To those who eagerly await fresh local corn, the wait is over. Like many growers in the area, Avonmore Berry Farm announced late last week that the corn season has begun. In addition to freshly picked peaches and cream corn, visitors to the Pantry at the Berry Farm can purchase cucumbers, garlic, onions, strawberries and other locally grown fruit and vegetables. Owner Pamela Phillips commented that the growing season has so far been great. She commented that Kandyman, an all-yellow variety of corn, should be ready in a week or so and that until the fall variety of raspberries are ready, the season is pretty much over, with the ever bearing strawberries ready shortly. From the left: Elizabeth Lorange and Caroline Kupczyk are shown with some of the vegetables and fruit available for sale at the Avonmore Berry Farm. Be sure to visit the Facebook page or website of Avonmore Berry Farm for up-to-date information on what crops are ready for purchase.

Thompson Goddard Photo

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COMING EVENTS FOR AUGUST 2021

Serving all seniors and persons with disabilities in North Dundas Township

Services Include: Meals-on-Wheels, transportation, accessible transportation, diners' meals, home help/maintenance, friendly visiting, client intervention, adult day program, foot care, information & education, health & wellness clinics, caregiver support, and social recreation.

www.carefor.ca LIKE us on Facebook

We will still be offering our activities for August outside for the remainder of the summer.

If you wish to participate in any of these activities, there is a sign-up list. There are limited restrictions to number of clients able to participate in the activities. The outdoor activities will be held under our carport for Chair Yoga, Coffee Time, and Caregiver Support Group. The walking group is an outdoor walk held every Monday & Friday of the Month. If you are interested in any of these outdoor activities, please give the Centre staff a call to register.

We will have our Drive Thru Diners again.

Chesterville Drive Thru Diners will be the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month for August
Tuesday, August 3rd at 12:00 p.m.
Must call to be put on list no later than July 27th.
Tuesday, August 17th at 12:00 p.m.
Must call to be put on the list no later than August 10th.

South Mountain Drive Thru Diners will be the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month for August
Tuesday, August 10th at 12:00 p.m.
Must call to be put on the list no later than August 3rd.
Tuesday, August 24th at 12:00 p.m.
Must call to be put on the list no later than August 17th.

Winchester Drive Thru Diners will be every Thursday of the month for August
Thursdays on August 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th.
Must call the week before to be put on the list.

Our Meals on Wheels Program will be on Monday, Wednesday, & Friday with all the Drive Thru Diners on the Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Our Footcare & Health & Wellness appointments are by appointment only.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AT THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS AND/OR ACTIVITIES!

Stay tuned for the transition of services happening in the Centre on a small scale in September.

Call 613-774-6109 for more information.

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Love where you live: SHOP LOCAL!



Small businesses continue to face an uphill battle as they confront the economic fallout of the pandemic. Consumers can show their support for locally owned businesses in their communities by Shopping Locally, Supporting Locally.

Did you know?

- **Small Businesses Support Local Charities.** Many local businesses give to charity, particularly local charities. Some donate money while others may offer their professional services or event spaces, each of which can be particularly helpful to local communities.
- **Small Businesses Contribute to Community Identity.** Small businesses contribute to the charm and character of a town or city. Many local businesses make up the fabric of Main Street, and towns are known and loved for the businesses that have endured.
- **Small Businesses Help the Environment.** Shopping locally means consumers do not have to travel far to get their goods and services. Walkable downtown centres found small businesses encourage walking and cycling, helping to reduce air pollution from vehicles.

- **Small Businesses Keep Money in Communities.** Local businesses keep disposable income and tax money within their communities. Business tax money remains local and can support schools, roads and municipal services.

Local small businesses are the life force that keeps cities and towns prosperous and humming along.

Such establishments help build a sense of community and forge lasting relationships.

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Russell's committees invite resident involvement

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – While there are plenty of opportunities for residents in the township of Russell to get involved in their community, the most obvious way, and the one that appears to ensure the greatest opportunity for input, is joining one of the municipality's several committees.

As with Russell's council meetings, the committee assemblies are open to the public with both the agenda and the link to the virtual meeting available on the township's website. Currently, Russell has an Accessibility Advisory Committee, a Community, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, an Environmental Advisory Committee, a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, a Planning

Advisory Committee and Committee of Adjustment, and a Public Library Board. Just prior to the pandemic, a Seniors Advisory Committee and a Teen Advisory Committee were created but have yet to get underway.

"These committees are a sounding board for the public and should be seen as such," Mayor Pierre Leroux said. "If residents have ideas, concerns, etc., they should feel free to contact members of the committee and engage. That is my wish, to see more public engagement from our committees."

The purpose of the committees is to provide a public forum for residents to have input and, in consequence, to submit recommendations to council. A vocal supporter of public engagement and

the potential of the committees to bring the community together, Leroux said there is room for improvements to be made.

Aside from the two recently created and not-yet-functioning committees, the Community, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is the newest, having been created and started in 2020. While some are legislated to exist, others have been created to address specific concerns. Each committee has one or more council representative at the table.

For those residents looking to join a committee, the process appears simple. Leroux said any resident can apply to be a committee member. Applications are generally received at the beginning of the new council's term. The mayor reviews the applications and

makes recommendations to council, who then vote as a group on who will make up the membership for each committee. Should spaces become available mid-term, they are posted, and the same application process is used, Leroux said.

Successful applicants generally commit to a four-

year term that follows the municipal elections timeline. Leroux said he expects the two not-yet-started committees, the Seniors Advisory Committee, and the Teen Advisory Committee, will not get underway until 2023, shortly after the new council term begins.

To learn more, visit the township's website (calendar.russell.ca), where agendas, minutes, and meeting dates are available. Meetings on the horizon include the Environmental Advisory Committee (Aug. 11), the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (Aug. 16), and the Planning Advisory Committee and Committee of Adjustment (Aug. 30).

Russell's 'Learn to Connect' initiative gets 12 applicants

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – The township of Russell's newest initiative, Learn to Connect, is getting its legs with 12 expressions of interest received from various residents.

Proposed earlier this spring during one of Russell's council meetings, the Learn to Connect initiative's purpose is to bring residents together and provide opportunities for social connection. Council agreed that opportunities for connection are much needed as the province makes its way out from under the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project's webpage states: "After a year of social and physical distancing due to COVID-19, the feeling of connection within the community has changed. We

want to help rebuild those community connections."

The concept requires interested residents to volunteer to lead one or more workshops on a topic of their choice, one they may have knowledge or significant interest in exploring. Professional degrees are not required, as the purpose of the program is to bring community members together. It was noted that topics can include anything from board games and meditation sessions to finances.

"Any program that brings members of the community together will be a win in my book," Mayor Pierre Leroux said.

The July 18 deadline for application submissions has come and gone. The mayor said that 12 applications have been received. These are currently being reviewed by staff, so Leroux said



Blueberry season begins at Rubicon Farms

Blueberry season at Rubicon Farms just north of Avonmore began over the weekend with co-owners Jenny and George McBain, pictured here, welcoming new and returning customers to the 1.8 acres of blueberry bushes. George commented there seems to be a good crop of blueberries this year and expects the season to be over by Aug. 15. In addition to blueberries, honey is available for sale, with Jennie explaining the honey is produced locally from an apiarist whose bees are rented to pollinate the blueberry bushes. Those wishing to visit Rubicon Farms to pick or purchase blueberries are advised to call ahead at 613-440-0897 or visit their Facebook page or website located at www.rubiconfarms.ca.

Thompson Goddard Photo

information is limited; it is unknown at this time what the potential workshop topics might be. The demographics of those residents volunteering to run workshops is

also unknown. Leroux said he expects the initiative to get underway this fall.

"I am hoping this will be a long-term initiative," Leroux said.

South Nation Conservation and the City of Ottawa partner to combat the Emerald Ash Borer

BERWICK – A partnership between South Nation Conservation (SNC) and the City of Ottawa is helping to curb the spread of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer across Canada's capital through an Ash Tree Replacement Program.

City of Ottawa property owners could be eligible to receive up to \$500/tree in cost-share funding towards the removal and replacement of an infected ash tree on their property this year, up to a maximum of \$5,000.

The City of Ottawa funding is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis. First launched in 2018, the Ash Tree Replacement Program has since approved over \$575,227 in cost-share grants to City of Ottawa property owners to help remove and replace 1,846 infected ash trees with locally sourced native species.

"We are excited to continue our partnership with the City to provide advice and support to property owners to help them replace dead Ash trees infected by the Emerald Ash Borer in Ottawa," said Ronda Boutz, SNC's Special Projects Lead.



The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle native to Asia that feeds on ash trees.

Courtesy Photo

The Emerald Ash Borer is a beetle native to Asia that feeds on ash trees. According to Natural Resources Canada, it was first detected in North America in 2002, and has since killed millions of ash trees in Canada

as it continues to spread. "Forests and trees offer many social, economic and environmental benefits to communities," added Boutz.

"We're doing our part to support

communities replace infected trees and lost tree canopy." Boutz also warns of the dangers that dead ash trees can pose when still standing in residential or public spaces. "They could fall down onto structures and homes, which can be hazardous to people and property," she added. To qualify for funding, a licensed forestry professional or certified arborist must confirm the tree's infection and perform any work related to its removal.

Residents may choose their replacement trees so long as they are native species of either potted stock or caliper-sized, and they must be planted on the applicant's private property.

For more information on the Ash Tree Replacement Program and to access the application form, please visit www.nation.on.ca/eab, or call 1-877-984-2948. SNC is working in partnership with the City of Ottawa on behalf of the Ottawa Conservation Partners: the Mississippi Valley, Rideau Valley, and South Nation Conservation Authorities.