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# Briefly

# Salt-water Moon

PRESCOTT - The St Lawrence Shakespeare Festival is presenting a limited engagement of six shows of David French's Salt-water Moon, directed by Helen Juvonen. The play began on Aug. 18. There is still time to enjoy it. It will be playing until Aug. 22. You can get tickets

stlawrenceshakespeare.ca. The address is 101 Water Street West, Prescott. Their number is 613-925-5788.

# Swim while you can this summer

NORTH DUNDAS The Winchester Pool will be running its normal schedule until Sept. 4 and will be open Sept. 6 from 1-5 p.m. with hourly timeslots. The Chesterville Pool will be running on its normal schedule until Sept. 3 and will be open Sept. 5 from 1-5 p.m. with hourly timeslots. For more information scheduling swim sessions, call the township office directly at 613-774-2105.

# Digital plan help NORTH DUNDAS -

Digital Main Streets Digital Transformation Grants are available until Oct. 31. The grant provides brick-andmortar businesses with \$2,500 towards their adoption of digital technologies. Contact your economic development officer, Stephen Mann at 613-774-2105 or email smann@northdundas.com

# Vaccination clinic at Ross Video

IROQUOIS - On Mon.. Aug. 23 from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Ross Video is hosting a vaccination clinic tor the community at its manufacturing facility at 8 John Street, Iroquois. It is open to the public. No appointment is necessary.



# Serving Stormont and Dundas Counties

Volume 129, Number 6 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, August 19, 2021 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included) PM40050631R8905



# Travelling in style in Crysler

The St. Albert 2021 tractor parade, put together by Vintage Iron and Traditions and led by club president François Latour was held on Sat., Aug. 14 in St. Albert. The tractor parade consisted of 71 registered tractors from across the region. The parade assembled at the St. Albert Community Centre and drove to Crysler and back. In this photo taken in Crysler at the half way point of the parade is Michel and Nicole Calande and their seven month old pup Sam on his special driving platform.

# **Province helps out with funding for Sevita expansion**

Joseph Morin

Record Staff

INKERMAN - Sevita International Corp. Sandy Row facility had an interesting visit from the province on Aug. 6.

The Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Vic Fedeli and SD&G MPP Jim McDonell dropped by the Sevita processing plant to announce funding for the seed and soybean processing company.

Sevita is expanding its processing capabilities with construction of a new facility alongside its existing ones at the processing plant. They are building a \$3 million, new soybean processing facility in Inkerman, which will be designed to allow the processing and packaging of both seed and food-grade soybeans in the same plant.

The province is funding the project with \$500,000 from the Eastern Ontario Development Fund.

Continued on page 2

# Villeneuve prohibited from speaking directly to staff communication blackout barring Villeneuve

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

BERWICK - Township of North Stormont Coun. Roxane Villeneuve has been officially sanctioned following a second code of conduct investigation.

During the municipality's Aug. 10 council meeting, integrity commissioner Tony Fleming outlined his findings concerning complaints made against Villeneuve in November 2020 and presented recommendations for appropriate action. With Coun. Randy Douglas absent from the meeting, it was left to Mayor Jim Wert, Deputy Mayor François Landry, and Coun. Steve Densham to determine Villeneuve's fate. They voted in favour of a

from corresponding directly with municipal staff for the duration of the council term, as well as a 45-day remuneration suspension.

"The only decision council is afforded under the Municipal Act is to decide how the report will be made public, and whether to adopt any recommendations made by the integrity commissioner," Fleming said in his written report directed to CAO Craig Calder. "Council does not have the authority to alter the findings of the report, only consider the recommendations."

Fleming is the associate managing partner at Cunningham Swan Lawyers, as well as the supervising partner for the firm's municipal law group. He is recognized by the Law Society of Upper

Continued on page 3





## Page 2 The Chesterville Record

# Sevita expansion

#### **Continued from the front**

A spokesperson for Sevita said the addition of the new processing facility will boost its seed business in this part of the province by 50 per cent. The expectation is that the new state-of-the-art plant will lower production costs as well as improve the quality of their product. Sevita will be purchasing also equipment that warms up the seeds which will extend the seed processing and treating season. The ability to warm the seeds up is unique to Sevita and no other seed facility in Ontario can do this.

The company receives soybeans from about 200 farms in the region and sells about 85 per cent of its products to foreign countries.

In a press release about funding, Sevita's VP of operations, Bob Hart said, "To become Canada's leading provider of foodgrade soybeans to the world, International Sevita collaborates with local resources such as our local growers, other partners and our highly valued employees



The new processing facility at Sevita will allow for both seed and food grade soybean processing. Morin Photo

to develop, grow and provide the finest soybean varieties that supply the growing global demand for high quality Canadian soybean products."

He added "We are thrilled to partner with the Eastern Ontario Regional Development team to create both a local and global win, win situation."

The visit included tour of the facility and a step-bystep explanation of what Sevita does and how they do it. Sevita develops different varies of seed and farmers use these same seeds to grow soybeans which are harvested and sent back to the Sevita processing plant and from there around the world.

Minister Vic Fedeli said, "Seeing the companies in Ontario and seeing this area

of Ontario invest \$30 million in new facilities today, tell us that the recovery in Ontario is about to begin because of companies that we saw here in South Eastern Ontario."

Fedeli said the fact that Sevita creates the seed varieties it does and then have farmers plant those seed to grow soybean crops that will be harvested and sent back to Sevita and then exported to the rest of the world, is a great opportunity for Ontario, job creation and a healthy rural economy.

MPP McDonell said, "I am somewhat surprised at the value added to soybean crops. That has created a great market in foreign countries."

He said it was to Sevitas' credit to have accomplished what it has.

Over the past three years Sevita has upgraded its Sandy Row facility. The company has invested \$1.9 million in upgrades.

In the summer of 2016, Sevita installed two new receiving pits that can run at the same time. Each pit has the capacity to unload 150 tonnes per hour.

They changed the grain probe they use to a corn style after customers were concerned that the compartment style probe was resulting in higher dockage levels.

In 2016 the plant was completely rebuilt, and all of its equipment was upgraded. In 2016 they also installed a new colour sorter and a large aspiration unit for shipping bulk seed. The next big change will be the addition of its new processing plant.



Sevita's vice president of operations Bob Hart on the left explains his company's soybean operation, while MPP Jim McDonell, centre, and the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Vic Fedeli look at some soybeans.

# **Precautionary boil water** advisory for Morrisburg

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

MORRISBURG – A precautionary boil water advisory was announced for the Village of Morrisburg earlier this week but by Tuesday afternoon the advisory was lifted. Test results show the water is potable and safe to drink.

The Municipality of South Dundas released the advisory on Aug. 16, noting that all village residents should, "boil their tap water prior to use as a precautionary measure due to a low-pressure event, which occurred in the drinking water system overnight."

The advisory stated water should be boiled for drinking, making ice cubes, juices, or other mixes; preparing baby food or infant formula; preparing food, including washing fruits and vegetables; and gargling or brushing teeth or dentures. Water should be brought to a "rolling boil for at least one minute" and then cooled before use.

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# Duncan launches local campaign & headquarters

CORNWALL - The campaign team for reopened and reunited with friends and local Conservative candidate Eric Duncan is going full steam ahead as he seeks a second term in Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry representing the community as their Member of Parliament. Within 48 hours of the writ of election officially being dropped, Duncan and his team have opened their Campaign Headquarters in Cornwall's Le Village area and have installed over 600 signs on front lawns throughout the riding.

"We continue to be overwhelmed by the strong support here in Cornwall and SD&G. We are off to a great start, and I'm grateful to our 'Big Blue Machine' of volunteers and supporters that continue to help out each election," said Duncan. "More than anything, we've noticed the anger of Canadians for this unnecessary \$600 million election just as we get family. People see this decision by Justin Trudeau as very selfish and self-serving. With the serious wildfires in British Columbia and Northern Ontario, the heartbreaking and dangerous situation in Afghanistan, and a potential fourth wave of COVID-19, I think it is going to backfire on the Liberals."

Conservative Party leader Erin O'Toole started the campaign by releasing a full and detailed campaign platform. Duncan will be sharing his local campaign priorities for the City of Cornwall and SD&G region in the coming weeks.

'We are looking forward to hosting many smaller, local events throughout the riding in the coming weeks as a safe way to connect with thousands of voters and to get our positive message out," said Campaign Manager Adrian Bugelli.

aim at the allegations, the

report, and its finding, as

well as Fleming's right to

make those assessments,

and concluded that she was

being wrongfully and

unfairly treated. She then threatened legal action if

council voted to enforce

pursue my legal alternatives

to have the decision

reviewed by the courts," she

said. "However, this time, if

"In the past, I did not

"Although it's been less than two years since being first elected, Eric has gained a lot of new supporters in the riding and we are seeing many of them offer their support to our campaign, which is great to see. While none of the other parties have even announced candidates, we are firing away on all cylinders and taking nothing for granted."

The fully operational Campaign Office is located at 327 Montreal Road with a toll-free number, 1-855-505-3742 and campaign email address, info@EricDuncan.ca. Those looking for lawn signs, information on how and where to vote, and any questions can connect with Duncan's team in the lead up to Election Day on Mon., Sept. 20.

Duncan's regular Member of Parliament Office remains open to assist with federal case files and passports at 691



**MP Eric Duncan Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry** File Photo

Brookdale Avenue, Unit C and toll-free at 1-888-805-2513.

# **Villeneuve**

**Continued from the front** Canada as a certified specialist in the fields of municipal and land use planning and development law. He currently sits as the integrity commissioner for than more municipalities.

Villeneuve was accused of "engaging in recurring disrespectful behaviour toward the chief administrative officer of the township, publicizing confidential information about the CAO's salary, and voting in a conflict of interest." Fleming said he had found sufficient evidence that Villeneuve had contravened the code of conduct in only one of the three reported instances.

"According to the complainant, the member has repeatedly expressed her disagreement in a manner that is unreasonable, inappropriate, aggressive, intimidating, and harassing, thereby contravening her code of conduct obligation to behave respectfully and professionally toward staff," Fleming noted in his report.

allegation separately. He and provided a resulting determination.

sanction have failed to correct a serious concern with the manner in which Coun. Villeneuve deals with the CAO," Fleming said. "In these circumstances, the integrity commissioner recommends that the penalty be increased to deter further repetition of the behaviour."

Fleming's recommendation included a 45-day suspension of remuneration, which is an increase from the previous sanction of 30 days in January 2020. In addition, Fleming recommended Villeneuve be directed not to communicate with the CAO for a period of nine months, except through the mayor. This was up from the January 2020 recommendation of six months.

"Our duty as council is to protect [employees]," Landry said. "There's nothing to say it won't happen again."

He asked if it was possible to increase the nine months to cover the remainder of council's term. Densham agreed, but said he felt the sanction should be extended to cover all of staff, not just Calder.

"This is simply a Fleming dealt with each recommendation to council, so it's certainly open to outlined the facts, provided council to amend in any an analysis of those facts, way they see fit," Fleming

"The penalty and time to read a prepared

statement before the final any penalty is imposed that vote. She was interrupted at does not conform with the least once by each of her provisions of council colleagues, who [Municipal] Act, I will voiced concern that the pursue my legal remedies by appealing an improper statement content might be a violation of the code of decision." conduct. Villeneuve took

addressed Fleming Villeneuve's comments against him, as well as the investigative process. He referred to specific sections of a variety of legal sources, including the Municipal Act. the Ontario Human Rights Code, and the township's own code of conduct regulations. The report was accepted as presented with Landry, Wert, and Densham in agreement.

When it came to voting

on the sanction, Landry moved to extend the blackout period to the end of term and to include all of staff. Densham seconded the motion, and Wert voted with them to make it official. Going forward, the mayor will act as the mediator with interactions between Villeneuve and staff flowing through him. Villeneuve said she will pursue her legal alternatives.

"Nobody here has enjoyed this process tonight, but I think it's important that everyone

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understand why this process is in place. The greatest asset as a municipality is our staff," Wert said. "The point we're making is our staff is imperative to the success of our municipality and they have to be respected."

The eleven-page integrity commissioner's report can be found in its entirety in council's Aug. 10 agenda package. As promised during the council meeting, Villeneuve has posted her full prepared statement to her social media accounts.

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**Description of Land(s):** 

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Roll No. 05 06 002 CACACEL; 42 Park Avenue, Morrisburg; PIN 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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# EDITORIAL&Opinion

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# A bee in my bonnet

Mother Nature decided to get up close and personal with me and it did not end well for her messenger.

I was minding my own business cutting my lawn.

It was hot; I was frustrated with the latest news about the so-called fourth wave of Covid coming at us. I was fed up with heat and the various infirmities that come with getting older. I was taken aback to hear the government had called an election for this fall and felt a chill about the electioneering that was surely coming my way.

Cutting the lawn and trimming a few trees seemed a very therapeutic activity, it was a non-political job, nonthreatening, cost efficient and was just between me the lawnmower and the grass, until all of a sudden it wasn't.

I have lived and worked in rural Ontario for the best part of 40 years.

I have had a ball of snakes on my front porch, rats laughing at me from the bottom of the basement stairs and wasps happily living between the kitchen ceiling and the floor above it.

Never have I had any of these rural residents take exception to me until I stopped cutting the grass for a moment to wave away a pesky bee; much to my surprise the little bugger came after me.

The bee was enraged for some reason, it was in full warrior mode, and I was in full frustration mode.

I swatted at the bee and in return he or she latched on to my throat and actually stung me. I had not been stung, bitten or attacked by any kind of creature in all of the years I have lived out here. The moment was at once humiliating because this tiny bee had the nerve to take me on and terrifying because the bee had the whole world to fly around in and attack me.

The sting was more painful than a heart attack.

Perhaps because I was already carrying a heavy load of anger over the way the world seemed to be going; I snapped.

Having stung me once the bee came in for another shot. It landed on my nose, and I almost fell over wildly trying to swat it and get it off my face.

I went into the house to see what kind of shape the sting had left me in and to put some ice on it.

Then convinced that a bee sting so close to my head and heart would not take me down, I grabbed the nearest thing I could which was a fly swatter.

I know what you are thinking. Fly swatters are for flies and for indoor use. I have never even imagined using one outside, but by now I was beyond all reason.

I charged back outside to confront this incredibly rude bee. Before I could find it, it found me and began its angry attack all over again. My neighbours must have been fascinated watching me swinging away with a fly swatter in the great outdoors at something they could not see. Perhaps they watched and let their collective fingers hover over their 911 buttons on their cell phones assuming I was having some kind of end of life fit.

The duel continued with the bee zooming in to buzz around my head and my swinging trying to hit it in midflight.

Thanks to my cat like reflexes, I managed to intercept the bee on one of its attacks. It was not a direct hit, but I managed to clip it and send it spinning away from me.

The whole street seemed to become very quiet as I stood there waiting for the bee to get up from where it had landed and come back at me. I was ready. It did get back up, obviously none the worse for wear, and began a slow circling course toward me. Suddenly, it stopped and simply went past me and continued on without as much as a last angry buzz.

It was a draw.

One sting for the bee and one swat for me.

Joseph Morin



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# 94-year-old celebrates birthday with gift to North Dundas

Collingridge celebrated a major milestone with a selfless act.

She turned 94-years-old Sat., Aug 14 and spent the afternoon honouring her late son, Gordon Collingridge, who was awarded the To the Top Canada Award in 2008. Elva donated Gordie's award to the township of North Dundas, which plans to put it on display at the Old Town Hall in Winchester.

"Gordie was a fixture in our community," noted Mayor Tony Fraser, during the ceremony. "A week wouldn't go by without me seeing Gordie on the street...a week wouldn't go by without me having a chance to say hello to Gordie. He was a friend to all, and he is truly missed."

Gordie was nominated for the award by Rev. Thurland Brown, who couldn't attend the event in person, but sent along a video explaining the background of the award. He read a book by Chris Robertson – founder of the award - and at the end. readers were asked whether they knew anyone who made their community better, which in turn made Canada



North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser presented Elva Collingridge with a certificate in recognition of her 94th birthday on Aug. 15. Coutesty Photo

"I immediately thought of Gordie," said Rev. Brown. "In 2007, Gordie canvassed the entire town of Winchester for a wellknown national charity. He made Winchester a stronger community and by making Winchester stronger, he made Canada stronger."

called him the

unofficial leader of the Winchester community watch," joked MP Eric Duncan, who took part in the celebration. "There were not many days when I drove through Winchester morning, afternoon or evening - when Gordie wasn't around town. Every time we got the chance to

speak, he gave me the latest updates. Gordie was a positive influence, and this award is the perfect testament to that."

"He helped anyone that he could," noted Barbara Savary, who instrumental in organizing the event. "In 1990, we established our first food bank in North Dundas and he was there as many times during the week as you would have him."

"Gordie was a friend to everyone here in the village," said Wayne Burns. "He visited us every day at the pharmacy we were on his route. So, I would say 300 days of the year we'd see Gordie... sometimes two or three times a day. It was so nice to see him get that award."

Elva explained that it was Gordie's wish to have the award given to some place in Winchester so that people could see it and remember him.

'So, I, his mother, on his behalf, give it to the Old Town Hall for safekeeping," said Elva.

The township of North Dundas presented Elva with a certificate and pink roses in recognition of her 94th birthday.

# The Road Home

### Carolyn Thompson Goddard

I was taking a stroll down memory lane this morning and thinking about the places and people I have met along my 65-year journey of life. I recalled the many times I went to visit my Auntie Annie (actually my great-aunt, but I didn't find that out until many years after she passed) in Winchester for the weekend.

She was living in the house that her parents had built during the 1930's with most of the money coming as part of an inheritance which David Monteith Jr. had shared with members of his father's second family. This house was near the end (at that time) of Victoria Street and was a two-story wooden building with beautiful Douglas fir trim throughout the house. I recall Mom telling me that when it was built this wood was the cheapest available but had become quite expensive over the decades.

I recall Mom and Dad dropping my brother David and myself off on a Friday night, with Aunt Annie welcoming us into her home. It seemed like a treasure trove of antiques for there were chairs from my Great-Great Grandpa Theron's hotel

(way before Winchester voted to become dry), pictures of Aunt Annie, Zillah and Emma which would have been taken in the early 1900's as well as memorabilia scattered throughout the house from era's long past.

It was however the popcorn being popped in the kitchen which was of greatest interest to me. How she loved to pop corn, smother it in butter and dole it out to two starving youngsters while telling stories to us. I don't recall many of the words she spoke because my concentration was making sure each and every bit of popcorn was devoured. Then it was off to bed, David in the big room upstairs while I had a smaller bedroom which was fine with me – it was cozy and comfortable always. Aunt Annie used to sleep in the room across the hall from me and beside David's room – guess she could always keep an eye or rather ear on both of us that way.

Throughout the following day we would help Aunt Annie in her garden (if our visit was in the summer) while later in the day the three of us would walk up to the store to get groceries and then stop at the post office to get the mail. On the way home there was often a couple of stops along the way for a visit with her friends who always had lots of cookies on hand for hungry youngsters to munch on. On Saturday nights, if she wasn't babysitting, we would walk up to the theatre to watch a movie and in the deep dark of a Saturday night walk down St. Lawrence to Victoria and then on to the house.

She died one Thanksgiving weekend in October while I was away at university. Mom told me she had probably laid down to rest on the living room couch, had a stroke and died as a result. The house in Winchester was passed to Mom and after Dad did some renovations they moved to the home where Mom had grown up. Though I missed Aunt Annie, it was nice to come home on the weekends from Carleton and visit in the house in Winchester, able to sleep in the same room I had as a visitor those many years ago.

I often think of Aunt Annie and what a strong, determined but kind person she was, but I suppose she had to be to survive two world wars, the Influenza pandemic in addition to all the other events and tragedies in one's personal life. She was truly a survivor.

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# Going once, going twice, sold!

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard** 

Record Staff

MOUNTAIN - There was a great turnout at the 2021 House of Lazarus (HOL) Live Auction on Thurs., Aug. 12, with approximately \$8,963 raised for the organization's Outreach Program.

Executive director Cathy Ashby explained the Outreach program provides funding for several services including Neighbours Helping Neighbours and the Handyman programs. Ashby commented that it was "great to see some familiar faces come back out to support us.'

Ashby expressed the organization's heartfelt thanks to Auctioneer Peter Ross who donated his services once again for the fundraising event. She explained the 2020 auction was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and this year's event was organized to ensure physical distancing and other COVID-19 precautions were adhered to.

When asked about the "Dinner on the House" program, she commented that this program continues in a take-out format. People are asked to place an order for the Wednesday dinner online before Monday at 4 p.m. and



Auctioneer Peter Ross is seen inviting people to bid on suitcases during the 2021 HOL Live Auction.

Thompson Goddard Photo

arrange an appointment for pick-up between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the following Wednesday at the South Mountain HOL location.

More information can be found at the HOL's website located at www.hol.community and social media page.

# Finch to see 10-unit apartment building

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

BERWICK - The township of North Stormont has approved a zoning amendment allowing the former primary school on Front Street in Finch to be converted into a 10-unit residential apartment building.

"I think what Mr. Dar has to offer would be truly beneficial to residents of the township," Deputy Mayor François Landry said.

The decision to approve the amendment was made during an Aug. 10 public zoning meeting. The accompanying bylaw was passed during the regularly scheduled council meeting that followed the public session. While council did voice concern with the condition of the property and the owner's disregard for construction-related bylaws, it was noted that multipleunit housing is needed.

"There's no issues with this type of change," North Stormont's consultant planner Paul Hicks said, noting that it provides more housing and reuses a former government building. The exception being applied for would allow one unit, a bachelor unit, to be smaller in size than the regulated minimum, which Hicks said is generously large.

With concerns over the unkept state of the property, Landry asked if there were caveats that could be made with the zoning amendment to ensure it gets cleaned and maintained properly. Hicks said the *Planning Act* doesn't allow for that, but the issues are currently being addressed through bylaws and municipal bylaw officers, which is covered under the Municipal

"I'm very supportive of the initiative," Coun. Steve Densham said before asking about concerns from other residents in the area.

Chief administrative officer Craig Calder said he and other members of staff had visited the area earlier in the day and spoke with residents about their concerns. He said he couldn't speak more on the issue due to privacy regulations, but assured council that staff is responding

There was no indication as to when the building's conversion from a primary school to a 10-unit residential apartment building would be completed. The zoning was changed from "First Density (R1) Zone" to "Residential Fourth Density - Special Exception 2 (R4-2) Zone."

# Robinson Top 15 across Canada

Carolyn Thompson Goddard receive "\$1,000 toward Record Staff

Dougie FINCH Robinson, son of Jill and Doug Robinson, was one of 15 recipients from across Canada to be awarded the John Deere Canada 4-H Scholarship. Robinson, who graduated from Tagwi Secondary School in June of this year, plans to attend the Guelph Campus of Conestoga College to study Motive Power Techniques – Heavy Duty

Equipment Repair. In an Aug. 10 press release, 4-H Canada announced the recipients of the scholarship, noting how "thanks to the generosity of John Deere Canada," each of the recipients will

their post secondary education in a degree, certificate, or trade-based program for the upcoming academic year." Robinson told The Chesterville Record recently he had learned of the scholarship opportunity through 4-H Canada and 4-H Ontario social media posts as well "published communications." explained the process consisted of providing information on "yourself, your 4-H and community involvement as well as your future plans in the agricultural industry" in an online application form. Robinson continued a 500word essay, and a "reference letter from a 4-H



Dougie Robinson, Tagwi Class of 2021, is shown in his graduation gown and cap next to a John Deere tractor at Payneside Farms just outside Finch in North Stormont. Courtesy Photo

Leader" was required to be submitted to 4-H Canada as well.

Robinson commented how he encourages "all 4-H members to take part in as many 4-H clubs, camps and Provincial/National events as possible." He continued

that this participation provides opportunities for leadership and skill building as well as the opportunity to meet "so many great people."

Robinson noted that participation in these activities are a great asset when "applying for awards, scholarships or a summer job."



# Reminding us that history is just a page away

Shirley Fawcett, of the Arts in Winchester kept a record of all of the festivities going on in Winchester during the village's centennial celebrations. She presented a book filled with newspaper clippings and information about what the celebrations were like to North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser. She remembered there were eight days of celebrating in 1988 and she did her best to capture the best moments in her book. The book will be available at the township office for anyone to have a look at. In this photo Shirley Fawcett is handing the book over to Mayor Fraser on Tues., Aug. 10.

Courtesy Photo



Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

#### The United Church of Canada CHRIST CHURCH UNITED

5 Casselman St., Chesterville Pastor: Debbie Poirier 613-850-2725

PLEASE NOTE: In-person worship services resumed on Sunday, August 1st. Please register your attendance in advance by calling 613-448-2532.

#### THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AVONMORE-FINCH-MARTINTOWN ST. JAMES - CHALMERS - ST. ANDREW'S

5

PASTORAL CHARGE Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet BBA, BTH, MDIV Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Fmail: revlgaudet@gmail.com With the ongoing lockdown, our churches are closed until further notice.

#### ST. LUKE'S - KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - FINCH

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

Closed until further notice.

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



Interim Moderator Rev. Samer Kandalaft 613-258-4136

St. Andrews, Chesterville and Morewood Presbyterian Churches have re-open for in-person services.

#### NATIONSIDE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH



Rev. Edwin Valles Email: ebvalles@hotmail.com Office: 613-448-2272 IDP Group Inc., 171 Main St. North, Chesterville

**Please note:** No Sunday and Wednesday meetings during the pandemic.

#### Please join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our online service on Facebook: Nationside Pentecostal Church

www.nationside.org

Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada



#### HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH Evangelical Missionary Church

12010 Ormond Rd. & Hwy. 31 (North of Winchester) Office phone: 613-774-5170 www.harmony-church.org We are an air conditioned and handicap accessible building Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

### Weekly Services - Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We are currently open for services at a 25% capacity. If you'd like to reserve your spot, please contact the church office. We are continuing to live stream our services on Youtube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy\_DABzz4REc-A76-EvrA

Sunday School Classes & Nursery have resumed.

Please contact the church office for information on mid-week meetings or any other questions.

# ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

6

139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226 Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick infostmarysrussell@rogers.com Website: www.stmarysrussell.ca

### Please join our virtual service, Sundays at 10 a.m.

If you would like to join our service via Zoom email: infostmarysrussell@rogers.com for the link.

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

#### WINCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH 486 Main St., Winchester

Pastors Bud McKibbon and Mollie McKibbon

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CHESTERVILLE Friendly, Caring, Accepting Pastor Brian Barr 613-448-1758



5

Sunday mornings beginning at 10 a.m. for our weekly worship service.

#### ST. MARY OF THE PRESENTATION CATHOLIC CHURCH Administration Priest: Fr. Cyril Duru

Parish Secretary: Patricia Guy - 613-448-3262





#### www.stclaresanglican.ca 2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester Visit us online for Sunday Service at our links below.

On Facebook at The Anglican Parish of North Dundas at St. Clare's.





Page 6 The Chesterville Record

# We'll have fun, fun, fun!

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

Record Staff

CRYSLER – It's shaping up to be a day of fun activities for those attending the Crysler Fun Day and Car Show planned for Sat., Aug. 28 at the Crysler Park located at 16 Third Street in this North Stormont community

between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Organized by volunteers with the Crysler Community Centre committee, there is a range of activities for people of all ages including a vintage Volkswagen car show and swap meet, a vendors' market, entertainment by Michael Trenholme as well as Eastbound of Bytown throughout the day in the park gazebo and "various activities for children and families." Family activities include inflatable structures "for the young at heart," popcorn, snow cones and an opportunity to attend a "Meet the Keepers Reptile Show."

For those who have worked up an appetite, there will be a BBQ featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and green bacon with refreshments available to purchase with a bar located outside during the event. Always an event favourite a 50/50 draw is being hosted by the CCC with proceeds going toward the community centre bathroom renovations.

The Crysler Community Centre is pleased to hold this event to "RESTART" in a positive way as restrictions associated with COVID-19 are slowly being lifted. They are inviting community members and visitors to enjoy a fun day providing free parking at the community centre and free admission to the late summer event. For those who do wish to donate to the CCC, there will be a dedicated donation area at the event. For more information and updates please visit their Facebook page.



Thompson Goddard Photo





grilled to perfection, was an opportunity not to be missed. During the Ingleside Long Sault Lost Villages Lions Club fundraising barbecue in Ingleside on Sat., Aug. 14, Lion Sandra Donnelly adds on the fixings

for a customer.

### Lions club joins in with yard sale

The Lions Thrift Store is normally open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. However, on the Saturdays, when the Planted Arrow hosts their Garden Party they open just for that Saturday. In this photo are Lions Club volunteers. Left to right are: Suzanne Belliveau, Marlane Fraser and Boden Sharpley.

Morin Photo





Connie Lamble B.A., LL.B.

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#### Thursday, August 19, 2021

# North Stormont tackles long overdue zoning housekeeping

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

BERWICK – A recent township of North Stormont public zoning meeting saw council receive a lengthy and detailed housekeeping report on what changes should or could be made to the municipality's current zoning bylaws.

During the Aug. 10 meeting, consulting planner Jesse McPhail provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the process for updating the bylaw, why it needs to be updated, as well as specific sections that should be omitted, altered, or added to. Council members were not yet being asked to make any decisions, but rather to learn more about what's happening with the Draft 2021 Housekeeping Update to Zoning Bylaw No. 08-2014. A formal recommendation is to be brought to council some time next month.

"As a best practice throughout Ontario, it is common for municipalities to review their zoning bylaws on an annual basis to ensure these documents are kept up to date with policy and regulation changes and maintained as an effective tool for

facilitating land use and development," McPhail said. "The township of North Stormont has not undertaken a housekeeping update to Zoning Bylaw No. 08-2014 since fall 2017."

McPhail began his report with an explanation of the process, including the basics behind residents' rights to appeal through the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. Here he also made a note that residents wishing to be kept abreast of council's decision on the housekeeping amendment should notify the township in writing by way of regular Canada Post mail or by emailing ccalder@northstormont.ca.

Next steps include consultations with affected property owners, as well as the collection and consolidation of any new comments from residents or council members. Staff will then incorporate the new information into the current draft plan, which is expected to be presented to council for a decision this fall, possibly the end of September, McPhail said.

"Obviously a very cumbersome task," Mayor Jim Wert said. "Something we should maybe be doing more often."

Mission accomplished in Williamsburg

The South Dundas Chamber of Commerce is moving forward with fun events for members and the public. The chamber hosted a scavenger hunt on Sat., Aug. 7. There were 27 participants. The event was created and put on by the six summer students working at the Chamber of Commerce. They came



up with the idea to arrange all of the clues for the scavenger hunt and even painted all of the colourful rocks used at each stop during the hunt. The event raised \$200 for the Upper Canada Playhouse. In this photo, Jim and Katie Wilson take a photo of the painted rock at the Dr. Locke memorial plaque in Williamsburg, the final stop of the scavenger hunt. Morin Photo





# REGIONAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The program is competition-based and offers financial incentives to business owners, event planners and tourism assets to augment their facilities.

# **DEADLINE HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED TO AUGUST 31, 2021**

The details of the program can be found here at:

https://www.sdqcounties.ca/economic-development/ grants-and-financing/regional-incentives-programs





# Elvis visits Vendor's Village

There was a whole lot of shakin' going on when Elvis visited the Vendors' Village in Ingleside on Seniors' Day, Fri., Aug. 13. Elvis, portrayed by Marc Rivette, swept the audience back to the 50s and 60s during his performance of many songs made famous by the King of Rock and Roll during his career. Dave Smith, president of the South Stormont Fun Raisers explained this was one of several special events planned for Vendors' Village during the season, which will end in early October. Be sure to visit their Facebook page for information.

Thompson Goddard Photo

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\*This initiative is designed to address health labour shortages \*Some conditions apply.









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# Truck Pull

Friday, August 20

Gates Open at: 5 p.m., Pull Starts at: 7 p.m. Contact: Brad Moore, 613-229-0333 or Randy Lueders, 613-552-4269 **TOTAL PRIZE MONEY: \$2,500** 

# Classes

- 1/2 Ton Gas (6,500 lbs) 3/4 Ton Gas (7,500 lbs)
- Super Street 2.6 (8,500 lbs) Pro Street (8,200 lbs) Pro Mod (7,800 lbs)

**HELMETS ARE MANDATORY!** 

# Tractor Pull

Saturday August 21

Gates Open at: 8 a.m., Pull Starts at: 10 a.m. Contact: Brad Moore, 613-229-0333 or Randy Lueders, 613-552-4269 **TOTAL PRIZE MONEY: \$4,200** 

# ('lasses

ANTIQUE - 4200, 5200, 6200, 7200, 8200, 9200, 10200 FARM STOCK - 6500, 7500, 8500, 10500, 12500, 15500, 20500

**HELMETS ARE MANDATORY!** 

# FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW. South Mountain fair ca

The 2021 South Mountain Fair will not be a fair like years past. Given the continued Covid-19 restrictions we are doing our best to offer the community as many events as can run safely. - South Mountain Fair Committee



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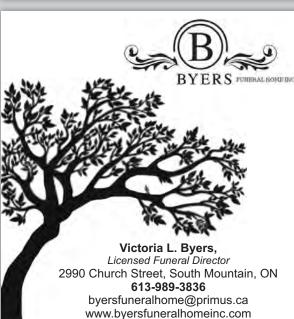
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PRIZE LIST AS FOLLOWS: 1ST \$4, 2ND \$3, 3rd \$2, 4th \$1

Pictures of exhibits will be posted on Facebook: South Mountain Fair page as well as on the fair's website: http://www.southmountainfair.ca/

> FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO www.southmountainfair.ca

Events are subject to change without notice.

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Exhibits must be brought to the Agricultural Hall – South end large rollup door no later than 11:30 a.m. on Friday, August 20 and picked up Sunday, August 22, 2021 between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Rules to the exhibits may change and will be posted on Facebook or our website www.southmountainfair.ca.

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#### **AUCTION**

#### MASSIVE ONLINE TIMED DOUBLE MACHINE SHOP & TOOL AUCTION

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#### **AUCTION OPENS WED., AUGUST 25 AT 12 NOON &** CLOSES WED..

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Preview: All items located indoors at out facility may be viewed by appointment only following all COVID safety protocols and procedures in effect. ABSOLUTELY NO Sunday Calls or Visits - Thank You! To make an appointment call and speak with Peter, Helen, Hannah, or Hugh at 613-537-8862! All Items Located on Site at 845 Du Lac Rd (North of Baseline) St Pascal-Baylon, ON K0A 2N0 Including Lots #458 Shop Press; #459 Bandsaw; #556 Milling machine; and #570 Lathe, may be viewed by appointment with the consignor at (613.488.3106) consignor at (613-488-3106) -Serious Inquiries Only!

Pickup: Pickup to occur at our facility by appointment on September 2 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. & September 3 and 4 from 9:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m. PICKUP NOTE: Pickup of lots #458 Shop Press; #459 Bandsaw; #556 Milling machine; and #570 Lathe will occur on site at 845 Du Lac Rd (North of Baseline) St Pascal-Baylon, ON K0A 2N0 by appointment within 2 weeks of auction close (with items paid for at auction close). Pickup of these items; their removal; and moving is the sole responsibility of the successful purchaser – no exceptions!

NOTICE: DUE TO THE SIZE AND VOLUME OF THIS AUC-TION - BE SURE TO REGISTER ON THE AUCTION IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE WE APPROVE YOUR PROFILE PRIOR TO AUCTION CLOSE.

**NOTE:** This is a great auction – not to be missed featuring the contents with equipment & tooling for hob-byists & industrial sized shops alike!

#### ALL ITEMS SOLD AS IS, WHERE IS

All items to be sold pursuant to terms and conditions on auction catalog and presented at time of registration. Upon registration all participants are bound to terms agreed to and bound to auction dates, times, conditions, and terms. Should you be unable to comply with terms and relevant dates please do not participate in this auction. All Sales Final!

Props: Mr. Ghislain Trudeau of St Pascal-Baylon - retiring due to health issues & Mr. & Mrs. Blacker (Formerly Martintown) who are downsizing and moving.

**Auction Conducted By:** PETER ROSS AUCTION SERVICES LTD. Ingleside, ON 613-537-8862 www.peterrossauction.ca 06-1

# YARD SALE

**NEW TO YOU YARD SALE** August 21 & 22. 387 St. Pierre Road in Vars, ON.

#### **AUCTION**

#### FARM AUCTION SALE AUGUST 28 AT 10 A.M. **SHARP**

To be held live on site at 5760 Barton Rd., Vankleek Hill, ON.

From the town of Vankleek Hill travel West on Regional Rd. 10 approx. 3kms, turn right onto Barton Rd., travel 450m to 5760 Barton Rd., Watch for signs! Plenty of parking in field off road.

#### **AUCTION FEATURES** TRACTORS, FARM **MACHINERY, SM. FARM** RELATED ITEMS, TOOLS, **RIDING MOWER, 3** FIREARMS & MORE

**Tractors:** New Holland 6635 2WD w/ Cab; Stoll Front-End Loader only 2574 hrs.; JD 1840 4WD w/ Cab & Front-End Loader (Approx. 3000hrs.) **Machinery & Misc.** Items: 20ft Creekbank Round Bale Rack on 10ton Martin Running Gear; Homemade Round Bale Rack on JD Running Gear; Dolly Style Feeder Wagon; NI 3632 Tandem Manure Spreader w/ Hyd End Gate; NH 791 Tandem Manure Spreader w/ Hvd End Gate; 16ft Wooden top Hay Wagon; Double Auger Snow Blower w/ Hyd Chute; 3PTH Scraper Blade; 3PTH Wallenstein Wood Splitter; Tandem Hyd Dump Trailer; Set of Chain Harrows; 5ft Field King Rotary Cutter (New); 16ft Tandem Bumper Hitch Stock Trailer (No Ownership); 8ft Tandem Bumper Hitch Stock Trailer (No Ownership); 3PTH Post Hole Auger; QA pallet Forks; QA Bale Spear; 2 Cattle Squeezes; Assorted Rnd. Bale Feeders; Lrg. Qty of Farm Gates; Hydro Poles; Fencing Supplies; Husqvarna Chainsaw; JD 277 17hp Riding Lawn Mower; Stock Tanks; Set of Tractor Tire Chains (Fit NH 6635): 2 Remington 12guage Shotguns; 1 Remington 22cal Semi-Auto Rifle; many other Articles too Numerous to Mention; Expect 2 Wagon Loads

Reason for Auction: Mr. & Mrs. Duval are retiring from farming and moving to a condo.

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#### **AUCTION**

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### **COMING EVENTS**

#### YE OLDE **BARGAIN SHOPPE**

30 Mill Street (basement), Chesterville. Shoppe open weekly Wed. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. "1/2 PRICE SALE DAYS" (on all clothing and footwear) Wed., August 25 & Thurs., August. 26 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Donations are now being accepted.

#### ST. MARY'S **CHESTERVILLE**

**CEMETERY MASS** 3065 Dunbar Rd., Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. Bring lawn chairs. "Social Distancing" in effect. 09

#### **COMING EVENTS**

#### **IROQUOIS LEGION STEAK** B.B.Q.

Sat., Aug. 21, starts at 4 p.m. Steak, baked potato, salad, & dessert \$18 per person. Salad only \$8 per person. Get your tickets early. Stop at the Legion after 2 p.m. or to reserve call 613 652 4516. Only 100 tickets to sell. Mask is necessary, self-distancing is a MUST. Take out available – Eat inside or out!

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# 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 memor

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

# **CROSSWORD PUZZLE** FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 19, 2021

### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Midway between east and southeast
- 4. Sun up in New York
- 7. Japanese honorific 8. Czech name for Prague
- 10. Ochocinco's first name
- 12. Steen cliffs (Hawaiian).
- 13. Scots word for "home"
- 14. Upper class young woman (abbr.) 16. Monetary unit of Albania
- 17. Raise
- 19. Drain of resources
- 20. Uncultured, clumsy persons
- 21. Hikers use them
- 25. Retrospective analysis (military)
- 26. Tibetan form of chanting
- 27 Influential European statesman

### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Abstain from 2. Vast desert in North Africa
- 3 Cover the crown of a tooth
- 4. A major division of geological time
- 5. Urban center 6. Crook
- 8. Parts per billion (abbr.) 9 Questions
- 11. A pack of 52 playing cards 14. Recording of sound
- 15. Pithy saying
- 18. Atomic #22
- 19. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 20. Plant with ridged seedpods 22. Innate
- 23. Investigative body for Congress (abbr.)

- 29. Soluble ribonucleic acid
- 30. Monetary unit of Romania
- 31. Round green vegetable 32. Well acquainted with
- 39. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid 41. Basics
- 42. "The Godfather" actress Keaton 43. Snakelike fish
- 44. Tall deciduous tree 45. Russian river
- 46. Long Balkans river
- 48. Ancient Greek coin 49. Senegal's capital
- 50. Unwell 51. Snout
- 52. Low bank or reef of coral
- 24. Soda receptacle 27. Spanish stew: \_\_podrida
- 28. Viet Cong offensive
- 29. Large body of water 31. Beginning military rank
- 32. Dissimilar 33. Counteroffensive system (abbr.)
- 34. Shows who you are
- 35. Chinese dynasty
- 36. Type of verse 37. African nation
- 39. Former Bucks star Michael 40. Showed again
- 44. Body part

38. Ouite

47. Steal





# Smokie Ridge Vineyard continues to grow

MOUNTAIN – Smokie Ridge Vineyard was founded in 2006 by Paul and Debbie LeBlanc.

The couple had a dream to own and operate a vineyard and envisioned not just fine wine making but a place the public could visit for a farmer's market, a wedding party destination as well as a spot for entertainment while you sipped your glass of wine and had something good to eat.

The evolution of Smokie Ridge Vineyard has been slow but steady.

One year after the LeBlanc's purchased their property they planted their first 6,000 vines in their fields. The next year they planted another 2,500 vines in another field.

In 2009 they began to build their winery.

Paul said, "In 2011 we bottled our first vintage which very pleasantly exceeded even our expectations.

In August of that year we opened our retail store's doors and have been delighted with the visitors we have had the pleasure in serving."

In 2021 a visit to the winery is an interesting one. From the moment you get out of your car, you can see all these different aspects of the vineyard taking place. There is the roped off area of a field reserved for the now weekly farmers' markets. Beside the vendors is a large patio complete with a stage for entertainment and outdoor stove for cooking up great meals.

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Paul (Smokie) LeBlanc is waiting for his licence to start producing beer at his new brewery at Smokie Ridge Vineyard.

Morin Photo

Another add-on that Paul and Debbie have been working on is a brewery to complement the winery.

Because of Covid, the equipment and set up for this latest venture has been delayed time after time, but now everything is in place.

Set up in a workshop near their main building, the brewery is working and is equipped with thelatest beer making equipment including a state-of-the-art small incinerator designed to turn the wastewater used in beer making into steam.

"These incinerators are the very same things they have on oil rigs and in emergency camps. This is a small one. "The alternative to the incinerator would have been installing a new septic system to handle the wastewater. "I would have had to put in a bigger septic tank."

They are used all around the world. There is no environmental fallout.

All we will have here is the water from the beer making process.

Last month Paul was busy testing his equipment. "We have tried the system out to see if it had any leaks," he said.

Once the leak test was successfully held, a second test to test out the integrity of the brewery's new kegs was conducted.

One section at a time of the brewery has been tested and signed off on.

Tweaking the recipes for his beer was the next challenge.

"The recipes I made were when I was in Quebec and the water is different than here," he said. "Water and yeast are the two most important parts of making beer and the water here is well water. It does have all the same minerals. The recipe that makes a good beer in one place might make bad beer in another spot. Now that we know what is in this water we can adjust accordingly."

He has six different recipes for beer. He has a stout, an Indian pale ale, a wheat beer, a pale ale, cream ale, an IPA ale, and an amber beer.

The brewery also plans to make seasonal beers as the occasions arise.

For more information about Smokie Ridge Vineyard go to: http://www.smokiesgrapes.com or call them at 613-989-4523. They are located at 10090 Cameron Road R.R. N°3 Mountain and their email is info@smokiesgrapes.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.

NANTED FOR SCRA

# SS Fun Raisers holds baseball tournament

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard** Record Staff

INGLESIDE - There was a lot of action on the Ingleside and Long Sault baseball diamonds this past weekend, when the South Stormont Fun Raisers (SSFR) held their co-ed three pitch baseball tournament on Sat., Aug. 14. Organizer David Smith, president of SSFR, commented the organization was able to raise "a few dollars and the local businesses profited somewhat from tourism," with all enjoying a day outdoors with friends.

Organizer David Smith commented how the weather cooperated and provided a "beautiful day for a ball tournament," before continuing how everyone "from the players to the fans and even the umpires were all in a great mood and happy to be in the park once again. On a personal note, Smith mentioned how he was very happy to be involved

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Chesterville.



The bat is about to connect with the baseball during one of the early games of the South Stormont Fun Raisers Baseball Tournament in Ingleside.

Thompson Goddard Photo the ball players and family

supporters were asking

about the next one."

in the sport he loves the most and happy for a "successful event." Smith continued how the ball tournament provided the opportunity for "old rivals" to meet, play and spend some time "reminiscing about the good old days after the game." The final

game was held in Ingleside and was between Cornwall's Play It Again team and "the Capital Punishment Squad from South Dundas," with the Cornwall team winning the game. Smith mentioned how "the ball diamond dust was barely settled, and all

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**Municipality of South Dundas** 

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# Russell to receive more than \$100k in provincial funding

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

**EMBRUN** township of Russell has been approved for more than \$100,000 in provincial funding through the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)'s Municipal Modernization Program (MMP) – Phase 2 funding

Local politicians received the update during the Aug. 9 council meeting. In a report prepared by assistant-treasurer Lucille Bazinet, council was updated on the three approved projects and what staff plan to do for each. Russell's municipal representatives were asked each project.

"The township is eligible to receive an allocation of \$100,000 for the township of Russell Municipal Services Review funded at 100 per cent by the grant, and \$9,750 for the township of Russell Electronic Signature Management, and \$5,005 for the township of Russell Geographic Information System for Asset Inventory," Bazinet said in her report.

While funding for the first project covers the entirety of that project, the final two will see only 65 per cent of the overall cost covered by the grant. Bazinet noted that the

to confirm the scope set for township's 35 per cent will second intake of the come from the efficiency grant reserve, which currently has an unallocated amount of \$234,349 prior to the financing of these two projects.

> "In 2019, the Ford government launched the MMP to help small and rural municipalities modernize service delivery and identify new ways to be more efficient effective," MMAH Minister Steve Clark said in grant approval acknowledgement letter to Mayor Pierre Leroux. "The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak have made this work more important than ever. The projects selected for funding under the

Municipal Modernization Program will further support municipalities' efforts to implement efficiencies, with a focus on modernization, digital service integration, streamlining development approvals, and alternative service delivery."

The implementation deadline for the first project is Nov. 30 of this year, but director of finance and treasurer Richard Godin said he is currently in talks with the province about an extension, as it's not enough time to complete the project. The other two projects must be completed by September 2022.

Councillor Mike expressed Tarnowski concern for the tight deadline and the potential implications should Russell not be able to complete things by Nov. 30.

Godin said staff is waiting for an answer from the province on the potential deadline extension before moving forward.

"I'm confident we can work with the ministry to work this out," Godin said.

In addition to providing council with the updated information, Godin said the other goal of the report was determine politicians sat in terms of the scope of the project currently set by staff.

Bazinet's report noted the following key elements: inclusion of all departments at a high level, a benchmarking analysis comparing Russell with similar municipalities, process mapping of 10 to processes, 12 key identification of both strategic and operational opportunities for change, additional recommendations for potential next phases.

Leroux asked if it would

be advantageous to broaden the scope of the first project to include next phases now and potentially save money in the long-term. Coun. Jamie Laurin agreed, noting that any potential to do more now at a savings should be considered.

"We've had some general discussions that could be reflected in an **RFP** (request proposal)," CAO Jean Leduc said. "There could be some savings there, but not knowing exactly where council wants to dive or where we do either, [we should] review first."

Leroux said understood the caution. He said he is open to the administration moving forward at the pace they prefer. The Transfer Payment Agreement, which was unavailable Aug. 9, will be presented to council at a future meeting, along with the accompanying by-

# 417 Industrial Park property owner consultations coming soon

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

**EMBRUN** The township of Russell's servicing of the 417 Industrial Park is getting an updated and revised timeline, beginning with a public meeting September.

During the Aug. 9 council meeting, executive director of infrastructure services Jonathan Bourgon submitted a report on the proposed update, asking council for their input on whether 417 Industrial Park property owners should have a say in the process and if so, what conditions should be applied. Council members agreed that property should owners consulted, but as they have already signed contracts, this should be more of an information and feedback procedure for them rather than a decision-making one.

"I'm fine with you contacting property owners," Mayor Pierre Leroux said. "We're

looking for feedback but not for a specific vote because we've asked all these in their contracts, and they said yes so we don't let them out of that now."

Leroux reminded staff update council members on the content specifics of communication prior to reaching out to the 417 Industrial Park property owners. He said he would like Russell's politicians to be prepared to speak on the subject should they be contacted by property owners directly.

"The design phase is currently under way," Bourgon said in his report. "We are currently at the 60 per cent design completed points. Lots of details have already been addressed, therefore the 90 per cent drawing along with Class A construction estimate will be completed shortly."

Bourgon said he expects to be meeting with risk of proceeding to a property owners in the next month to provide them with more information, including cost per acre and

a proposed construction timeline. He said that once the Class A construction cost estimate is completed, staff will be able to update the financial plan to determine revised costs per

the design Once completion, cost estimate updates, and property owner consultations have been completed, Bourgon said a presentation will be made to council, where the township's politicians will decide whether to approve the design and whether to proceed to tender for construction. If council chooses to move forward, Bourgon noted the cost per acre could again be readjusted based on the winning tender.

"The design will remain valid for an extended period of time as long as the servicing assumptions are not modified," he said. "If council decided to delay the construction phase after the tender, the second tender only for several years could potentially increase the construction costs."

# **Russell set to activate Virtual City Hall**

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

EMBRUN - The township of Russell is set to implement the unilingual platform Virtual City Hall, giving residents online access to view and pay their municipal invoices.

The decision was made during the Aug. 9 council meeting when director of finances and treasurer Richard Godin recommended council approve the implementation of the Virtual City Hall module from Great Plains, despite its unilingual format. It was noted that the purchase of the software is already part of the budget.

"This would improve the service that we're offering our residents, but it would only be in English," Coun. Mike Tarnowski said. "The decision is we either go with this unilingual one or we try to find something

Godin said the application is available with the township's current financial software. He said staff haven't yet activated the option to use it due to its English-only design.

We've been working with them to get the platform bilingual. We've gotten to a point where we've accepted that it's not possible for now, but maybe in [the] future," he said. "Should we activate this and then provide some workarounds for our

French speaking residents, or do we go out to an RFP (request for proposal) which would mean pricier, more work, and potential software compatibility issues?"

CAO Jean Leduc said the platform is unilingual, but all township documents are bilingual. He said residents would need to be able to navigate the platform in English to get to the right documents, but then the document itself would be available in French or English.

"The end result will be a bilingual document," Leduc said. "It's just a matter of getting them to click here, then click there."

Activating the Virtual City Hall will save the township time and money by freeing up resources, deputy-treasurer Patrick Auger said in his report. It was also noted that the addition of the new platform will satisfy the township's "provide service excellence" directive under Russell's

"We have wanted a virtual space for our taxpayers to access important documents provided by the township for many years," Auger said. "With the Virtual City Hall, an available module from our current financial software, property owners would have the possibility to check their property tax and utilities accounts and have access to their invoices."

# Russell council continues to meet virtually

Sandy Casselman

Record Staff

EMBRUN – While the format for post-pandemic council meetings in the township of Russell is still being considered, local politicians have agreed to continue meeting virtually for the moment.

The Aug. 9 council meeting included an informal discussion of what meetings will look like post-pandemic, taking into consideration both the law and the individual opinions of council members. Russell's current bylaws do not permit virtual meetings, but an emergency change was made to the province's Municipal Act in response to COVID-19, allowing municipal councils to meet virtually throughout the pandemic.

"I've been a proponent for a council member to

participate virtually," Coun. Jamie Laurin said. "I travel a lot for work. The ability to participate virtually is something we should be considering, with restrictions of course. I would be in favour of enacting a bylaw within the Municipal Act guidelines to do this."

Councillor Mike Tarnowski said that while "nothing beats face to face," he support's Laurin's suggestion. Councillor Cindy Saucier agreed as well. She said she would like to see this extended to councillors who are unable to physically attend meetings due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness. She said she has an upcoming surgery that will see her unable to drive for six weeks, making a virtual connection option necessary for her to participate.

CAO Jean Leduc said there are many factors involved

and questions that need to be answered before this can be done. He said that while many technological advancements have been made in reaction to the COVID-19 lockdowns, there's no guarantee that this is possible at this time. He said there are technological issues, including access to devices and software due to the current backorders, as well procedural issues, such as whether the option should be extended to staff.

"I think the consensus right now is that we're going to continue virtually," Mayor Pierre Leroux said, noting that residents currently have the option to ask questions via the virtual meetings, but during regular in-person council meetings this was not an option. "It's not just an easy snap of the fingers and it's going to happen. There's a lot of thought that has to go into this."

Leduc said staff are working on a report which will be brought to council at a future meeting. For now, council meetings will continue to be held virtually.