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**Briefly**

**Fire takes two lives**  
MOREWOOD – A house fire in La Pêche, Que, north of Gatineau, has taken the lives of two small children and seriously injured their mother who went back into the house after escaping it to find her children.

Morewood resident Christopher Paré started up a Go Fund Me Page to help the family out. To donate, go to <https://ca.gofundme.com/f/sd5m9t-help-ashley-rebuild-her-home>.

**UCDSB screening**  
SD&G – High school students in the UCDSB will need to be screened daily and confirm their screening, before or on arrival to begin their school day.

At the end of each day, they have to use COVID-19 Self Screening Tool via smart phone, etc., to confirm they have been screened. When students complete the screening, the school will be automatically notified. Students without internet access must confirm they have completed self-screening upon arriving to school.

**Crysler Winter Carnival**

CRYSLER – The carnival will take place over two days Feb. 13 and Feb. 14; the event will include scavenger hunts, photo and colouring contests, pet pictures and Tik Tok dances.

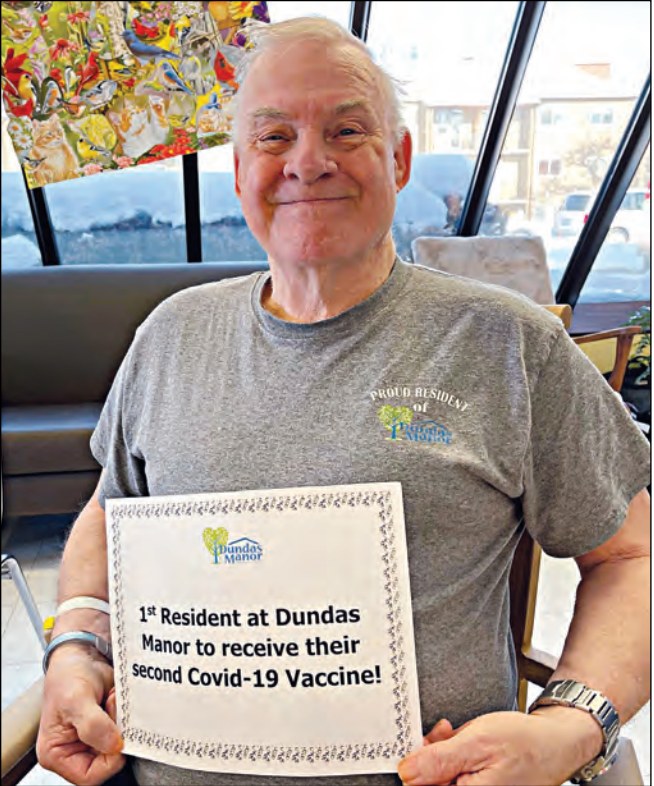
This year there will be a friendly competition between the north and south part of the town; you must accumulate points for your side of town (north is blue and south is red). Check out the ad at <https://www.facebook.com/CryslerCommunityCentre/>. See page 5 for more details.

# THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD

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**Mission accomplished**

Photo on the left is a resident of the Dundas Manor in Winchester, Annie Bouwhuis and Cornwall-SDG Paramedic, Mike. Together they celebrated as she receives her second and final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Photo on the right is of Garry Gainer. He was one of the first residents to get the second dose. Courtesy Photos

**Second dose of COVID-19 vaccine – done!**

WINCHESTER – Residents at Dundas Manor received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on Sat., Feb. 6. “It was another successful day, and we are so happy that our residents are now protected,” noted administrator Susan Poirier. “We will continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe.” Perhaps the best comments came from Facebook when the announcement went out. “You are working so hard on the well-being of residents, staff and community – inspiring!” noted Manjit Banga Aitken. “Fantastic folk – glad you have been looked after in this worrisome time. Thanks to everyone,” added Jean Porteous. And there was even an animated Tony the Tiger yelling GRRRRRREAT! Special thanks to our partners at the Cornwall-SDG paramedics and nurses from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit who assisted at the clinic. Although the residents have now received both vaccines, all safety protocols such as wearing masks, the use of personal protective equipment, and visitor restrictions will remain in place. In addition, staff and essential caregivers will continue to be tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis.

**Landfill bombshell forces expansion application**

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

MORRISBURG – With only a year of capacity left at the Matilda Landfill, Municipality of South Dundas politicians are pursuing a 40,000 cubic metre expansion. During the Feb. 1 council meeting, Environmental Services director Danielle Watson told council that although they started 2020 thinking they had 2.6 years of capacity left at the local landfill, the updated calculation revealed that capacity has been reduced to a single year. “In 2020, Matilda Landfill accepted 7,267 cubic metres of garbage, which is significantly larger than our past history,” Watson said. “It’s about a 20 per cent increase.”

The most recent volumetric scan was completed in December 2020. “Each year, as part of a best practice standard, the landfill is subject to a volumetric scan,” she explained, noting the scan takes the total volume in the existing landfill and compares it to the final approved contours from the original landfill design. She said the 20 per cent increase could be attributed to several factors: Last year was the first year Williamsburg Landfill has been closed; the COVID-19 pandemic stay-at-home order saw more residents taking on both small and large home clean-up projects, leading to larger and more frequent loads to the dump; and low tipping fees from January to October 2020 are also thought to be a factor.

Continued on page 2



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## Morewood grandchildren perish in house fire

MOREWOOD – A house fire in La Pêche, Que. north of Gatineau has taken the lives of two small children and seriously injured their mother who went back into the house after escaping the fire in order to find her children.

Morewood resident Christopher Paré has started up a Go Fund Me Page to help the family out.

Paré is the children's grandfather.

Brooklyn who was four and Kiersten six, died when their house in La Pêche, Que. was destroyed by fire on Sat., Feb. 6.

Paré's daughter Ashley, the children's mother and her boyfriend escaped the fire by jumping out of a window.

Once safely outside the home Ashley went back in to look for her children and sustained serious injuries.

She is currently in a Montreal hospital in a medically induced coma.

Her boyfriend was treated for minor injuries.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

To donate to the Go Fund Me Page please go to Christopher Paré's Facebook page.

## Landfill bombshell

Continued from the front

"Staff are proposing that we go to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) and request an amendment to our Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) to increase the volume at Matilda for an additional 40,000 cubic metres," Watson said. "The reason why we're only proposing 40,000 cubic metres is because that's a simple amendment to our existing application, whereas anything over 40,000 would require an environmental screening process, which sometimes requires an environmental impact assessment to be done, and those take quite a few years."

If approved, the increased

capacity could give the landfill several years added to its lifespan. This is dependent on the amount of garbage being disposed of each year.

"We'd get another five years out of Matilda Landfill," Watson estimated, adding that the additional time would allow staff to pursue whichever direction council wished to go in terms of long-term garbage disposal options.

Council members briefly discussed waste diversion opportunities, as well as the future of garbage disposal in South Dundas, whether that be through a transfer station or a larger landfill expansion.

"Even though it buys us five years, I still think we should get pretty aggressive with diversion programming," Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner said.

Watson noted there are several diversion items on the agenda for the 2021 draft budget discussions; these include furniture diversion, where furniture would be rerouted to a recycling facility in Montreal and construction waste diversion to a recycling facility in Ottawa.

"I wish we had a better plan, so we didn't have these things jumping out at us every once in a while," Coun. Archie Mellan said. "I think we're sort of heading in the right direction. I don't think we have any other choice."

All agreed that, for now, the proposed application for a 40,000 cubic metre expansion would "buy time" until a long-term decision could be made. Mayor Steven Byvels said he would like to see that decision made by this summer.

## Lockdown continues for a while yet

Joseph Morin  
Record Staff

TORONTO – The most recent provincial pandemic update from the province is optimistic but at the same time guarded.

Premier Ford in a press conference on Mon., Feb. 8, suggested the province appears to be headed toward a gradual regional approach to returning to normal.

Most of public health regions in the province, including the Eastern Ontario Health Unit here, will maintain its stay-at-home order until Feb. 16.

The plan is to hopefully transition the different regions in the province into a revised framework of rules and regulations, hopefully each less stringent than the last.

"Today we are seeing some sunlight break

through the clouds," said Premier Ford.

"Transmission rates are down and less people are being hospitalized."

He said the measures are working and staying home is saving lives.

"We are bending the curve."

The premier pointed out that despite recent successes, some parts of the province were still under a great deal of pressure.

"We are getting hit with new variants of COVID-19. There are significant delays in getting our vaccine supplies. This is a critical time. We need a plan that continues to protect the health and safety of every person in the province and ensure businesses can safely reopen and get people back to work," he said.

He listed all the measures designed to help stop the spread of the pandemic, however he said, "We can't return to normal, not while our hospitals can be overwhelmed, but we can transition out of a province-wide shutdown."

Soon, small businesses will be able to reopen with strong restrictions, for example capacity restrictions, but they will

be able to reopen.

He said people should be hopeful but should not let their guard down.

He said, "Let me be clear, if we see the numbers spike again, we are prepared to take further action as necessary, because nothing is more important than protecting our people right now. We need to keep bending the curve and we need to stay home as much as possible."

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# Search for funds continues for Old Town Hall upgrade

**Joseph Morin**  
LJI Reporter

WINCHESTER – The Old Town Hall in Winchester may be slated for a much needed new HVAC system sooner rather than later.

The system provides heat and air conditioning to the building.

The North Dundas council along with Dundas County Players, (DCP) who want to be able to use the theatre in the hall, have contributed funds to purchasing a new HVAC but they have come up short.

To make the upgrade

happen they still need an additional \$25,907.50.

At their Feb. 9, council meeting councillors agreed to approve a grant application for \$25,907.50 under the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, towards the cost of replacing the Old Town Hall HVAC.

Deputy Mayor Al Armstrong said, “I know the DCP is looking forward to a resolution in this as are we. I hope they are successful.”

Armstrong mentioned that there had been many debates over the issue.

“It would be nice to see some finality to this



project,” said Armstrong. “I am fully in support of it and I hope they are successful.”

Mayor Fraser agreed that it has been a “long road,” for the township

and other users of the facility.

The mayor said when he was looking over the application and reading about what the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund was

all about he could not help but feel confident that their application would succeed. “I look forward to its success,” he said.

The total cost for the new equipment has been pegged at \$48,057.50. The Dundas County Players have committed \$12,000 to the project and the municipality has kicked in \$10,150.

The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF) supports the improvement of physical conditions for arts, heritage, culture and creative innovation. The Fund supports renovation

and construction projects, the acquisition of specialized equipment and feasibility studies related to cultural spaces. The CCSF invests in traditional arts and heritage facilities, such as museums, theatres and performing arts centres.

The CCSF annual grants and contributions budget is \$54 million for the period 2018-2028 and applications are accepted on an ongoing basis.

The Recreation & Culture Department has the HVAC upgrade as a budget item in the township’s 2021 draft budget but the balance of the funding is necessary to make it happen.

# OPP urges people to ‘THINK’ before you send

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

BERWICK – “Although the internet can be a wonderful thing, it’s having a significant impact on the mental health and well-being of our residents,” said Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Sgt. Jim Blanchette.

Blanchette, the OPP’s community mobilization officer, attended the Jan. 26 township of North Stormont council meeting to discuss online safety and mental health.

“We use the internet for many things,” he said. “It’s pretty much impacted all areas of our lives at this point. What we ask people to think about is the information that’s out there about you. Sometimes this data can be collected and used against us, whether it’s a predator or someone who’s bullying or stalking. People are having their data compromised.”

Blanchette catalogued the ways an internet user’s personal information can be

tracked, stored, and used for various purposes, most of which are harmful to the user in the long run.

“Almost daily we’re seeing young people with significant mental health issues, suicidal ideation, who think their whole world is falling apart because they shared something with someone they thought they could trust. Now it’s out there on the internet,” he said. “It’s a pretty tough world for people, and I’m saying

kids, but it’s happening in the adult world as well.”

While Blanchette said there’s a lot of focus on youth and seniors, anyone, regardless of age, can be a target for identity theft, bullying, or stalking. On the flip side, he noted the growing issue of people who say things they’d never think of saying if they were doing so in person.

“This is really the focus of everything I want to say right here, think before you send,” he said. “Too often

people have an online persona which is very different from the real them and we’re all quite polite for the most part in a public setting when we’re having face to face conversations, but we’re seeing a dramatic change in how people interact behind a keyboard and they’re saying horrible things. Gaming sites in particular, people encouraging others to kill themselves, just absolutely terrible things, so think before you send.”

In an effort to educate the public, Blanchette said he’s taken the message to schools,



seniors’ groups, and other community gatherings. He urges people to “think beyond the moment.”

The OPP’s “THINK b4u Send” campaign advises internet users to ask themselves the following questions before sending or posting: Is it true? Is it hurtful? Is it illegal? Is it necessary? Is it kind?

# Fire fleet repairs skyrocket in South Dundas

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

MORRISBURG – Fleet repair costs for South Dundas Fire and Emergency Services had at least one council member second guessing a past hiring decision.

Originally included in the Municipality of South Dundas’ Feb. 1 council meeting consent agenda, Mayor Steven Byvelds pulled the report for discussion, citing concern with the skyrocketing maintenance costs. The mayor was not alone in his concern.

“I nearly blew a gasket when I looked at these prices,” Deputy-Mayor Kirsten Gardner said. “We’ve almost doubled the cost for fleet management with fire [and] we’re not done yet. I have some major concerns. I think we should have had this discussion \$40,000 ago.”

Council discussed possible reasons for the increased cost, including the new in-house mechanic’s diligence in ensuring all vehicles meet safety requirements. It was suggested the fire trucks may not have been serviced as thoroughly in the past. It was

also noted that lack of use could be a major determinant in recent truck issues, as the vehicles need to be driven regularly to avoid parts’ seizing.

Gardner questioned council’s original decision to hire a staff mechanic.

“I’m not afraid to admit I’m wrong,” Gardner said. “I’m feeling like my support for having an independent mechanic was going to save us money and it’s not.”

Coun. Don Lewis, Archie Mellan, and Lloyd Wells agreed, each noting their surprise at not only the high price tag, but also at the fact it took so long for council to learn about the additional expense. The director of the township’s Fire and Emergency Services, Cameron Morehouse, said he was feeling the same way as council.

“When I saw these numbers start to escalate, I knew I had to bring this to council,” he said. “It’s not my intent to be overbudget. I’m a thrifty kind of director. We’ll get the cost down next year; I promise you that.”

## NATION RISE WIND FARM COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

**By Nation Rise Wind Farm Limited Partnership**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021  
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**To be held virtually and over the phone:**

**To view and listen to the live virtual presentation, please connect directly through this web address <https://usednvgi.globalmeet.com/DNV1> at 6 p.m. on February 24 and select the browser option. For more information, please visit the Project website (<https://nationrisewindfarm.com/>) under the Community Section.**

**If you can’t join virtually, please dial 1-855-950-3708 for audio. Guest code is 382191.**

### Open to the General Public for Viewing

The Nation Rise Wind Farm (the “Project”) is a proposed wind farm of approximately 100 MW that is located in the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry in the Township of North Stormont, Ontario. The Project received a Renewable Energy Approval (REA) from the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (formerly the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change) on May 4, 2018. As part of the REA, the Project has established a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) primarily for residents within one kilometer of the Project, but also open to anyone with an interest in the construction, installation, use, operation, maintenance and retirement of the Project.

The CLC is intended to be a forum to discuss Project updates, milestones, concerns, issue resolution, and mitigation. CLC members will be asked to act as a liaison facilitating two-way communications between the Project and members of the public to provide updates and seek feedback regarding the Project.

DNV GL will coordinate each CLC meeting. All meeting materials (minutes, presentations, etc.) will be made available for public review on the Project website at <http://nationrisewindfarm.com/>. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the Project website in advance of the meeting.

This sixth CLC meeting is open to the general public for observation. For public health and safety considerations, it will be held virtually. The public can attend by entering the following web address in their internet browser <https://usednvgi.globalmeet.com/DNV1> or by connection by phone (dial-in number: 1-855-950-3708; Guest code: 382191). Brief Public Inquiries may be presented by members of the public. Please note that should a significant number of Public Inquiries be received in advance of the meeting, the CLC members and Nation Rise Wind Farm LP will review the inquiries and make a final representative selection for discussion at the CLC meeting. To be considered as a Public Inquiry, a written request must be sent using the Public Inquiry Form located on the Project website. Public Inquiry Forms must be submitted no later than Friday, February 19, 2021, to the Project email address ([nationrise@edpr.com](mailto:nationrise@edpr.com)). Alternatively, they can be mailed to the following address:

**Nation Rise Wind Farm Limited Partnership**  
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To learn more about the Project, visit the Project website at <http://nationrisewindfarm.com/>.



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## Preserving local newspapers

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

**IROQUOIS** – In a rural community, the role of a local newspaper is to record the life and events of the communities it serves, as well as providing information on what is happening outside its boundaries. These newspapers record life events such as weddings, births, and deaths, as well as municipal council decisions, community celebrations and the connections of the rural community to events beyond its borders.

Dundas County archivist Susan Peters mentioned in a recent interview with The Chesterville Record one of the accomplishments of the Dundas County Archives (DCA) has been the “organizing, arranging, repairing and scanning” of local newspapers dating back to the 1860s. Companies such as Etcetera Publications, which publish

*The Chesterville Record* have provided the DCA with back copies of the paper. The collection still has gaps in “the publication history,” but she is confident there will be donations of historic newspaper issues, as they are found that will fill those gaps.

Peters continued how the newspaper digitalization project currently underway will ensure the records will be “accessible to the public at no cost to them” and will “definitely fulfill our mandate of collecting, preserving and making accessible these records.” The project will ensure that the unique historical information found in these newspapers will be preserved and protected for the researchers of today and tomorrow.

The Newspaper Digitization Project was initiated by SDSG MP Eric Duncan in 2018 and is funded by the SDG

counties. The goal of the project is to “collect, organize, preserve and make accessible the historic newspapers” of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry before they are lost forever. In addition to the digitalization of newspapers for the DCA, the project also provides funding to the Glengarry Archives to digitalize newspapers and to the Lost Villages Historical Society to digitalize photographs.

Peters explained before the newspapers could be sent to be digitalized “they had to be located, organized, repaired and processed.” This involved working with local newspapers still in publication for access to

back issues and the donation of papers by individuals who had kept them or “saved them from the dumpster.” She described how Sandra Lee and Roger Johnson donated “70 years of Iroquois papers” after saving them from a dumpster.

People from the community have volunteered to assist with this project. Peters mentioned “Howard and Leslie Kirby volunteered to help organize the Iroquois Post and Matilda Advocate and the Iroquois Chieftain.” The restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in volunteers unable to help and resulted in Peters continuing the project on

her own. The papers were very brittle, sometimes had to be pieced together by hand and repaired, then “stabilized before they could be scanned and digitized.” She described this time-consuming process in some cases as being “like piecing together a puzzle” and is still looking for newspapers to fill some gaps in the collection.

The project is nearing completion, with Peters explaining “we have scanned over 214,000 pages of historic newspapers” which will be eventually located on a “free website organized and maintained by the united counties.” Funding from the United Counties council “paid for

the digitalization by Image Advantage” and will be Optical Character Recognition (OCR) searchable and “accessible to all researchers.” Peters commented the project was to be completed by December 2020, but COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions have slowed the progress of this project.

Thanks to MP Duncan’s initiative, the donations of back issues of local newspapers, funding from the United Counties council, the work of dedicated volunteers and the perseverance of the DCA archivist people now and in the future will be able to access an important part of Dundas County’s history.

## The Road Home

by Carolyn Thompson Goddard

St. Valentine’s Day, celebrated each year on February 14, is fast approaching with youngsters of all ages looking forward to receiving some token of appreciation and love on that most special day. Stores have all sorts of Valentine’s Day trinkets and lots of chocolate treats on their shelves as well as hundreds of cards to chose from. It must be incredibly difficult for children to choose which box of themed Valentine’s Day cards to give to friends at school or at home. A picture posted by a friend recently of a book of cut-out Valentine’s Day cards from the early 60’s reminded me of the wonder and excitement of Valentine’s Day as a youngster at Chesterville Public School.

In those days, the preparations at school for the Valentine’s Day celebrations began shortly after Groundhog Day or February 2. In those days, art class was invariably held on Friday afternoon and in early February we began the construction and decoration of a gigantic heart shaped Valentine’s Day holder made with pink or red construction paper. After it was finished, it was taped to the side of your desk ready and waiting for Valentines to be dropped into it on February 14.

It was the Valentines themselves which always held a special fascination for me and one year I actually convinced Mom to purchase a book of valentines to cut out at the Community Shopping Centre run by Stan David. I recall the excitement felt when the book arrived on the kitchen table after dinner one evening and the enjoyment experienced as I looked at the different valentines on each page. Each Valentine would have a coloured picture of something or other and a cute saying to go along with it and on the back was the “To” and “From” area.

The hardest part of the whole experience was choosing which one to give to who, followed by the actual



Thanks to Judy Neville for sending me a photo of the front cover of book of cut-out valentines she has kept for many yers. This photograph, initially on her Facebook page, brought back a flood of memories about past Valentine’s Day celebrations at Chesterville Public School, putting a smile on my face and in my heart!

Courtesy Photo

cutting of the valentine which for little hands and big scissors was somewhat difficult. If I remember correctly at the back of the book there were little envelopes you could cut out to put the valentines into and address them. For some reason, perhaps I cut the envelopes wrong, Mom showed me how to make envelopes from a piece of paper and is a skill I still use on occasion to this day.

One can only imagine the excitement and anticipation as the Valentine’s Day party grew closer. Occasionally, I would peek into that giant heart to see if I had received a valentine and always felt relieved when I saw one or two in the container. When the time for the party

arrived, there were generally treats provided by the teacher and a parent or two to make the party even more special. There were usually pink cupcakes or a pink heart shaped cake and while these were quite tasty, they took backstage to the distribution of valentines.

For a few years I kept the heart shaped valentine holders I made full of the valentine’s I received but somewhere over the past fifty odd years they have disappeared. What has stayed with me however is the joy felt when I looked and saw the valentines in the holder. So, a big thank you to Judy Neville for posting the picture of a book with these Valentine’s Day cards and for helping me to remember.

## NDDHS Report

By Jamie Wilson  
Student Council Communications



### Back in class

North Dundas is getting ready for Valentine’s Day. Last week we happily resumed school in person after being virtual for a month. We made it to school for one whole day before we were greeted with our first snow day of the year on Wednesday. Doing work from home again for a day, after just going back to school the day before, put into perspective how thankful I was to be learning in person again. Many other students agree, and we all hope that we can continue this way as long as it’s safe.

We ended our first week back with a fun spirit day on Friday. The day was Funky Sock Friday, and many students showed their school spirit by fancying up their feet. We hope to fill the remainder of this school year with many more exciting spirit days.

Speaking of which, we have another spirit day coming up this Fri., Feb. 12 to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Wear your Valentine’s colours of pink, red, white, and purple. We would like to wish a happy upcoming Valentine’s Day to all the people that we love and appreciate. Including, but not limited to, our teachers and staff here at North Dundas, frontline workers everywhere, and our families and loved ones.



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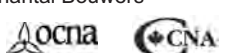
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# CRYSLER WINTER CARNIVAL

## February 12 - 14, 2021

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup>

#### North vs South Friendly Competition

ATTENTION ALL CRYSLER RESIDENTS! Get ready for our North vs South Contest. Throughout the carnival, you will have a chance to accumulate points for your side of town. North is blue and South is red. Even though the Nation River divides our town, we are still united by our community. Come out and enjoy the festivities' pandemic edition!

Winter Carnival Kick off challenges - Join our Crysler Winter Carnival North vs South Challenge 2021 (Pandemic Edition) Facebook page to share all your pictures. If you do not have a Facebook account send your picture to cryslerwc@gmail.com, we will gladly post them for you. For all other information join our Crysler Community Centre Facebook page.

**Friday challenge:** Decorate your house with the colour of your side of town and tell us why your side is the best! The South side of the Nation River is RED, North side is BLUE. (55 pts.)

**7 p.m. - 10 p.m.** Online live performance with Yanik Pepin at home party: Link will be shared our Facebook page. Join Yanik Pepin for a live performance, French and English songs. Great party guy! You can even make requests. Share a picture of your house party!

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>

**Saturday's challenges:** Discover Crysler by taken part of a Scavenger hunt. 55 bonhommes Carnival will be hidden on the first km of trail (starting at the Home Hardware) and in town. You will be invited to take selfies along the way and post your pictures for points. Stop by Home Hardware and The Old General Store for some special treats. Stop by Tony's Chip Stand for hot french fries at a special price!

#### Other Fun Family Challenges:

- 1. Coloring activity.** Friends of the Library are inviting you to print and colour a drawing. Post your picture. (10 pts.). A special draw will be held for all participants on Sunday at 6 p.m.
- 2. Post a family picture wearing your sides colour.** (10 pts.)
- 3. Share a picture of your pet wearing your sides colour.** (10 pts.)
- 4. Share your favorite outdoor activity.** (10 pts.)
- 5. Share your favorite recipe.** (10 pts.)
- 6. Tik Tok dance.** (20 pts.). Use one of the following songs: Blue team: Blue by Eiffel65 or Out Of The Blue by Aaron Prichett. Red team: 99 Red Balloons by Neva or Seeing Red by Dustin Lynch

*Winter Carnival special at Waikato Pizza - 613-987-2555. Large pepperoni pizza for \$15 taxes included. First 30 orders will received a 2L pop bottle courtesy of Crysler Home Hardware.*

#### Family game night

Post a picture of your family playing a boardgame get extra points if there is a Waikato slice of pizza and a glass of pop in the picture.

All Weekend long, enjoy the skating rink and the snow hill in the park.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

#### Sunday's challenges:

- 1. Take a scenic "Winter" Photo and post it to the event.** (10 pts.)
- 2. Decorate a cupcake, post your picture.** (10 pts.)
- 3. Valentine's Day.** Show your love to the community and our volunteers by creating red or blue hearts and hanging them on the fence around the outdoor skating rink at the park (10 pts.)

**2 p.m.** Drive-by Bonhomme Carnaval with firefighters- Same route as the parade of lights.

**Take out spaghetti dinner.** We cannot end our Winter Carnival without having our traditional spaghetti dinner. Details on our Facebook page.

**6 p.m.** Announcement of winner of challenges, Friends of Library draw and 50-50 Draw will take place 6 p.m. on our Facebook live.

**More info on our pages on Facebook: Crysler Community Centre page and Crysler Winter Carnival North Vs South Challenge 2021 (Pandemic Edition).**

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### Municipal staff keeps busy during lock down

Sandy Casselman

LJI Reporter

**MORRISBURG** – Municipality of South Dundas employees are staying productive despite the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Feb. 1 council meeting saw CAO Shannon Geraghty address a concern about staff productivity during the

pandemic, which was raised by Coun. Lloyd Well's during the last meeting in January.

"As per the last meeting, I have been dealing with our directors at a senior staff level, checking in to make sure they're keeping staff busy," Geraghty said.

He listed the many projects being addressed by staff in various departments, noting that the pandemic has given employees an opportunity to tackle projects that have been

sitting on the back burner.

"We have enough work for staff up to Feb. 10," he added. "If it goes beyond that we may need to have a discussion at that time."

Wells said he was happy with Geraghty's report.

"I want to be accountable to the public that we're not just paying people to sit there," he said, adding that he felt the public would like to see the outdoor rinks open and staff working on projects that might otherwise remain unfinished.

### County employee tests positive for COVID-19

SD&G – Tuesday the United Counties of SDG was advised that an employee has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual is an employee of the SDG Library working out of the Winchester branch.

Sanitization and contact tracing procedures have been implemented according to Eastern Ontario Health Unit protocols.

"We are following guidelines prescribed to us by our own internal health and safety

framework, as well as the protocols outlined by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit," said Karen Franklin, director of library services.

"At this time we are confident that this is an isolated case with an extremely low risk to the community at large."

The branch was closed for a day as an extra precaution while awaiting direction from the EOHU. The branch will reopen Wed., Feb. 10.

To view health and safety guidelines with respect to COVID-19, please visit [eohu.ca/en/covid-19-novelcoronavirus](http://eohu.ca/en/covid-19-novelcoronavirus).

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# OPP area arrests

**EMBRUN** – During the period of Jan.12 to Feb. 8, officers with the Russell County Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) responded to 988 calls for service. These included:

## Motorists charged with impaired

On Jan. 12, shortly before 1:30 a.m., a Russell County OPP officer conducted a traffic stop for an HTA offence on Limoges Road in Limoges where an Ontario driver was arrested.

During the investigation, the officer utilized the Approved Screening Device (ASD) on the motorist. The driver was transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Michael Joseph, 38-years-old, from Ottawa, was charged with:

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(1)(b);

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a);

Drive without proper rear light - motor vehicle HTA 62(1) and

Driver fail to surrender licence HTA 33(1)

On Jan. 16, shortly before 5:45 a.m., Russell County OPP officers responded to a single vehicle collision on County Road 17 in the City of Clarence-Rockland. There

were no injuries.

During the investigation, the officer utilized the ASD on the motorist. The driver was transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Lena Spence, 38-years-old, from Ottawa was arrested and charged with:

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a);

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(b) and

Failure to comply with release order - other than to attend court CC 145(5)(a)

On Jan. 19, shortly after 10:15 p.m., Russell County OPP officers responded to a single vehicle collision on Ste-Marie Road in Embrun. There were no injuries.

During the investigation, the officer utilized the ASD on the motorist. The driver was transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Marilyne Marie Rejeanne Delorme, 26-years-old, from Embrun was arrested and charged with:

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a) and

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(b)

On Jan. 22, shortly before 12:30 a.m., a Russell County OPP officer conducted a traffic stop for an HTA offence on St-Jean Street in Rockland where an Ontario driver was arrested.

During the investigation, the officer utilized the ASD on the motorist. The driver was transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Christopher Lacasse, 38-years-old, from Rockland, was charged with:

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(1)(b);

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a);

Operation while prohibited under the Criminal Code CC 320.18(1)(a);

Novice driver - B.A.C. above zero HTA 44.1(3);

Disobey stop sign - fail to stop HTA 136(1)(a) and

Class G1 licence holder - unaccompanied by qualified driver HTA OReg 340/94 5(1)

On Jan. 29, shortly after 12:15 p.m., Russell County OPP officers responded to a traffic complaint at a business on Richelieu Street in Rockland.

During the investigation, the motorist was spoken to and transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Daniel Besner, 64-years-old, from Rockland, was charged with:

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(1)(b) and

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a)

On Feb. 6, shortly after

11:15 p.m., Russell County OPP officers responded to a single vehicle collision on Du Lac Road in the City of Clarence-Rockland. The driver sustained minor injuries.

During the investigation, the motorist was spoken to and transported to detachment for further testing. The driver was transported to the hospital as a precaution and where further testing could be conducted.

As a result of the investigation, Alexandre Daoust, 31-years-old, from Gatineau, Quebec was arrested and charged with:

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a);

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(b) and

Drive motor vehicle - no licence HTA 32(1)

On Feb. 7, shortly before 9:00 p.m., a Russell County OPP officer conducted a wellbeing check on a motorist at a business on Principale Street in Limoges where an Ontario driver was arrested.

During the investigation, the officer utilized the ASD on the motorist. The driver was transported to detachment for further testing.

As a result of the investigation, Kelsey Jane Blaney, 29-years-old, from Maxville, was charged with:

Operation while impaired - blood alcohol

concentration (80 plus) CC 320.14(1)(b);

Operation while impaired - alcohol and drugs CC 320.14(1)(a) and

Having care or control of a motor vehicle with liquor readily available LLA 32(1)

The motorists received a 90 day driver's licence suspension and the vehicles were also impounded for seven days.

The accused are scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in L'Original at a later date.

Stolen vehicle complaint leads to numerous charges

On Jan. 13, at approximately 2:45 p.m., Russell County OPP officers responded to a stolen vehicle complaint on Angele Street in Embrun.

The investigation revealed that the vehicle had been taken without consent. The vehicle stopped, but before the officer reached the vehicle, it was in motion again. The driver was uncooperative with the officer. The vehicle was stopped a few moments later.

As a result of the investigation, a 15-year-old, from Embrun was charged with:

Dangerous operation CC 320.13(1);

Take Motor Vehicle Without Consent CC 335(1);

Flight from peace officer CC 320.17 and

Assault with a weapon CC 267(a)



The identity of the accused cannot be released under terms of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA).

The accused is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in L'Original at a later date.

Disturbance complaint leads to assault charges

On Jan. 29, shortly after 12:00 p.m., Russell County OPP officers responded to a disturbance complaint at a business on Notre-Dame Street in Embrun.

The investigation revealed that a physical altercation occurred between four adults.

As a result of the investigation, Kiera Gabrielle Lynch, 23-years-old, from Russell was charged with:

Assault CC 266

And Jayson Stanley Norton, 49-years-old, from Vars was charged with:

Assault with a weapon CC 267(a)

And Jody Norton, 46-years-old, from Vars was charged with:

Assault Causing Bodily Harm CC 267(b)

The accused are scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in L'Original at a later date.

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# Compost depots coming to Morrisburg and Iroquois

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

MORRISBURG – Compost collection depot days for Morrisburg and Iroquois are a go, but not all Municipality of South Dundas politicians are on board.

During the township’s Feb. 1 council meeting, Environmental Services director Danielle Watson recommended council “approve the management of leaf and yard waste through the utilization of a private waste hauler collecting materials from specialized pre-set daily drop off locations within the municipality three times a week for six weeks in 2021.”

Operating outside of the legal guidelines set by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), both the Morrisburg and Iroquois composting sites were forced to shut down. It was noted that MECP learned of the compost sites because of a development program at the Morrisburg Industrial Park and because of a complaint made by a South Dundas resident who had concerns about the Morrisburg location.

Watson explained that the municipality does not have Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) to collect, manage or transport waste, which leaves South Dundas open to a potential \$250,000 fine for each compost site.

The proposed depot system would operate for three days a week in one village, followed by three days a week in the other.

This would run for a total of six weeks and the cost for the service is estimated to be roughly \$18,000. Watson said the cost could fluctuate depending on how much leaf and yard waste is collected. She said the cost would be roughly the same as what the township had been spending to operate the two compost sites in the past.

“Staff feel this is the best option in that it doesn’t increase the tax levy and it offers a similar level of service,” Watson said. The location for Morrisburg is set to be 5 Allison Avenue, while the Iroquois location will be 10 Bouck Street. While the suggested days are Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, Watson noted the private hauler is flexible on days of service.

While most of council agreed to the proposal, Coun. Archie Mellan was opposed. His top concern was the taxpayer funding.

“I think this should be a user pay system,” he said. “This should not be on the taxpayer. I won’t support it on that alone.”

Mellan added that the rest of South Dundas should not be paying so that Morrisburg and Iroquois residents can have free and convenient compost disposal. He suggested village residents haul their own compost to the Matilda Landfill like the rest of the township’s residents have always done.

Councillor Lloyd Wells said he felt the \$18,000 price tag was not only reasonable, but a savings compared to what has historically been spent on the existing compost sites. Mayor Steven Byvelts agreed.

Mellan moved to alter the resolution, stipulating the new service be user funded rather than taxpayer funded. With no one willing to second the motion, it died, and council voted on the original motion as presented. In the end, the mayor, deputy mayor, and remaining two councillors voted in favour of the recommendation.

# Skate, ski, or snowshoe in South Dundas

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

SOUTH DUNDAS – It is winter in South Dundas and despite the pandemic, there’s still a lot of outdoor fun to be had for residents of all ages.

For starters, do not miss out on the South Dundas Recreation Snow Sculpture Contest. The rules are simple: build a snow sculpture of your choosing, take a photo, email the photo to [jscott@southdundas.com](mailto:jscott@southdundas.com) by Feb. 16. The winner, who must be a resident of the municipality, will receive a \$100 gift card to a South Dundas business of their choosing. The winner will be announced on Feb. 18.

With outdoor rinks, local hiking trails, and urban pathways, there are plenty of ways to enjoy the fresh air with friends and family. For those who need snowshoes, skates, or cross-country skis, the Municipality of South Dundas’ Lending Library is ready to serve. Contact [jscott@southdundas.com](mailto:jscott@southdundas.com) for more information and to

book your equipment.

Those looking to stroll along the Iroquois or Morrisburg Pathways can rest assured that the township is committed to keeping these walkways snow-free for easier access. CAO Shannon Geraghty recently released a statement thanking the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the 2019 capital grant of \$150,000 that allowed for the Iroquois Pathway rehabilitation to be completed this past fall.

“Our pathways are now more important than ever for providing the community with a safe and accessible piece of outdoor infrastructure,” Geraghty said.

Weather permitting, the municipality’s outdoor rinks in Matilda, Morrisburg, and Iroquois will be open for residents to enjoy. Users are asked to follow rules and regulations issued in consultation with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. The rinks will be available for use between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily with

a limit of 25 people on the ice at one time. The rinks are open for skating, but not for hockey or hockey equipment. Everyone is

encouraged to wear masks on and off the ice, as well as to social distance from those not in their family. Washrooms are closed.

As for South Dundas’ wonderful hiking options,

there’s Two Creek Forest Conservation Area and Robert

Graham Conservation Area. A list of open conservation trails in nearby townships can be found on the South Nation

Conservation website. The trails at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary remain open. Washrooms are closed. Visitors are asked to practice safe physical distancing.



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**Your News. Your Way.**



## Mike Dean's fills out northern grocery lists

Joseph Morin

Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE

Remarkable people and industries are hidden everywhere in the Canadian business landscape.

One such business is Mike Dean Local Grocer with locations in Chesterville, Bourget and Sharbot Lake.

For the past year, Mike Dean Local Grocer has been a member of a partnership that services the Nunavut community in Canada's far north.

Nunavut includes a major portion of Northern Canada and most of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, and has a population of around 40,000 people. It is located 2,833 km from Chesterville: a long drive for a loaf of bread and peanut butter.

Bringing food and necessary items to this part of Canada is a challenge.

Taking up the challenge are three groups working together in an unusual partnership.

An online retail service called Arctic Fresh takes food orders for the grocery stores in Nunavut. That grocery list is filled out by Mike Dean's organization in Ottawa and the resulting pallets of food are flown up to Nunavut by Canadian North Airline.

Gordon Dean said he is happy to be involved in the process of feeding fellow Canadians in such a remote part of the country.

The Chesterville grocery store has been working with our northern neighbours for just over a year.

"Our first shipments were Dec. 19, so 14 months ago," said Dean.

"Basically we were in the right place at the right time."

Arctic Fresh was headquartered in Ottawa, so Dean took over their operation and became the third part of the northern partnership.

Across Canada there are quite a few grocery chains, but few like Mike Dean Local Grocer.

"There are not too many people that would have the inventory, plus the equipment plus the ability and interest in it," said Dean.

With a population of



Gordon and Julie Dean outside their warehouse in Ottawa. Courtesy Photo

3,243, Inuvik is the hub of the Arctic.

In the entire territory of Nunavik there is more people that live in the city of Cornwall.

It is spread across a territory two-thirds the size of Ontario.

Working in the far north, even as a member of a group arranging, procuring and delivering food to the north is a challenge.

Apart from the sheer challenge of the distances and weather conditions involved, trust and accountability are also an important factor.

Dean said, "If you are not from up there you will not have a clue of how complicated and how much our version of normal does not exist."

He said gaining the trust of community members is all part of doing business in the north.

Dean takes little of the credit for how well his grocery chain is doing looking after communities in Nunavut.

"We were lucky. The company that has been doing it for the past three years did a fantastic job, so we were able to take their best practices and continued their operation," he said.

"A couple of their staff worked with us for a while."

They handle all of the logistics in the north.

Dean believes the arrangement is a good match.

"We specialize in food and they specialize in getting it there."

The biggest change was moving the Ottawa operation into the Mike Dean Local Grocer warehouse on Industrial drive.

During the summer months when many of the communities served are

accessible by sea, the food is loaded into sea containers and delivered to the port in Montreal. From there, it makes its way north to those small communities that do not have regular air service.

Even the sea portion of the process is difficult.

Dean said, "The big difference with this part of our operation is the packaging and the preparation."

Putting two skids into a sea container and you have to worry about how it is going to be received six weeks later after it has bounced around on the ocean."

There are many lessons to be learned from this venture. Its not just the logistics that have to be worked out, it is also the frame of mind the drivers of a commercial venture have to accept.

"It is a different mentality than here or what we are used to in business," he said.

"Up there everybody does something very well and they do it in multiple places and they are not afraid to partner. I think it is cultural that way."

You need to support each other. When things go wrong there is no one else coming to help you."

Dean said he is enjoying the experience.

"It is interesting and fun. It is very enjoyable to do something that has become a meaningful part of our business very quickly. It is rewarding to do."

We are not fighting over how cheap we can sell milk and how cheap we can sell bread.

We are doing something on a big scale that makes a heck of a difference.

It's unique and that is part of the reason we like it," said Dean.

But there is another side to this story of a country's good fortune when it comes to the food on your table.

That story is how it got there in the first place.

Our food supply system has flaws I am sure, but for the most part it works.

From a carefully selected seed planted in the ground, then watched over as it grows, to when it is harvested and shipped off to be processed and finally arriving at the grocery store as your next meal, our food supply industry, meat and vegetables, despite all its twists and turns is a remarkable process.

Food Freedom Day is a celebration, but the party happens only because of all the work producers, farmers, grocery stores, suppliers and the Canadian food industry in general, plus believe it or not government does day in and day out to ensure there is food on your table and money in your pocket to buy it.

There are so many aspects of the Canadian food industry that all add up to and contribute to a system that is efficient and affordable.

We are, as a nation so lucky to have a food producing industry we can depend on.

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## Happy Food Freedom Day

Joseph Morin

Staff Writer

There is not a great deal of good news to celebrate these days, or so it seems.

In fact, there are some very telling events that despite the pandemic; political maneuvering; the weather; and the latest update about lockdowns, these events are downright refreshing.

Feb. 9 is officially called Food Freedom Day in Canada; a very grand statement to be sure but according to all of the experts, that was the day the average Canadian household, fortunate enough to have an average income, will have earned enough to pay their family's entire year's grocery bill; it's a nice thought and a comforting milestone; it is an indication that most of us have an opportunity to have a job, enjoy an income so that we can eat food every day, from our local grocer.

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# Seeing life differently

OTTAWA – “Let them” was Anne-Marie’s response to people staring at her son, Steve.

Without communication skills, Steve often screamed as a child... a form of expression. But he could not hear the sound or volume of his frequent screams. Steve is deafblind.

Deafblindness is a combination of hearing and vision loss that is unique to each person. It can impact access to information, communication, and mobility.

Weighing just one pound and 14 ounces, Steve and his identical triplet brothers were born premature at 28 weeks. “At birth I learned that Steve had vision loss due to retinopathy of prematurity. Before he was a year, I knew that he had hearing loss too. This was more difficult to determine, but around two, Steve was diagnosed as profoundly deaf. Steve also has chronic kidney disease,” says Anne-Marie.

Steve is completely blind in his right eye, with an eye prosthetic. In his left, he has between 10 to 20 per cent vision, bending and moving his head to see with this eye. “We respected Steve’s decision to not use a hearing aid, which he doesn’t like. Even with the highest quality hearing aid, there are still many sounds he wouldn’t be able to hear,” Anne-Marie explains.

Ninety-five per cent of what we learn comes from

what we see and hear. As a child, it was very difficult for Steve to learn sign language. He had a hard time sitting still as well as sleeping. With a spirit for adventure, Steve often learned through discovery. “He was very curious, he would turn on the oven burners to watch them heat or try to get outside throughout the night, he was like Houdini. We had to install a fence around the yard and lock the doors from the inside.”

After years of sleepless nights and screaming, Steve was prescribed medication that helped him to reestablish his internal clock. “It was a game changer,” recalls Anne-Marie. From there, he learned Langue des signes Québécoise, LSQ for short. Anne-Marie learned some LSQ too, noting that she practices this skill more often with the team at DeafBlind Ontario Services.

DeafBlind Ontario Services’ residential programs provide accessible, barrier-free, affordable housing, and access to Intervenor Services 24/7. Intervenor provide visual and auditory information to individuals with deafblindness. By facilitating the exchange of information and assisting with communication methods, intervenors empower people with deafblindness to thrive.

Anne-Marie first learned



**DeafBlind**  
ONTARIO SERVICES

about DeafBlind Ontario Services through Centre Jules-Léger, the province’s only French-language school for children who are Deaf or hard of hearing, blind or have low vision, are deafblind, or have learning disabilities.

“When I first visited one of DeafBlind Ontario Services’ locations in Kitchener, I knew it was what I wanted for Steve... somewhere he could live as independently as possible,” says Anne-Marie.

For eight years, the family waited for a location to open in the Ottawa area. Throughout those years, Steve received support from DeafBlind Ontario Services’ Community Services – Partnerships, which offers specialized expertise and services to individuals with deafblindness through their supporting agency.

Steve moved into DeafBlind Ontario Services’ new location earlier in 2020. “Steve and our entire family are so happy. He has come a long way, initiating conversation and increasing his knowledge of LSQ with

consistent support from intervenors.”

“Steve has a home to call his own now, living as normal of a life as possible. Although it is difficult right now with social distancing, my goal is for him to socialize more, meet friends for coffee, or invite friends and family over for dinner in the future, to become more and more independent in his daily living.

Achieving this will be possible because of Intervenor Services,” says Anne-Marie.

Today, Steve still taps into his sense of discovery and curiosity to learn. “On his own, he puts his finger into his glass to determine when a drink is poured to the right level. He also brings his iPad close to his face so he can see a picture. He learned to slide from one image to the next using his nose... it’s very clever.”

“When you go through something like Steve has experienced, it’s really difficult. But I am glad it happened to us. As a family, we see life so differently and appreciate the small victories. Every time Steve learns a new LSQ sign, we



Steve enjoying a winter skate with Anne-Marie.

Courtesy Photo

are so excited it’s unbelievable,” says Anne-Marie.

Over 1 per cent of Canada’s population or approximately 466,420 people are deafblind, like Steve. DeafBlind Ontario Services provides accessible residential and customized

support services across the province, including in Ottawa, Embrun, and Vars.

Their holistic approach to Intervenor Services empowers people with deafblindness to achieve their goals and dreams. Learn more at deafblindontario.com.

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# Out of Sight – But definitely not out of mind!

WINCHESTER – WDMH’s volunteers are staying home these days – and staying safe. But that doesn’t mean they aren’t still hard at work.

Recently, Debbie DeCooman was named co-chair of the WDMH auxiliary. She joins Elinor Jordan in this joint role. Appreciation is extended to Lynn Dillabough who has completed her term.

Debbie lives near Chesterville and works for the St. Lawrence Parks Commission at Upper Canada Village as a historical interpreter. She is also the health and safety officer for the village. Debbie worked at Nestlé Canada in accounting and production planning; provided clerical support at Carefor Agency and was the Parkinson’s Support Group coordinator throughout the region. After attending the Horticulture program at Kemptville College, Debbie started an organic farm growing vegetables and eggs for the box program. She now raises chickens, goats, and miniature donkeys.

“I started volunteering at WDMH during Upper Canada Village’s off-season and I really enjoy it,” says Debbie. “We all volunteer



**Elinor Jordan**

because we want to help WDMH and the patients - and we enjoy the fellowship of being together.”

The auxiliary committee continues to meet virtually to plan for the future. “We look forward to being back at WDMH where we can help out in any way we



**Debbie DeCooman**

can,” notes Elinor.

“We are looking forward to that too,” adds Cholly Boland, WDMH CEO. “The volunteers are an essential part of our care team and they are missed.”

While the Gift Shoppe is closed and traditional fundraising events throughout

the year are on hold, the auxiliary is still supporting WDMH patients through its fundraising activities. Their current project will help WDMH’s youngest patients. The new monitoring system will alert staff and lock doors when a baby is near an exit. It will keep everyone safe in the childbirth unit.

Donations can be made by mailing a cheque to the WDMH Foundation at 566 Louise Street, Winchester, K0C 2K0. Please indicate the donation is for “Auxiliary Equipment” and include your return address to get an income tax receipt. Donors can also call the Foundation at 613-774-2422 ext. 6162 to donate using a credit card. Thanks for your support.



## Looking forward to 2021

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

NORTH STORMONT – The Roxborough Agriculture Society (RAS) held their virtual 2021 annual general meeting on Feb. 4, with president Shayla Fraser welcoming people to the event which featured reports, the election of the 2021 board of directors, committee membership and the opportunity to vote on an updated constitution as well as discuss the Official Policy Handbook for the RAS.

In her remarks, Fraser commented how 2020 had seen the cancellation of the 160th Avonmore Fair, the several fundraisers and mentioned how the organization was fortunate to have been able to hold winter storage this past fall. She noted the cancellation of the fair gave RAS volunteers time to work on other projects including a beautification project for the fairgrounds. This fall, several trees were planted at the fairgrounds and Fraser expects more trees will be planted in the spring.

Fraser then thanked all the volunteers, before highlighting the contribution of Charyl McLaughlin and the assistance provided by the Royal Bank of Canada. While the dates for the 2021 Avonmore Fair have been set for July 17 and 18, it is expected a decision on format of the fair will be made soon, and in keeping with COVID-19 precautions and restrictions. Fundraising opportunities for the organization such as craft shows, and breakfasts were discussed, with the consensus being that any activities are dependent on COVID-19 vaccinations and restrictions; that a wait and see attitude is needed. The successful “Dessert Plate” fundraiser held in December 2020 was noted as well as the history book written by Murray Barkley to celebrate the 160th anniversary of the RAS and the well-loved Avonmore Fair. Copies of the book are still available to purchase.

Elections for the executive and board of directors followed the president’s report and were run by Jennifer Waldroff. Members of the 2021 board of directors are: Jim MacIntyre, Bryce Robinson, Linda Holland, Wendy Trenholm, David Wattie, Shayla Fraser, Charyl McLaughlin, Charity Stucki, Molly McDonald, Ross Fraser, Carrie Couturier and Joanne Gagne-Brown. Executive members include: President Shayla Fraser, 1st vice president Davie Wattie, 2nd vice president Charity Stucki, secretary Wendy Trenholm, treasurer Linda Holland, assistant to the treasurer Charity Stucki, grounds superintendent Brent MacIntyre, home craft director Shayla Fraser and past president Jim MacIntyre. Associate directors, honorary members and committee memberships

were confirmed.

It was noted during the meeting the 2021 Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAS) would be held virtually this year. Recently the RAS board of directors accepted the update to the Official Policy Handbook for the organization. This will provide volunteers and workers with policy guidelines allowing them the ability to respond in a consistent manner to situations, which from time to time, may arise.

A revised and updated constitution was presented to the membership at the AGM. The constitution provided at the meeting required a significant commitment by those who worked on the project. They spent many hours meeting and discussing the information provided through research and consultations. The RAS membership voted to accept the new constitution.

As the 2021 AGM concluded, president Shayla Fraser thanked everyone for their continued support during these challenging times, noting how “we are resilient, we can keep going” and expressed how, like everyone, she is looking forward to the time when they are able to meet in person.



### - OBITUARY -

## WILLIAM CALVIN RAY DROPPO

Bill Droppo passed away peacefully at the Lanark Lodge in Perth on Tuesday, February 2, 2021, at the age of 88. He was the dear father of Douglas (late Rosa), Bonnie (Rick) St. Denis and the late Anne Droppo. He was the grandfather of Jonathan Michaud, Michael (Lynn) Michaud, Natasha (Eric) Marion and Brendan (Clara) Droppo. He was also the great-grandfather of Isabella Marion and Grayson Droppo. Bill was predeceased by his parents Andrew and Olive Droppo, his sisters Evelyn and Geraldine and his brothers Dwight, Garnet, Gerald and Raymond. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Due to Covid Restrictions a private family funeral service will be held at the Marsden and McLaughlin Funeral Home in Chesterville. Interment will be at Maple Ridge Cemetery in Chesterville. Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. If you are making your donation online or by cheque directly to the charity, please include the following note with your gift “Please notify the family”. Online condolences may be made at [marsdenmclaughlin.com](http://marsdenmclaughlin.com).



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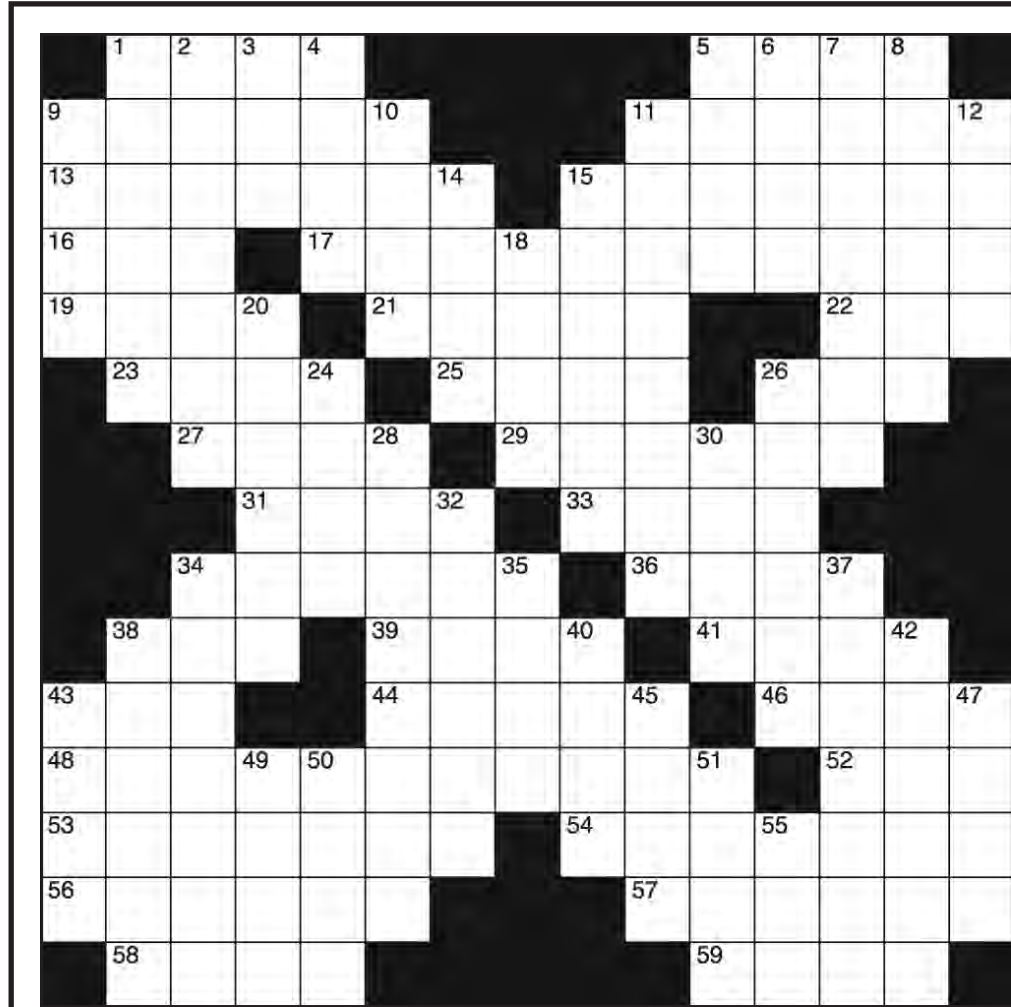
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11, 2021

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Composed
5. Lesotho currency
9. Ethnic group associated with Hungarians
11. Gains knowledge of
13. Gradual destruction
15. Purchase
16. Pharaoh of lower Egypt
17. Where you're going
19. The 6th letter of the Greek alphabet
21. Fishing net
22. Midway between south and southeast
23. A way to sort
25. C C C
26. Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
27. Discount
29. Consumes tobacco
31. A way to run

33. Popular musical awards show
34. Pertains to the male sexual organ
36. Supplements with difficulty
38. Green veggie
39. Deep-bodied freshwater fish
41. Holy fire
43. Usually has a lid
44. Being of use or service
46. Have a yen for
48. Unknowingness
52. Dry white wine drink
53. Unwinds
54. Traveling by sea
56. Outdoor entertaining areas
57. Stringed instruments
58. \_ Redgrave, actress
59. Moves earth

### CLUES DOWN

1. Progressive decay of a bone or tooth
2. Burrowing rodents
3. French/Belgian river
4. A professional cleaner
5. A Russian river
6. Kiln
7. True statements
8. Most private
9. French city
10. Masses of fish eggs
11. Apart from others
12. Monetary unit of Samoa
14. Nanosecond
15. Film
18. Men's fashion accessories
20. Flowering shrub
24. North Carolina university
26. Former monetary unit of Spain

28. Foodies
30. New Zealand parrot
32. Makes very happy
34. A payment required for not fulfilling a contract
35. Emerald Isle
37. The act of terminating someone's employment
38. Gland in some mammals
40. Commoner
42. Large animals
43. Belch
45. Employee stock ownership plan
47. Work units
49. Wagon
50. Nerve fiber
51. Proclaimed
55. Japanese delicacy

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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.

## Clear Cut Installations: You dream it, we can build it

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN** – Making your house into your home takes a little more than financial resources and a vision.

Homeowners also need good products, top-notch advice, and a proven track record.

Clear Cut Installations has been helping their neighbours in this part of Ontario for the past 34 years.

“I am still enjoying it,” said owner and company president Steve Caza. “I imagine, I will be at it for some years to come.”

Teamwork, professionalism, integrity, and accountability are all aspects of Clear Cut Installations that have helped them over the years.

Gaza oversees every Clear Cut installation. He said working during the pandemic presents its own kinds of challenges, but he is careful and everyone on the team is careful, wears masks and follows the regulations.

“Even the office workers here wear masks when they are working here,” he said. “So far it has paid off.”

Over the years, Clear Cut Installations has maintained the same level of excellence in their work and have stayed with the products that work.

“We do lots of windows, doors, kitchens and bathrooms. We are still doing roofing and eaves troughing.”

They install all types of windows from wood windows to vinyl windows.

# SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Steve Caza, president and owner of Clear Cut Installations has provided excellent workmanship and products for the past 34 years. Morin Photo

They can install all the different kinds of roofing from traditional shingles to metal roofs.

A project by Clear Cut leaves nothing left undone. If they do a kitchen or bathroom, every aspect of that particular job is completed for the job to be finished.

“We do the whole thing,” said Caza.

Caza said while he has been using the same name brands for years with no complaints, he relies on North Star Windows & Doors’ products. “They make an excellent product,” said Caza.

Over the last quarter century manufactures have been able to make their products more reliable and longer lasting.

Caza said, “Products are always improving a little bit but they have got it down pretty good with windows now. Everything is lasting longer; the hardware is better. We are selling products now that have lifetime warranties.”

Clear Cut Installations is a Window Wise certified dealer. That means that every window installation is backed up by a certification program and Clear Cut Installations’ staff have been trained to highest industry standards.

Clear Cut Installations is also a member of Siding and Window Dealers Association

of Canada (SAWDAC).

Members of SAWDAC follow a code of ethics that guarantee consumer satisfaction, and products you can depend on.

Caza said, “Our high quality workmanship, highly respected and trained installers, top quality products, a 10 year installation guarantee, excellent pricing and value, in-house designers available to help make your dream a reality, cleanliness and safety and the Clear Cut Installations’ warranty is what we offer.”

Caza said, “The work that we do is backed by a 10 year installation guarantee.

We take pride in our professional attitude and work hard to make sure our installers are prompt, tidy on site and courteous throughout the entire installation process. Providing you with the product you expected, to your level of satisfaction is of paramount importance to us.”

Every room and part of your home from the roof to the windows, kitchens and bathrooms are areas where Clear Cut Installations can make a difference.

Clear Cut Installations is currently offering a 20 per cent discount on new window and door installations.

For more information about Clear Cut Installations and the great service they offer, go to [clearcutinstallations.com](http://clearcutinstallations.com) or call 613-989-2367 in South Mountain, 613-342-4638 in Brockville, and 613-739-4301 in Ottawa or 1-800-561-4206.

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

## SDG advocates for rural education

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

**CHESTERVILLE** – The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG) has decided to make rural education a priority.

“While education in Ontario is governed by school boards and the province, SDG can play a significant advocacy role in ensuring that access to quality education for our young people is paramount,” said warden Frank Prevost. SDG is all set to hire someone to develop an advocacy document aimed at

promoting rural education throughout the counties. A request for proposal (RFP) was issued this month. A link to the RFP can be found at [sdgcounties.ca/rural-education](http://sdgcounties.ca/rural-education).

Long before COVID-19 came along, rural schools have been fighting to exist. In the past five years alone, several Upper Canada District School Board (UCDSB) schools have closed, and while some were saved, the length of the reprieve is unknown. Most recently, township of North Stormont politicians voted

to send a letter to UCDSB’s board of directors to urge them to defer North Stormont Public School’s transition date from September 2021 to September 2022.

The letter encouraged local school board trustees to do their homework and to take their time in analyzing the facts before finalizing a transition plan “in order to ensure North Stormont and the surrounding area will continue, without added stress or interruption, to be properly and safely served with quality local rural

public education.”

The SDG document currently being commissioned is expected to serve as the basis of the county’s rural education advocacy initiative.

“There is a substantial body of literature confirming why educating children in or near their home communities is important, particularly from a social capital point of view,” said SDG CAO Timothy Simpson. “The intent of this report is therefore not to confirm what we already know, but rather to propose tangible policy solutions to make rural education in our region better.”



### SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

#### THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

**Take Notice** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on February 18, 2021, at the South Dundas Municipal Office, 34 Ottawa Street, Morrisburg Ontario.

**Description of Lands:**

Roll No. 05 06 006 006 15800 0000; 4759 County Rd. 1 / Carman Rd., Iroquois; PIN 66118-0209 (LT); File No. 18-06; **Minimum Tender Amount: \$13,782.28**

**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](http://www.OntarioTaxSales.ca) or [www.southdundas.com](http://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.

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT

**To all persons who were Crown Wards in Ontario at any time from the period on or after January 1, 1966 until March 30, 2017 and suffered physical or sexual assault before or while a Crown Ward (“Class Members”)**

**A proposed settlement has been reached with Ontario in this class action to provide compensation of up to \$3,600 to Class Members who are former Crown Wards who suffered physical or sexual assault before or while a Crown Ward.**

This lawsuit is not about seeking money from your abusers for the abuse you suffered. The lawsuit is about the government’s alleged duty to consider and, where appropriate, apply for specific benefits on behalf of Crown Wards who were victims of crime, or to seek damages in civil actions on behalf of Crown Wards. The lawsuit, and this settlement, do not impact your ability to sue someone who abused you.

If you opted out of the class action, the settlement will not impact you.

There will be a court hearing on **May 12, 2021** to decide whether the proposed settlement of the lawsuit should be approved. The hearing will take place virtually.

There is no money available now. If the court approves the settlement and you are part of the lawsuit, you can then make a claim.

To obtain further information, please visit <https://OntarioCrownWardClassAction.ca> or contact Epiq Global at 1-877-739-8936, or by email at [info@ontariocrownwardclassaction.ca](mailto:info@ontariocrownwardclassaction.ca).

The lawyers acting for the class are Koskie Minsky LLP. You may also contact Koskie Minsky LLP at 1-866-778-7985, or by email at [OCWclassaction@kmlaw.ca](mailto:OCWclassaction@kmlaw.ca).

If you approve of the settlement, and want it to proceed so you can claim money, you do not need to take any steps. If you want to object to the settlement, you must send an objection to Epiq Global by April 1, 2021.



### TENDER # 21-007

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TAGWI**

Tender closes at **3:00 PM, February 25, 2021**

Tender documents may only be obtained at [www.biddingo.com/ucdsb](http://www.biddingo.com/ucdsb)

Inquiries may be directed to:  
Chris Groenewoud, CSCMP,  
Assistant Manager of Purchasing

[chris.groenewoud@ucdsb.on.ca](mailto:chris.groenewoud@ucdsb.on.ca) or 613-342-0371 ext. 1264

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# The Villager News

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## South Nation Conservation meeting dates for 2021

FINCH – Member municipalities within South Nation Conservation’s (SNC) watershed jurisdiction appoint representatives to the board of directors, which oversees SNC’s budget, programs, and environmental services.

The Conservation Authority’s four volunteer standing committees also help review programs and develop recommendations for the board. SNC’s environmental stewardship success depends upon local, community partnerships to build strong, sensible programs with broad-based support.

Area residents interested in committee vacancies can contact SNC at 1-877-984-2948 or info@nation.on.ca.

More information on SNC’s board and committees can be found here: [www.nation.on.ca/about/board-directors-and-committees](http://www.nation.on.ca/about/board-directors-and-committees).

In response to COVID-19, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks directed Conservation Authorities to amend their administrative bylaws to allow for virtual meetings. For now, public board and committee meetings will continue to be held remotely and livestreamed on SNC’s YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/SouthNationCA](http://www.youtube.com/SouthNationCA).

Board of directors’ meetings: Board meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m. Meetings will continue to

be held remotely and livestreamed on SNC’s YouTube channel unless otherwise indicated online.

- January 21, 2021
- February 18, 2021
- March 18, 2021 (Annual General Meeting)
- April 15, 2021
- May 20, 2021
- June 17, 2021
- August 19, 2021
- September 16, 2021
- October 21, 2021
- November 18, 2021 (Budget)
- December 16, 2021

Forestry committee meetings: Meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. on the dates noted below and will continue to be held remotely and livestreamed on SNC’s YouTube channel unless otherwise indicated.

- March 4, 2021
- June 1, 2021
- September 7, 2021
- November 30, 2021

Fish and Wildlife committee meetings: Meetings will be held at 3:00 p.m. on the dates noted below and will continue to be held remotely and livestreamed on SNC’s YouTube channel unless otherwise indicated.

- March 4, 2021
- June 1, 2021
- September 7, 2021
- November 30, 2021

Communication committee meetings: Meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the dates noted below and will continue to be held remotely and livestreamed on SNC’s YouTube channel unless otherwise indicated.

- February 10, 2021
- March 4, 2021 at 3:00 pm

- June 16, 2021
- Tentative July meeting: Date TBD
- September 15, 2021
- November 17, 2021

Clean Water committee meetings: Meetings will be held at 9:00 p.m. on the dates noted below and will continue to be held remotely and livestreamed on SNC’s YouTube channel unless otherwise indicated.

- March 4, 2021
- June 7, 2021
- September 13, 2021
- November 29, 2021

City of Ottawa Representatives:

- Catherine Kitts, Councillor – Ward 19 Cumberland

• Michael Brown, Public Representative

• Gerrie Kautz, Public Representative United Counties of Prescott and Russell Representatives:

- Guy Desjardins, Mayor, City of Clarence-Rockland

• François St. Amour, Mayor, Nation Township United Counties of Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Representatives:

- Steve Densham, Councillor, Township of North Stormont

• Archie Mellan, Councillor, Municipality of South Dundas United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Representatives:

- John Hunter, Councillor, Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal

• Dana Farcasiu, Public Representative, Municipality of North Grenville ### Dates des réunions du conseil



### 2020-21 SNC Board of directors

Left to right are: Vice Chair: Pierre Leroux, Mayor, Russell Township, Chair: George Darouze, Councillor – Ward 20 Osgoode, City of Ottawa and Past-Chair: Bill Smirle, Public Representative, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Courtesy Photo

## Ontario Parks day-use vehicle permits available to borrow the township of Russell Public Library

RUSSELL – These permits provide unlimited day-use access for one vehicle and its occupants to all provincial parks in Ontario where fees are normally charged. Also available while quantities last: At your next curbside visit, ask us for a coupon for \$5 off your next daily vehicle permit for Ontario parks. Permits (including museum passes) cannot be renewed and they are for

a seven day loan on a first-come, first-served basis.

Ontario Parks Vehicle Permits: Now until Dec. 31, \$5 Coupons: While quantities last At both Library Branches 1053, Concession St. Russell 1215, St-Augustin Rd. Embrun. Contact us for more information [russellbiblio.com](http://russellbiblio.com) 613-445-5331 (Russell) 613-443-3636 (Embrun).

## Russell OPP request assistance with suspected arson investigation

CASSELMAN – Sat., Feb. 6, shortly before 6:00 p.m., Russell County Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) officers responded to a structural fire located on St-Joseph Street in Casselman.

Firefighters from the Casselman Fire Department were already at scene. It’s believed that the fire was started on purpose.

An unknown person was observed running away from the structure when the incident occurred. There were no injuries at the fire scene.

The Russell County OPP Crime Unit and Ontario Fire Marshall’s Officer are continuing to investigate.

Anyone with information regarding this fire, including suspicious

vehicles or people seen in the area, should contact Russell County OPP at 1-888-310-1122 or 613-443-4499.

Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), or submit an online tip at [www.crimestoppersquinte.ca](http://www.crimestoppersquinte.ca), where you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$2,000.

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# Local author continues successful literary journey

**Joseph Morin**

Record Staff

OSGOODE – Dar Peterson loves to write and loves to tell a good story.

When not managing Peterson Custom Farming and grain elevator with her husband, Ivan and son Jarret, she has found the time and energy to write many short stories, poems and songs as well as her first novel called *Reunions* followed by a sequel called *Unity*.

*Reunions* is about love, and betrayal, rebuilding and surviving.

A synopsis about *Reunions* states: “Elle thought her life was perfect. She had a strong marriage, two amazing sons, a summerhouse, and a successful and creative career. Then, out of the blue, her husband of thirty years leaves her for another woman. Struggling to pick up the pieces of her life, Elle leans on her children and friends for support, pouring her time into her art and writing.

As things begin to improve and she starts to see the light at the end of the tunnel, she runs into an old high school friend, whom she learns has carried a flame for her all these years. She delights in

exploring this passionate new relationship, and soon feels that her trauma is behind her. That is, until her ex-husband tries to force himself back into her life. Elle tries desperately to move forward without him, but soon finds he isn’t ready to let her go and is willing to do anything to get his way.”

Peterson said, “I have always enjoyed writing. I wrote in a family journal from 1988 up until 2016. My last entry in the journal was the day my son Justin died at the age of 26 in a snowmobiling accident. A few years later I realized that I needed to write again. I couldn’t stop writing, and before I knew it, I had written a book.”

The next step in her literary journey was to find a way to have her book published.

“I wasn’t too sure what to do with it, so I sent the manuscript to Friesen Press, and to my surprise they loved it and were willing to work with me to publish it,” said Peterson.

Her fulltime job takes up a great deal of her time and finding the time to write is an issue she met head on with a disciplined writing process.

“Work takes up a lot of my time so it’s

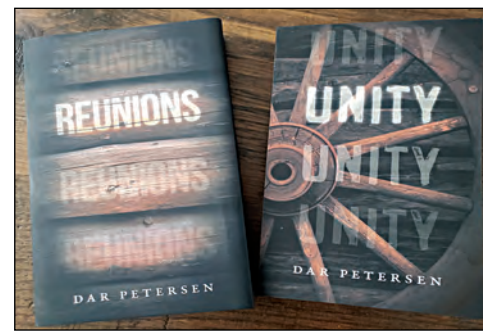
great that we own property in Merrickville,” she said.

“That’s where I would spend my weekends getting lost in writing. I love to draw, write poetry and songs as well. The drawings and poetry in both *Reunions* and *Unity* are my own work.

In writing her sequel *Unity*, Peterson had to ensure she had not strayed far from her original story and characters she created in *Reunions*.

“Writing the first book was not nearly as challenging as the sequel. I’m pretty sure I re-read *Reunions* at least ten times to make sure that *Unity* had the correct information and story line.”

*Unity* continues the storyline of *Reunions*. A summary of *Unity* on Goodreads states: “Those Chase Boys, a sequel to *Reunions*, continues to follow the life of the Chase family. Elle, the matriarch of the family binds the family with her love and strength. In the previous book, Elle leans on her sons for support but the roles have reversed. Although babies, a wedding, a past relationship and a desperate drug addict may challenge her strength, Elle continues to stand her ground with her



Dar Peterson of Osgoode loves to write. Courtesy Photo

husband Danny right beside her.”

“I love to write about family,” said Peterson. “They say you should write about what you know. Family is the most important thing in my life and writing about it came very easily to me.”

Peterson is currently writing a third book about family.

“It’s different from my first two books but I’m enjoying the process. I also have a children’s book that I’m looking forward to having published.”

All authors at some point in their careers are asked what their secret is to writing a successful book.

Peterson said, “For any aspiring writers out there - I would say, “Just do it! You will love the journey.”

# Municipal staff provide updates

**Sandy Casselman**

LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – Municipal staff are keeping council and residents updated on departmental activities.

Township of Russell politicians received three semi-annual activity reports from staff during the Feb. 1 council meeting. These included reports from the Economic Development, Public Safety and Enforcement,

and Infrastructure Service Departments.

Each report included detailed summaries of completed, ongoing, and capital projects, a strategic plan update, and a list of upcoming projects or events.

Economic Development director Dominique Tremblay, Public Safety and Enforcement director Millie Bourdeau and Infrastructure Service

executive director Jonathan Bourgon prepared reports for their respective departments.

Completed projects for the Economic Development Department include the development of an Economic Recovery Plan, as well as information about Russell Transpo, the 417 Industrial Park, business support activities, grants, and more.

The Infrastructure Service Department’s ongoing projects include the preparation of the urban tree bylaw and the roundabout construction at the intersection of St-Guillaume and St-Pierre with United Counties of Prescott-Russell.

Upcoming projects for the Public Safety and Enforcement Department include the dog park improvement and accessible paved path, the installation of security cameras at municipal buildings, working with the province and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit on enforcement of COVID-19 orders, the Russell sign project, and the drafting of a security policy.

Detailed lists of completed, ongoing, and

# Russell mayor updates residents

**Sandy Casselman**

LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – Russell residents have several opportunities to stay current on municipal news.

Following the February 1 council meeting, Township of Russell Mayor Pierre Leroux posted a summary video on YouTube for those residents who missed the municipality’s Monday night meeting. The update is provided in both English and French.

The brief video noted an invoice to cover the full cost of December 2020’s Boil Water Advisory will be sent to “the business in question.” It was noted that because of a local business, roughly \$10,000 had been spent on a door-to-door Boil Water Advisory operation. Mayor Leroux said it was simply a matter of having the company pay the cost, rather than taxpayers.

During his council wrap-up video, Mayor Leroux also noted that snowbanks on pathways leading to the recreational trail will be cleared. He added that township staff will be looking at all other subdivision paths to recreational sites and will come back with a report to see what’s feasible in terms of winter maintenance.

“As you can imagine, during COVID it’s been a little bit different, but our staff have been doing a fabulous job making sure that municipal services aren’t missing a beat and continue moving forward in a very productive manner,” Mayor Leroux said. “Thank you very much to the staff for that.”

upcoming projects for each of these departments can be found in the Feb. 1 council agenda package on the township’s website.

Coming up Feb. 22 to the 24 is the virtual Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Conference. On March 25, Russell’s Economic Development Department is hoping to take part in Discovery Day – Careers in the Skilled Trades and Technologies, which is being organized by Skills Ontario.

# ‘Time will tell’ for Russell Transpo

**Sandy Casselman**

LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – “Due to the pandemic and the uncertainty in the future of the contract, we decided to give six months’ notice and end Russell Transpo,” township of Russell Mayor Pierre Leroux said. “We can always revisit that in future years.”

The municipality’s senior politician uploaded a wrap-up video on YouTube following the Feb. 1 council meeting. During the brief recording, he gave an update on the status of the township’s cancellation of the contract with 417 Bus Line Limited, noting that staff negotiated a further reduction for the final contract price.

“We saved another \$90,000, so that’s always a good thing,” Mayor Leroux said.

With the transportation service ending, many might be wondering what happens when COVID-19 is no longer an issue forcing employees to work from home.

“In the future, maybe a private industry will pick up the service or we might look at it at a municipal level as well,” Mayor Leroux said. “Time will tell.”

# Proclamations of support

**Sandy Casselman**

LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – During recent council meetings, township of Russell politicians passed a couple of proclamations for the month of February.

The local politicians declared Thurs., Feb. 4 Optimist Day in the township of Russell. Dedicated to “Bringing Out the Best in Kids,” Optimist Clubs throughout

the world take on community service projects focused on helping and empowering young people. The Russell Optimist Club can be found on Facebook.

Coming up soon, from Feb. 21 to 27, Russell will be celebrating Scouts and Girl Guides’ Week. In addition to the proclamation, local politicians agreed to raising the groups’ flags for the duration of the week. Scouts provides programs for people aged 5 to 26 “to help develop well rounded youth.” Girl Guides offers an all-girl environment that provides opportunities for girls to challenge themselves and to have fun.

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