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Briefly

Bring your appetite!
LONG SAULT – Friday Night is Fish & Chips night at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 569 in Long Sault. People are able to dine inside, eat on the patio or pick up to take home between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday August 13. Call 613-534-2235 to reserve your meal.

The Russell Fair is back

RUSSELL – Saturday, Aug. 21, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Agricultural Showcase and Outdoor Attractions). Sunday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Super Gymkhana Western Games).

Due to COVID restrictions there will not be a Midway.

The Russell Agricultural Society is pleased to offer this day of activities free of charge!

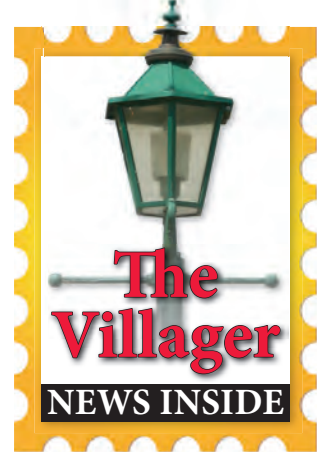
South Mountain Fair returns

SOUTH MOUNTAIN – Truck & tractor pulls, Friday, Aug. 20 annual truck pulls 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21 tractor pulls 10 a.m. Show tickets \$25/each (adult & kids), social distancing. Tickets may be purchased at: <https://southmountainfair.ca/pulls/>. Registration to compete in the truck pull may be done so at: <https://southmountainfair.ca/pulls/>.

Payment is only accepted by way of e-transfer. Gold Buckle Rodeo Series by Black Creek Rodeo, Saturday, Aug. 21 6 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 22 3 p.m., Western Horse Rodeo Show and Competition tickets \$25/each (adult & kids), Social distancing. There will be age of majority and all ages sections to the event. Tickets may be purchased at: <https://southmountainfair.ca/rodeo>

THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD

Serving Stormont and Dundas Counties since 1894



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Tractor parade brings some relief to Dundas Manor residents

The 17th annual Farmer John and Gramma Linda tractor parade in Winchester helped to bring back a small bit of normalcy to residents at the Dundas Manor on Sun., Aug. 8. The 68 strong tractor parade was headed up by John Cinnamon, seen here as his parade arrived at the Dundas Manor, and thrilled residents who parked themselves outside the facility for the special occasion.

Morin Photo

HOL tackles housing issues with purchase of building

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

WILLIAMSBURG – The House of Lazarus Community Outreach Mission (HOL) recently purchased a building with the intention of creating two affordable housing units for rent this October in Eastern Ontario's Dundas County.

"We are thrilled to offer two families a place to live affordably," HOL executive director Cathy Ashby said. "We receive calls weekly from people who need a place to rent. Landlords are selling their houses and people have nowhere to go."

Located in Williamsburg, a small village in the Municipality of South Dundas, the building needs a few renovations before it will be ready to rent, but Ashby said her goal is to see tenants moved in by Oct. 1 of this year. The rather large building will provide two apartments, a four-bedroom, and a three-bedroom. Both apartments will have access to the sizable backyard.

Continued on page 3

CUPE hold rally at WDMH

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – As Ontario prepares for a fourth wave of Covid-19 infections, support staff at Ontario hospitals are in the middle of a different battle with the province.

Members of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions of Ontario were at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital on Tues., Aug. 10 to raise awareness about their ongoing negotiations with the province over wages.

Union representatives at the Tuesday afternoon rally, just south of the hospital grounds, focused on the notion that despite all the effort and sacrifice support staff have made during the pandemic and despite the difficulty of obtaining protective gear in

some cases, the province is moving backward when it comes to dealing with union staff.

Within the current negotiations are several items the union considers concessions the province would like the union to make.

They are: taking away the right to bump anyone else with less seniority whose job you can do; reducing the right to contract out work; removing access to exit or retirement packages unless you would otherwise be laid off; doubling the time it takes to post a job; remove seniority as a factor in getting jobs; allowing others to do union member work; removing the right for an employee to return to their old job when they post for a new one.

Continued on page 2



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CUPE rally

Continued from the front

Louis Rodrigues is the vice president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions of CUPE. He attended the rally in Winchester. He said there are 55 other rallies taking place across the province all with the same goal of raising awareness about the position the hospital workers are in.

He said, "The Ford government has passed legislation to limit wage increases for three years to 1 per cent. Inflation is 3.6 per cent. This would mean a 2.6 per cent cut to wages in the first year alone.

Rodrigues addressed the small group at the rally.

He said, "It's been a tough 21 months for the people of Ontario, and it's been a tough 21 months for

you. I want to say thank you, on behalf of our union for the extra shifts you have worked and the mandatory overtime; for the weekends away from your families; for the redeployment to retirement homes and long-term care homes in outbreak; for accepting cancelled vacations, last year and again this year; and for many of you isolating from your families

to protect them from the risk that you might contract Covid at work. Health care workers have received a lot of deserved praise from the government. They have called you heroes."

Rodrigues made it clear that the union was opposed to any concessions.

He encouraged the members present at the rally to plan to attend a Sept. 10 rally at Queen's Park.



CUPE members from Ottawa, Winchester, Cornwall and Kingston attended the rally at the WDMH on Tues., Aug. 10. Morin Photo

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HOL tackles housing issues

Continued from the front

As with most HOL projects and initiatives, volunteers are needed. In addition to general renovations, the local mission will also need volunteers to help strip wallpaper, paint, and do yard work.

The purchase of the house is part of HOL's Linking Hands housing initiative, Places for People. The purpose of this initiative is to provide affordable housing for those in need, as well as direct mentorship along with a trust savings account for tenants.

"To bring Places for People Dundas County from a concept to reality has taken a lot of hard work by many people," Ashby said. "This project not only provides a place to rent affordably but also a mentor to guide tenants to reach their personal goals and the establishment of a trust fund for each tenant to be used for emergencies or to pursue their goals."

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, most Linking Hands projects were put on hold. HOL staff focused all their energy and resources on addressing the increased poverty issues created or exacerbated by the worldwide emergency.

"COVID-19 certainly slowed the project; however, it was an amazing feeling when a few months ago investors came forward and a building was found,"



Courtesy Photo

Ashby said. "House of Lazarus also received a grant from the United Church Canada Foundation that will cover start-up and renovation costs. We are hopeful to have two families housed by Oct. 1."

With financial backing from an outside investor, as well as a \$50,000 United Church of Canada Foundation Seeds of Hope housing grant already in pocket, HOL is ready to tackle necessary renovations. In its beginning stages, HOL staff will take on the roles of landlord, superintendent, and mentor.

To be more effective in its pandemic response, HOL joined other organizations in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG), as well as Cornwall and Akwesasne, to take on some of the many issues created by the pandemic and its subsequent lockdowns, including issues around housing. Locally, a group of

concerned individuals, organizations, and businesses came together to create the Dundas County Housing Initiative Committee.

"We are grateful for the Linking Hands Places for People Steering Committee and the Dundas County Housing Initiative Committee for their dedication to this project," Ashby said.

Going forward, the Dundas County Housing Initiative Committee, along with HOL staff and its board of directors, will oversee decisions about the Places for People project. HOL, with the help of this committee, will find families in need of affordable housing, who are also open to the mentoring aspect of the initiative.

HOL is a community outreach mission that offers food, clothing, and household goods to those in need, serving not only HOL food bank clients but those of neighbouring food banks

as well. With an eye toward eliminating poverty in all its forms, HOL's Linking Hands initiative focuses on finding and addressing the many gaps in services and resources for residents in its surrounding communities.

The Dundas County Housing Initiative Committee focuses on the many housing-related issues some residents are facing in both the township of North Dundas and the Municipality of South Dundas. Currently the group is working on creating affordable housing units, a roommate registry, and a landlord registry. They are also focused on creating an Emergency Homeless Plan with emergency housing opportunities for those living in the county, as well as creating and distributing Hope Bags for the Homeless. The group has also made education and awareness a priority, as those not facing poverty may be unaware of the

realities of the current housing crisis.

To learn more about the Places for People initiative, contact Cathy Ashby by email (cashby@houseoflazarus.com) or by phone (613-989-3830). For more information on becoming an HOL volunteer,

contact Vicki Cane (vcane@houseoflazarus.com), and for more on HOL's ongoing advocacy work, contact Kristina McDermott (kmcdermott@houseoflazarus.com). HOL also has a website, Facebook page, and Instagram.

Well worth the wait

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

WILLIAMSBURG – I.O.O.F. Lodge 369 in Williamsburg held a very successful breakfast on Sat., Aug. 7, described by Noble Grand Doug Hess as "an exceptional turnout" at the first pancake breakfast held at the Williamsburg I.O.O.F. Hall since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020. He continued that about 120 people were able to enjoy a breakfast of pancakes, sausage, bacon, toast, eggs and home fries while visiting with friends and family and raising funds for the local community.

Hess mentioned a meeting to gauge public interest in the Williamsburg Harvest Festival returning this year was held on Thurs., Aug. 5 at the Lodge with encouraging results. He explained the plans for the 2021 event include a pancake breakfast in the morning as well as an evening dance at the I.O.O.F. Hall and a daytime parade on Sept. 25, with a barbecue at the Williamsburg Country Market on Sun., Sept. 26.

The next meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Williamsburg I.O.O.F. Lodge on Aug. 19, with Hess inviting those who are interested in volunteering for this community event. He suggested watching for updates on the Facebook pages of the Williamsburg Country Market and the Williamsburg I.O.O.F. Lodge.





From the left: David McDonald and Freeman Acres are set to enjoy a delicious full-course breakfast during the I.O.O.F. Lodge 369 Pancake Breakfast on Aug. 7.

Thompson Goddard Photo

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EDITORIAL & Opinion

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Editorial

We are going into overtime against this virus

The battle between Covid-19 and Eastern Ontario continues with the arrival of a possible fourth wave of the virus in the region. Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, the medical officer of health and chief executive officer of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) announced this week that there has been an increase of Covid -19 related cases in Russell, Cornwall and Akwesasne. Apparently, all the cases are related to residents who were not vaccinated or caught the virus while out of the country. The current thinking is that despite the virus attempting to wiggle in any way it can to go after residents in SD&G, the number of vaccinated people will make a serious resurgence of the virus difficult. What all this means is that the original strategy is still working to keep all of us safe, and it is working to contain the virus.

Of course, it is always a possibility that if we let our guard down the virus might make a break for it and then we slide back to the beginning.

Everyone is experiencing a little bit of going back to normal each day. Even wearing a mask cannot take away the thrill of being able to go out on a picnic or go to your favourite restaurant.

It's like a hockey game and we are all goalies.

We are winning the game by a few goals, and it looks like the final period will be an easy one. However, there is always that last minute screen shot to deal with or even worse a penalty that gives team virus an extra man or woman.

As the goalie you cannot look away from the game because it is not over yet.

The virus is more resilient than we are. It does not have free will. It is programmed to survive, and it will in any way that it can.

Humans on the other hand are often silly, undisciplined, famously irrational and sitting ducks in so many ways.

That's why this hopefully final period against the virus, using the hockey analogy, is so important.

This is not the time to truly believe and embrace the idea that the virus has been beaten.

There is still a great deal of time for the virus to pull its goalie and sneak the puck into the net.

Remember the last generation had to remain vigilant for five years as they dodged bombs and battled day after day during the Second World War.

The rule to not have house lights on during the night to not guide enemy bombers, had to be adhered to.

We have been lucky, but we have to stick to the plan to the end.

Joseph Morin



Fries for Charity comes to Dundas Manor

Al Graham brought his Fries for Charity truck to Winchester on Monday August 9 to help out the Dundas Manor Long Term Care Home. Donations were gratefully accepted and in return visitor to the Manor were treated to great French fries. By the end of the day \$2,000 was raised.

Families, friends, and neighbours were invited to stop by for some amazing French fries. All donations were directed to the WDMH Foundation's Healthcare Undesignated Fund to be used where needed most at WDMH and Dundas Manor.

Fries for Charity owner Al Graham says he was inspired to build the truck so he could stay involved with the community. "Fries for Charity allows me to do that - and support local charities at the same time," he said.

"We are so grateful to everyone who came out to support this event," noted WDMH Foundation Managing Director Kristen Casselman. "What a nice treat!"

"Special thanks to all the sponsors of the event and the many volunteers who helped out," added Susan Poirier, Dundas Manor Administrator. "And a shout-out to Foodland who delivered extra potatoes when we ran out!"

The Fries for Charity trailer was built with \$25,000 of business donations including the \$11,000 of cooking equipment. In this photo Dundas Manor employees Stacey Williams, Nutrition manager for the Manor and Victoria Cotnam the Office Support Analyst hold up baskets of fries.

Morin Photo

The housing crisis is all too real for many

The housing crisis in Dundas County has gotten significantly worse since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and this crisis is mirrored throughout the province and the country. The crisis is multifaceted, and it's affecting people in a variety of ways. It's not just the homeless, the working poor, or those receiving social assistance who are facing housing issues; there are also young couples with good jobs and relatively healthy finances who want to buy their first home but can't, due to low stock, massively inflated prices, and bidding wars.

With a 600-word limit, I don't have the space to cover everything that could or should be said in relation to the very real housing crisis we're currently facing.

As a single middle-aged woman, I've faced many financial barriers, so today I'm choosing to focus on housing as it relates to the working poor.

Current rental prices are insanely high. Most one-

bedroom apartments cost upwards of \$1,250 per month plus utilities. (And in some circumstances, parking is also extra. And if you've looked, you will know it's difficult to find an adequate and safe apartment at this "low" price.)

In my experience, no more than 35 per cent of your income should be spent on housing, which includes rent or mortgage, plus all associated costs, like utilities and repairs. Let's look at the numbers as they stand today.

Let's say you work for minimum wage and, because most employers are now giving mostly part-time hours you're probably getting no more than 25 to 30 hours per week. (Sometimes employers will work around your schedule, and you might be able to make up the difference working multiple jobs.)

We're going to be generous and say you work 30 hours at \$15 per hour. Unlike the real world, I won't include the amount employers subtract for taxes

or fees, so this would leave you with \$450 per week. If there are four weeks in a month, you have \$1,800 for the month. Once you've subtracted the \$1,250 in rent, you now have \$550 left for the whole month. (If my math is right, you're spending 69 per cent of your earnings on rent alone.) If you're exceptionally lucky, utilities are included. This isn't the reality for most so we're going to estimate a very low monthly cost for utilities (heat, hydro, water, and sewer) at \$100 per month, leaving you with a whopping \$450.

Since this is a small-town rural newspaper, let's say you live in a rural neighbourhood. There's no busing system, so you need a car to get to work. Of course, you can't afford a newer car, as those are too expensive, so you end up buying something old and cheap.

Now you have a car payment of \$300 per month plus you need insurance, which costs an additional \$120 per month. If my math

is correct, that's going to leave you with \$30. (And we haven't factored in gasoline, oil changes, the inevitable repairs that will be needed, parking fees, or driver's licence and plate renewal fees.)

Remember, you haven't bought groceries yet. You haven't paid for medications. And what about a phone or internet access? What about laundry? You don't have laundry machines in your apartment, so you need to drive to a laundromat, have the appropriate coinage for the machines, and the time to spend sitting there using one machine at a time because it's so incredibly busy. Gifts or cards for birthdays? Christmas? Dates with friends? Driving to visit grandma or grandpa? Nope, sorry, no cash left.

This is the reality for many.

This growing issue is not going away and as a society we need to look at this and figure out how to make affordable housing available in this area.

Sandy Casselman



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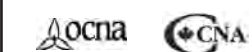
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Ross Video receives nearly \$3-million from Regional Development Program

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

IROQUOIS – The Ontario government is supporting an investment of over \$20 million by local manufacturers and agri-food businesses to help strengthen domestic manufacturing and attract investment to Eastern Ontario. The Seaway area west of Cornwall was given some special attention on Fri., Aug. 6 when Vic Fedeli, provincial Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade stopped by Ross Video in Iroquois to help share approximately \$3-million from the Regional Development Program.

Ross Video is at the beginning of a much anticipated \$15-million expansion program including the construction of an additional 55,000 square foot facility. With \$2.25 million from the Eastern Ontario Development Fund, the company is creating 30 jobs and retaining 215 existing jobs.

Stephen Byvelts the Mayor of South Dundas said, having something like Ross video in the village of Iroquois is like having a jewel for the municipality.

“No doubt high-tech is the way the world is going. We are certainly proud to work with them. We hope everything goes well for them in the expansion and in the end, I think they will bring more jobs to South Dundas. The recognition that Ross Video has across the world certainly bodes well for the little village of Iroquois,” said Byvelts.

The mayor said it was refreshing to see the provincial government pay attention not just to the big cities, but also to rural Ontario.

“Our government’s top priority throughout the pandemic has been protecting the province’s health and protecting our jobs and economy,” said Fedeli in a press release.

“These projects will make a significant impact in communities and economies in Eastern Ontario. They will enable long-term measurable outcomes, including private-sector investments, job creation and retention, and strong regional growth.”

The provincial funding will help Ross Video purchase new equipment as well as combine operations from several of their other locations as a result of recent acquisitions.

Fedeli told the crowd who had gathered for the



Celebrating a \$2.5 million investment from the Ontario’s Regional Development Program, Ross video held a special groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 6. Left to right are Jim McDonnell, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry, Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Ross Video chief executive officer David Ross, and South Dundas Mayor Stephen Byvelts. Morin Photo

special funding announcement,” He said, “To John and Diane I would have to say to you what a phenomenal company you have begun and are growing. This is simply spectacular.”

David Ross the CEO of Ross Video explained that the day after the funding announcement had been made, it will have been his 30th anniversary working for Ross Video.

“This event combines our commitment to my hometown of Iroquois, a low carbon footprint green facility, and a major increase of our manufacturing capacity to serve our growing global customer base,” he said.

The expansion project took four years to finally get off the ground.

The Royal Canadian Legion Iroquois Branch 370 has been working with Ross Video staff to manage a land transfer that would enable Ross Video to go ahead with their plans.

“I remember my father bringing on and deciding we would make a go of this together and grow this company after a tough recession in 1989. It was not always easy,” he said.

Ross explained that the company has had 29 straight years of record growth.

“The average growth has been between 15 and 17 per cent every single year.”

He remembers at the beginning, Ross Video made \$2.5-million in revenue.

He said this year he is very confident that the company would reach the \$250- million dollar mark and probably a bit more.

“In 2009 we bought our first company,” he said. “And that started a whole new generation of what Ross Video was able to do. And then we bought another and another. We have bought 17 companies around the world to date.”

The remarkable achievement of Ross Video and its acquisitions is that the companies were all bought from funds generated by the company and from time to time a little help from government funding, but for the most part they have been able to finance all of their purchases all around the world with their own money.

“We are actually taking technology from all around

the world and bringing it back to Ontario,” said Ross.

Ross said he loved the idea that in a time when Canadian technology is thought to be slipping away to other countries, Ross Video is on an opposite path bringing manufacturing and technology to Canada.

We are very proud of that,” he said.

“Ontario’s government is committed to supporting the full recovery of businesses in all regions,” said Jim McDonnell, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry. “These important investments are creating a path forward for many kinds of businesses. They all have at least one thing in common – developing the best products and services in the world.”

John Ross founded Ross Video in 1974 in his basement in Montreal. John sold the World War II trainer airplane he had painstakingly rebuilt over a two-year period for \$3,500 and used the money as seed capital to start the company. To this day, this is the only investment that has been made in Ross Video, which has been self-funded since then, growing organically through reinvestment of profits from operations. Acquisitions have also been funded without external venture capital. David Ross, John’s son and Ross Video’s chief executive officer, now owns 90 per cent of Ross Video. Company employees own the remaining 10 percent.



Rockin’ and rollin’

Friday night is skate night at the Chesterville Arena, roller skating that is. Every Friday until Aug. 27, there is free roller skating or roller blading at the arena, thanks to Winchester Dairyfest, in collaboration with the Municipality of North Dundas. Organizer Aaron Dellah explained there are generally between 30-40 people taking advantage of the opportunity to get out of the house, safely socialize and enjoy some exercise. Dellah mentioned people from as far away as Montreal have joined those from local communities for some exercise and fun. For those who don’t have the equipment, there is an onsite skate lending library and a canteen available with tasty treats for purchase. From the left: Amy Bachhuber, Abby McKinley, Madelaine Liska and Kelsie MacDonald take a moment during their Friday evening skate. Thompson Goddard Photo

– In Memoriam –

PAMELA YOUNG

IN MEMORY OF A LOVING WIFE AND MOTHER

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since we lost Pamy. They say, “time is a healer”, but how much time, is unknown! Fortunately for us, we can rely on many memories to put a smile on our face, at any time. Memories that time will never erase. One of Pamy’s favourite sayings was, “Love you to the moon and back”, and, we certainly still do!

Mike, Jill and Jaese Lecuyer

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UCP fall season tickets on sale Aug. 16

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Upper Canada Playhouse (UCP) is back in session with the box office opening for business on Aug. 16.

Those who love the theatre and who love watching stage performances live, will be happy to hear that the UCP is gearing up for a five-show season this fall, beginning with *Johnny and June* on Sept. 7. While the Playhouse has been closed for well over a year now to the COVID-19 pandemic, UCP artistic director Donnie Bowes said the local company is ready to open, but with a few precautions. In addition to following provincial guidelines, the theatre will be reducing the number of seats available, there will be no flex passes, and tickets are to be sold on a show-by-show basis.

“Everyone is really needing something to look forward to. What we can offer is the gift of live entertainment with all the laughs, stories, and music that it brings. Our upcoming fall season will do that and more,” Bowes said.

Bowes said UCP has been using pandemic-

induced down time to plan a dynamic and enjoyable comeback this fall. With safety protocols in place, Bowes said the Playhouse, and the amazing set of actors and behind-the-scenes specialists, are more than ready to make this year’s fall session an unforgettable experience for theatre goers.

“We’re bringing in the big guns,” Bowes said. “We’re looking forward to showcasing some of our audience’s favourite actors and musicians, with five dynamite shows to welcome our audience back to our theatre.”

With limited seats available due to pandemic safety restrictions, Bowes urges theatre enthusiasts to get their tickets early. Tickets can be ordered by phone, email, or in-person beginning Aug. 16, while online bookings begin Aug. 17. The lineup begins with *Johnny and June*, which will run from Sept. 7 to Sept. 19. This will be followed by *Old Love* (Sept. 23 to Oct. 30), *Leisa Way’s Sweet Dreams: A Tribute to Patsy Cline* (Nov. 2 to Nov. 14), *Lucien in Trumpland* (Nov. 16 to Nov. 28), and *Rockin’ Round the Christmas Tree* (Nov. 30 to

Dec. 19).

Johnny and June, featuring Aaron Solomon, is a salute to the lives of Johnny Cash and June Carter, the king and queen of country music. Bowes said Solomon’s past UCP performances have earned him a loyal following here in Eastern Ontario. He said Solomon’s “incredible embodiment of this legendary country star literally holds audiences spellbound” in this hand clapping, foot stomping live concert event.

Next up on the theatre’s schedule is *Old Love*, a comedy written by Canadian playwright Norm Foster, who will also be starring in the production. This play follows the lives of two characters who reunite after years apart. It’s the story of the reawakening of the couple’s connection, and it’s filled with comedic situations and dialogue, romance and courtship, and Foster’s famous humour and heart.

Those county music lovers lining up for *Johnny and June* tickets may want to purchase seats early for *Leisa Way’s Sweet Dreams: A Tribute to Patsy Cline*. Before being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic,



The Upper Canada Playhouse is just about ready to open its doors for another great season. Courtesy Photo

this popular concert sold out quickly last year. Bowes said UCP is looking forward to Leisa and her Wayward Wind Band returning to its stage for an “unforgettable tribute to one of country’s biggest stars.”

Fourth on the roster is *Lucien in Trumpland*. This is a brand-new play written by “Canada’s favourite blue-collar philosopher” Marshall Button. Actor, comedian, playwright, and artistic director, Button goes on another road trip in this comedic performance. Bowes said, “In this latest episode, Lucien makes another trip to a Florida beach where he holds forth on his unique and entertaining views on the world, including tales of his ill-fated drive south and a stop-over in Washington during the storming of the

Capitol.”

Rounding out the fall line-up, and just in time for the holiday season, is *Rockin’ Round the Christmas Tree*, a concert that is sure to get the audience’s toes tapping. Bowes said this new event includes a host of everyone’s favourite Yuletide songs, a bit of comedy, a story or two, and a sprinkling of visits from some popular Christmas characters. Bowes called it “a wonderful new Christmas concert guaranteed to bring the joys of the season to the whole family.”

The Playhouse, located in the Municipality of South Dundas’ village of Morrisburg, has a history and a reputation of delivering “an exciting mix of professional live theatre and music

performed by some of the country’s most talented performers.” Those looking to check it out, and those returning for more of what they love, be sure to get your tickets as soon as possible, as seats will be limited. In addition to limiting available seats and hiring a COVID compliance officer, UCP staff are following Ontario’s stated pandemic protocols, as they are determined to provide theatre goers with not only an unforgettably entertaining experience, but also a safe one.

The UCP Box Office is set to open next Mon., Aug. 16 for in-person, phone, and email bookings. Online bookings will open the following day, on Aug. 17. For more information, visit uppercanadaplayhouse.com or phone 613-543-3713 or 1-877-550-3650.



Wing Night at the Chesterville Legion

It was Wing Night at the Chesterville Legion, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 434, on Fri., Aug. 6. People were able to gather to visit with friends and enjoy dinner. Be sure to check out the Legion’s Facebook page for information on upcoming events, such as the very popular chicken barbecue dinner. From the left: Kaireen Cotnam of Chesterville is pictured with her meal of fries and wings during Wing Night while conversing with several friends including Bonnie Tulloch and Melony Malo shown here.

Thompson Goddard Photo



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Capturing our history in art

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – In the “new” Chesterville Village Square affixed to two buildings are murals which depict part of the historical heritage of this community. Commissioned by the Chesterville & District Lions Club, these murals were created by artists Sheldon Shane and Marilyn St. Pierre.

Lion John Edgerton, who was involved in the mural projects, explained that the project began as a method of preserving and promoting our local history in a virtual format; information was provided by residents as well as consulting *The Time That Was*, a Chesterville history book compiled and published by the Chesterville Women’s Institute.

He commented that from beginning to end each of the two projects took six to nine months, with the mural mounting generally taking one day to complete. The artists were provided with photos if they were available, but if no photo was available, they described to Sheldon and Marilyn what they wanted. The paintings were painted on 4x8 foot wooden panels, with a clear protective coating applied before they were attached to framework at the site.

Edgerton noted funds were raised by

donations from local people and businesses as well as the sale of money calendars. He said these calendars were sold and each month draws were held for monetary prizes.

The north side of the Bank of Nova Scotia (BNS) building at the corner of Main and King streets features a mural depicting the Chesterville station of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Temperance Hotel on King Street next to the station and the opening of the present bridge across the Nation River, built in the 1950s to replace the iron bridge seen beside it.

Edgerton mentioned the current mural on the BNS is the second one at that site. The original mural was attached to pressure treated lumber which eventually decayed. BNS paid for the present stainless-steel framework to which the mural after being repaired was attached to by Shane’s Signs.

Edgerton explained the mural on the BNS tries to capture as much history of the community as possible. It is currently located adjacent to a beautiful mid-town park with several benches and lovely floral gardens. He mentioned the car going across the bridge is a police car with Chesterville town policeman Leonard Shane inside. At the station, depicted as it was in 1914, the man standing on the platform represents Jack Hartwell who had



Located on the north side of the Bank of Nova Scotia, Chesterville’s first mural depicts three scenes from our history. Thompson Goddard Photo

worked for the railroad all his life. The Temperance Hotel, located next to the station, did not serve alcoholic drinks and was destroyed by fire in 1908. Currently there are three brick houses where that building once stood and residents who had lived across the street from the hotel where stables were located, recall finding horseshoe nails and horseshoes in their vegetable garden.

The historic Fulton Block holds the second village mural, installed in May 2006 and depicts a winter scene of people cutting ice blocks out of the Nation River, the blocks being hauled away by a team of horses and an ice hockey game being

played on the river as it runs through Chesterville. The man driving the team of horses hauling ice represents Jim Sullivan who locals say once cut and hauled ice from the river. Edgerton mentioned Chesterville resident, Audrey Cross was “instrumental” in having this mural created.

When asked, Edgerton explained there were no plans to create more murals in the community, with one of the reasons being a lack of locations in the downtown area to mount them to. These two murals can provide those with an interest in local history, an opportunity to begin the journey of discovering our past while living in the present and looking to the future.

Coming together for the kids

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

AVONMORE – Once the newly installed playground equipment and park is inspected by North Stormont inspector Nancy-Ann Gauthier and given “the green light for play,” an important portion of the Park Project will be completed according to Sophie Branchaud of the Avonmore Community Athletic Association (ACAA) and member of the Park Committee. She continued the installation of the playground began on Aug. 3 and was completed in three days.

The membership of the Park Committee includes Sophie Branchaud, Josee Poirier, Nancy Wert, Murray Barkley, Tara Lynn Chenier, Kerry Adams, and Mark Butzer, with Branchaud describing them as “an incredible group of dedicated individuals.” She explained the total cost of the playground was \$115,000 with over \$70,000 raised by Park Committee, the township of North Stormont contributing \$17,000 and the ACAA generously agreeing “to lend the Park Committee the balance” needed so the playground could be completely installed this year.

Fundraising activities included “canvassing local businesses, the 100 Caring Women of North Stormont Event, The Christmas Porch Tour, and several large-scale bottle drives,” with Branchaud mentioning how as COVID-19 restrictions loosen, there are several events in the planning

stages “for raising the rest of the money we need to complete the project.”

On behalf of the Park Committee, she wished to thank the many people, organizations and local businesses which donated funds and assisted in fundraising. She mentioned how “many local businesses donated between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to this project.” Every member of the committee worked to secure donations and assisted in the bottle drives, as well as “Nancy Wert and The Hotdog Moms” who “hosted both the 100 Caring Women of North Stormont, and the Christmas Porch Tour Event” before concluding her remarks with a thank you to everyone who saved bottles for the bottle drives.

Some members of the Park Committee gathered near the newly installed play structure in the Avonmore Playground. From the left: Josee Poirier, Sophie Branchaud, Tara Lynn Chenier, Murray Barkley and Nancy Wert. Absent from photo: Kerry Adams and Mark Butzer.

Thompson Goddard Photo



Looking ahead, Branchaud mentioned the Park Committee will be working on the next phase of the project “which will include a concrete pad, a walking path, benches and gardens,” which is estimated to cost approximately \$50,000. The committee plans to “work hard raising funds” for this and is hopeful “with the support of the community,” that it can be raised over the next year.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 12, 2021 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 12, 2021 CLUES ACROSS 1. Calls balls and strikes 4. Turkish officer 9. Repaired shoe 14. Grass genus 15. Small, sealed vial 16. Primp 17. Immoral act 18. A tool to communicate 20. Crumbles away 22. Egg-like 23. Districts (abbr.) 24. Dressed 28. Small island (British) 29. Dialect of Chinese 30. Force unit 31. Borderlines 33. Norse gods 37. Morning 38. Fiddler crabs 39. Tell a story 41. Consumed 42. Atomic #58 43. About old Norse poems 44. Fencing swords 46. One-time Tigers third baseman 49. Southpaw (abbr.) 50. Neither 51. Conversations 55. Distinctive manner or pronunciation 58. Cyprinids 59. Appropriate to a festival 60. Pearl Jam frontman 64. Wrath 65. Italian city 66. A way to get there 67. A nose or snout 68. German seaport 69. A horse for riding 70. Airline representative (abbr.) CLUES DOWN 1. Unhappy 2. Silk fabric 3. Unbroken view of a region 4. Middle Eastern territory 5. _ and Andy, TV show 6. Central processing unit 7. Department of Housing and Urban Development 8. Midcentury newspaper columnist 9. Weapon 10. Delivered a speech 11. Probably going to happen 12. Midway between northeast and east 13. Danish krone 19. Synthetic resin (abbr.) 21. Fall slowly in drops 24. Bestow an honor upon 25. Childishly silly 26. Related on the mother's side 27. Populations of related plants 31. Coherent 32. Tribe of ancient Britons 34. Financial firm Goldman _ 35. Stephen King thriller 36. Went in again 40. Commercial 41. Poking holes in the ground 45. Prisoners of war 47. Pursued pleasure 48. "Seinfeld" character 52. Body of water 53. Hovering vehicle (abbr.) 54. People who utilize 56. Nostrils 57. Inner mass of some fungi 59. Honor lavishly 60. Midway between east and southeast 61. Turn down 62. Small round mark 63. Expected at a certain time

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 - Strengthen 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.

Sassy's Nail Studio's Tracy McMillan follows her dream

WILLIAMSBURG – “If you have a dream, follow it now and don't wait 30 years. Life is too short not to take chances,” Tracy McMillan said. “When you believe in yourself, anything is possible.”

Following a year of research, learning, and experimentation, McMillan, who is the owner of Sassy's Nail Studio in Williamsburg (12620 Tollgate Road), opened her home-based business one week before the first COVID-19 lockdown in early 2020. Since then, due to the province's pandemic regulations, she's been closed more than she's been open, but she hasn't let that sway her focus or dampen her enthusiasm.

“I have always wanted to be a nail technician after getting my first set of nails at 21, but life prevented me from following that dream because it is an expensive industry to get into if you're going to do it legally and safely,” McMillan said.

Following a six-year stint as part of a long-haul trucking team with her husband Troy, McMillan said she was finally ready to take the leap in 2018. With both time and money available, she began by testing the waters.

“I saw a need and I could finally fulfill my dream,” she said. “There is no one around here that offers acrylic and gel enhancements. I decided to be my own boss, so I have control of how my studio is ran, legally and safely.”

McMillan is a licensed and insured nail technician with a very long list of certificates and education that she continues to supplement. She said she will continue taking courses and

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Tracy McMillan follows her dream as owner of Sassy's Nail Studio in Williamsburg. Casselman Photo

learning more, as long as there is more to learn and courses available. McMillan's training runs from the administrative to the practical, allowing her to be a savvy business owner while, at the same, letting her inner nail artist shine.

“I believe that knowledge is wealth and health,” McMillan said. “I didn't want to be 'just' a nail technician. Not too many people know this, but the nail industry in Ontario is not regulated, so any Jane or John Doe can go to a beauty supply store, buy some supplies, and call themselves a nail technician. This, to me, is a very dangerous game if you're not

properly educated. We use a lot of chemicals and tools that, if not used properly, could cause some serious injury to someone.”

McMillan has carved out a niche for herself in South Dundas, focusing primarily on manicures and nail art. She specializes in acrylic, fiberglass, and hard gel enhancements, and her list of services includes dry manicure, basic wet manicure, gel polish manicure, spa manicure, new IBX Boost manicure, acrylic enhancements, fiberglass enhancements, gel enhancements, acrylic rebalance (fill), fiberglass rebalance (fill), and gel rebalance (fill). She also does

acrylic, fiberglass, and gel overlay, as well as replacement or repair of an enhancement, removal of enhancements, and nail art.

“I have met so many new clients that I now consider friends. When you are a nail tech, much like a hairdresser, stories and secrets are shared and you quickly become close,” she said, adding that “what is said in the studio, stays in the studio.”

Male or female, young or young at heart, she works to transform a person's nails to their specific request. She said one of the reasons she provides a dry manicure service is so men will feel more comfortable getting their nails done. To see some of her work, visit her Facebook page (facebook.com/sassynailstudio).

To further promote her business and to become more involved in her local community, McMillan joined the local South Dundas Chamber of Commerce earlier this year. A member of the chamber's board of directors, McMillan has been a regular volunteer since joining. She was recently hired as the chamber's part-time office manager.

“I am very passionate about the businesses and residents of South Dundas, and I want to do all that I can do to help everyone,” she said, noting that the office manager position will not interfere with her business.

While she does provide an email (fun_sassy@hotmail.com) and phone (613-535-2984) contact, McMillan said reservations must be made online (sassynailstudio.ca), as she works by appointment only.

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.

Osgoode Township Museum seeking stories

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Villager Staff

VERNON – The Osgoode Township Museum (OTM) recently announced “the development of a virtual exhibit” which will focus on comparing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in local rural communities to the effects of the 1918 influenza pandemic.

In early March 2020, an outbreak of COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, just over 100 years after the 1918 Influenza Pandemic which claimed an estimated 20 to 50 million lives worldwide during four waves occurring over two years.

Organizers of the virtual exhibit are seeking input and submissions from the community on these two pandemics. These could include recollections and family accounts of living through a pandemic, photographs, journals, blog entries and stories. It is suggested to contact the Osgoode Township Museum directly if there are physical artifacts which could be used for the virtual

exhibit.

The press release noted “While all interest in this project is welcome, every submission may not fit into the scope of the exhibit, and its inclusion cannot be guaranteed following revision by the committee.” For more information, please visit the OTM website at www.osgoodemuseum.ca, their Facebook page or email at othsvernstudent@gmail.com.

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Description of Land(s):

Roll No. 05 06 001 003 08950 0000; PIN 66137-0249; **Minimum tender amount: \$8,135.91**

Roll No. 05 06 002 000 1000 0000; PIN 66137-0249; 42 Park Avenue, Morrisburg; PIN 66137-0249; **CANCEL** tender amount: **\$17,975.81**

Roll No. 05 06 006 007 01200 0000; 11397 County Road 18, Brinston; PIN 66114-0129; **Minimum tender amount: \$7,085.24**

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

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Russell's Heritage Conservation District dies in a 3-2 vote

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – “Don’t feel bad about it. You win some, you lose some,” township of Russell Coun. André Brisson said.

Brisson’s statement was made in response to a decision made during the Aug. 9 council meeting, where the municipality’s Heritage Conservation District (HCD) project was put to rest. Coun. Mike Tarnowski put forth a motion to end the project effective immediately and Brisson seconded that motion. With support from Coun. Jamie Laurin, those opposed to the HCD were the victors. Mayor Pierre Leroux and Coun. Cindy Saucier both voted in favour of continuing the project.

“I’m sorry that I was not able to convince everybody,” director of planning, building and economic development Dominique Tremblay said following the final vote.

The decision was made after a lengthy discussion, as well as an open question period with residents. Council had voted at their May 17 council meeting to defer the decision until August so that Tremblay might have time to research more palatable alternatives, such as a one-or-two-year pilot project, whereby council would have the chance to cancel the project should it not meet with expectations.

Tremblay’s recommendation to council was an action plan with three steps: an in-person public meeting in September to help address resident questions, as well as the

increasing amount of misinformation being disseminated from unidentified sources; a staff report and recommendation to council based on feedback from that meeting; and the creation of an HCD committee comprised primarily of Russell residents. Tremblay said she wanted to provide an additional level of security and comfort for those residents who were still wary of the HCD.

“With all the work that’s been done, can homeowners come in and get assistance with designations for their own property, and if so, what can we do to assist them with this,” Laurin asked. Tremblay confirmed this could be done and outlined the process.

Like his council colleagues, Laurin said he spoke with residents on both sides of the issue over the weekend. It was noted that many residents were concerned about a variety of incorrect statements that were being made via person-to-person conversations, or through pamphlets and posters. Saucier said a resident had heard they wouldn’t be able to use a generator because it wouldn’t fit into the HCD aesthetic. This was incorrect. She listed a few other examples of incorrect information being circulated amongst residents, including the notion that taxes would double.

“All publicity is good publicity,” Leroux said, noting that the misinformation campaign had given him several opportunities to speak directly with residents and provide the facts.

Brisson said the discussion was making it sound like the misinformation was coming from those opposed to the HCD. He suggested that there was misinformation being circulated from both sides.

Saucier said many of the property owners in the proposed HCD that she had spoken with were in favour of the project. In fact, over the past week, she said she had received 20 letters in support of the HCD and only three against. Further discussion revealed an interest in finding out how residents living in the proposed HCD felt about the plan, as it appeared some of the opposition might be property owners who rent homes or own businesses and who may not have an interest in protecting Russell’s heritage or the feel of the village.

“We have to ask ourselves, not if that change is going to happen, but when that change is going to happen,” Tremblay said, noting similar situations throughout the province. She said there are needs for this all over Ontario and that’s why the province has the HCD guidelines in place. Tremblay said while most homeowners would no doubt make choices in keeping with the current heritage feel of the village, developers have no incentives to do so.

Leroux asked Tremblay a series of questions to help clarify the purpose behind the HCD, which is to protect the heritage feel of the area from developers focused on buying property and demolishing century-old buildings. Tremblay made it clear that with the current situation, the township has

no control over who buys a heritage home or whether they choose to demolish it and build a modern structure in its place.

“I think these questions are working on people’s potential fears,” Tarnowski said.

Leroux said his questions were meant to clarify what the township has the authority to protect with and without an HCD in place. He also noted, like Tremblay, that the HCD is a tool to control change, not stop it.

“It’s already starting to happen,” Saucier said. “There are houses across from Russell High School that are already coming down to put up rowhouses. Developers are knocking on doors to say, ‘tell me when you’re selling’ because they want to tear down and put-up condos.”

Both Tarnowski and Brisson made comments defending new builds. Brisson said new builds can be made to look just as good as the heritage buildings.

“One day, we’ll look back and say, ‘you know, Russell’s not what it used to be,’” Leroux said.

In the end, the divide was clear with three opposed to the HCD and only two in favour. Leroux said the 3-2 vote effectively and immediately ends all work or talk of the HCD. Leroux noted there are only two ways to revive the HCD: one of the councillors opposing the project would need to reverse their decision and bring it back to the council table, or the next council could potentially raise the issue again.

“That’s democracy,” Leroux said.

Russell residents ask for increased accessibility standards

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – The township of Russell’s politicians recently discussed issues of accessibility.

The topic was raised during the Aug. 9 council meeting in four reports from the township’s Accessibility Advisory Committee. Coun. André Brisson is the council representative on the resident-led group and provided feedback and

clarification for his council colleagues on each of the discussions.

The four submitted recommendations included higher accessibility standards for projects, the imposition of an accessibility review for new developments, the prioritization of access to community mailboxes, and budgeting an amount to improve accessibility within the township.

Councillor Jamie Laurin asked if the township had

the right to demand developers to do more than the provincially set minimum standards in the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. Director of Planning, Building and Economic Development Dominique Tremblay said that to do so would require a change to the municipalities zoning bylaw, which she said is currently being revised.

“We’re looking at revamping our zoning

bylaw probably by the end of the year,” Tremblay said, noting that it won’t encompass everything in the AODA, but that there are several different ways to approach the situation depending on council’s preference.

Tremblay also noted that the zoning bylaw only covers private property. She said everything else would fall under a separate guideline and is overseen by the director of infrastructure Jonathan

Bourgon.

“The committee is saying to council that they’re looking for higher standards,” Mayor Pierre Leroux said, noting that this will probably be part of the strategic planning process.

Leroux clarified that the recommendations were presented for council and staff to consider when making decisions going forward. Coun. Mike Tarnowski said he would like to get some more information before budget time.

The 2022 Budget

process is set to begin next month with a special council meeting and public consultation on Sept. 13. A draft budget will be presented to council during the Oct. 4 regular council meeting, followed by two back-to-back working sessions on Oct. 20 and 21. The final draft is to be presented to council for approval at the Nov. 1 meeting.

The next meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee is Sept. 15. To learn more about this and other committees, visit the township’s website.

Russell regulates sale and use of fireworks

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – Residents in the township of Russell will now need to check out the municipality’s new Fireworks Bylaw before setting off any celebratory explosions if they want to avoid a fine.

The municipality’s politicians unanimously approved the passing of the bylaw, along with an update to the existing Fees and Charges Bylaw, during the Aug. 9 council meeting. While Mayor Pierre Leroux suggested postponing the decision and sending the report to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), the remaining council members chose to vote on the recommendation as presented.

“Every year, complaints

are received due to fireworks being set off in built-up areas,” director of public safety and enforcement Millie Bourdeau said in her report.

“The complaints are usually due to noise and at times people report sparks falling onto their property or house. We also have noticed that animals get startled and run away; they then become lost and end up in the pound until claimed. This year, in addition to complaints of dangerous use of fireworks, damage was done to waste receptacles due to people disposing of fireworks.”

Depending on the type of fireworks being used, the new bylaw either prohibits or regulates the sale and discharge within the township. In addition, fees and charges have been set accordingly.

“It’s a hard bylaw to enforce,” Leroux said, noting that bylaw officers must rely on resident complaints.

The bylaw covers three separate types of fireworks: consumer, display, and pyrotechnic special effects. Consumer fireworks, which are mostly used by families, are permitted with restrictions on only four days of the year: New Year’s Day, Victoria Day, Canada Day, and St. Jean Baptiste Day. Meanwhile, display fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects fireworks both require an application and a permit, as well as a qualified supervisor and insurance.

“What goes up on your property, must come down on your property,” Leroux said. “It’s not easy in a subdivision.”



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