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**Briefly**

**Special ND council meeting**

**WINCHESTER** – A special meeting of council has been scheduled for Tues., Feb. 23. There will be a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. followed by a discussion on the water and sewer budget and capital charges. The meeting will take place at the Joel Steele Community Centre.

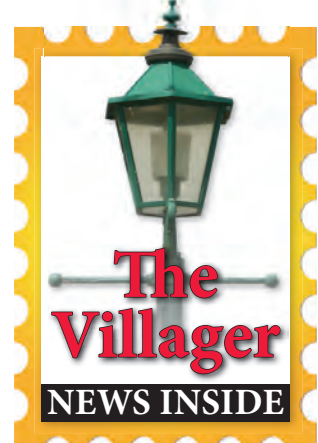
**Stormont Seed & Forage Show**

**CRYSLER** – The 64th Annual Stormont Seed & Forage Show will be held on Feb. 24. There will not be a Chrysler Farm Show due to COVID-19. Entries will be accepted from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Wed., Feb. 24 at the Chrysler Community Centre, and must be displayed in plastic bags available at the show, or from Barbara-Ann Glaude, 613-861-9080. Call ahead to arrange for pickup of tags, bags or exhibitor numbers. COVID Rules for masking and distancing are in place, only 3 - 4 exhibitors allowed in the building at any one time. Follow instructions of the committee upon arrival. No samples will be returned to exhibitor. Awards Presentation will be done virtually via SFA Facebook page.

**COVID-19 Business Relief Program update**

**WINCHESTER** – North Dundas "Bring your own breakfast" virtual meeting. To register email: [smann@northdundas.com](mailto:smann@northdundas.com) by Feb. 25. Virtual webinar links will be sent out prior to the breakfast. Guest speakers are: Andrew Sequin, founder of Seguin Financial and Doreen Ashton Wagner COVID-19 business relief advisor, CFDC.

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PM40050631R8905 **Volume 128, Number 32 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, February 18, 2021 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)**



**Chrysler Winter Carnival 50/50 winner announced**  
Martine Quesnel is shown with the oversized 50/50 draw board, while it was in Chrysler's The Old General Store. Early Sunday evening, it was announced that Brian Como of Chrysler was the winner of the 2021 50/50 draw. *Thompson Goddard Photo*

**Ministry of Education green lights \$5.4-million day care centre at Winchester Public**

**Joseph Morin**  
LJI Reporter

**WINCHESER** – The end of the saga about adding a much-needed day care facility to the Winchester Public School is in sight.

The Upper Canada District School Board, (UCDSB) has received Ministry of Education approval to go ahead with the \$5.4-million project.

When completed, the new facility will be home to the Happy Face Nursery School and Day care. The child care company already has locations in Morrisburg, Chesterville, Nationview Public School, North Stormont Public School, Roxmore Public School and will now be joining the Winchester Public School.

Years after the proposal was first announced, and years after negotiations between the North Dundas municipality and the UCDSB had first taken place, a site plan agreement was accepted by the township in January.

**What a wonderful carnival weekend**

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

**CRYSLER** – For 55 years, Chrysler residents have enjoyed a winter carnival weekend with lots of activities to have some fun while supporting the community. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chrysler Community Centre committee planned the Chrysler Winter Carnival North vs South Challenge 2021 (Pandemic Edition). The carnival, which ran between Feb. 12 to 14 featured live events such as a Ray's Reptiles presentation, an online live performance from singer Yanik Pepin and a family games' night, as well as a scavenger hunt featuring 55 'Bonhomme Carnivals' hidden in plain sight throughout the village and along the recreational path.

One of the traditional carnival activities in Chrysler is the North vs South competition, described as: residents on the North (Blue) side of the Nation River competing against residents on the South (Red) side; the winning side then has a full year of community bragging rights. With the pandemic necessitating a virtual competition, organizers created a series of fun competitions by which points were earned by residents for their team. These challenges included recipe exchanges, uploading photos of people singing songs designated by the committee as being either a Red or Blue song, dancing and participating in other challenges as well as providing photos of your business or residence decorated using either the colour red or blue. In the end, the Red team won by 135 points; Brody Shane, 5 years old, won the colouring contest from the Friends of the Library and will receive a gift certificate from the Old General Store.



Continued on page 2

Continued on page 3

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# Day care centre at Winchester Public

Continued from the front

The original plan was first announced in 2015.

North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser had this to say about the news:

"It has been [voiced] at different times over the years, expressions of hope that we would come to a conclusion that would serve the ministry, the school board and the municipality; it is a well-rounded improvement and expansion."

There have been many back and forth discussions between the school board and the municipality over the years, and each meeting resulted in a small movement on both sides for an agreement.

"It has taken a lot of effort to get to this point," said Fraser.

"Always pleasant discussions and different points of view and we were able to come to a good agreement that served everyone," he said.

"More than that, the families in North Dundas will be well served by this in the future."

The mayor explained there has always been a great need for a day care centre in Winchester.

"This is a huge investment in an older school in rural Ontario.

Calvin Pol the director of planning, building and development for North Dundas did much of the negotiating with UCDSB.

He said, "The site plan process was lengthy, as it involved the utilization of parts of York Street, Clarence Street and Louise Street. Site works will extend into the township road allowances (sidewalks, drop off lanes, parking, etc.). The plans also change York Street and part of Louise Street into one-way roads. Developing the site plans and site plan agreement, and lease agreement was a momentous task. In the end, we reached mutually agreeable solutions."

Deputy Mayor Al Armstrong said, he was pleased about the day care and it spoke to the good relationship the municipality has with the school board and the Ministry of Education.

In a press release the chair of the UCDSB John McAllister said, "We're thrilled to move forward with this project as it will help address an ongoing community need for child care services."

He mentioned the success of the project was due to the support from the Ministry of

Education and the, "collaborative partnership we have with the township of North Dundas."

The school board has agreed on a lease agreement with the township of North Dundas to lease portions of Louise Street, Clarence Street and York Street. The plan is for the board to work with North Dundas to convert York Street and a section of Louise Street into a one-way street, while a bus loading and unloading zone will be added to Clarence Street for improved safety.

A sign of the project getting underway was a decision by the North Dundas council at its Feb. 9 meeting to allocate five water and sewer units to the school in anticipation of the project getting underway.

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

"This project represents an investment in the school and is part of the province's capital investment program to support students with better learning spaces,"



The Winchester Public School day care construction project is expected to start in the spring. Morin Photo

Education Minister Stephen Lecce said in a press release.

"Progress towards the construction of the child care addition to Winchester Public School further demonstrates our government's commitment to making child care accessible and affordable for working families."

MPP Jim McDonnell, MPP for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry said that news about the funding was good news for the Winchester community.

"This investment will provide choice and flexibility for families and new opportunities for the children of Winchester," he said.

The school board expects to tender the project this spring.

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# Preserving Chesterville's Fire Department history

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Chesterville Heritage Centre (CHC), located at 14 Victoria Street, has served the community since its opening in 1867 as a municipal hall, a police station, a church, a school, and the Chesterville Fire Station. The CHC preserves and protects many of the artifacts associated with our history, and as such, a 1953 pumper truck that served its community for several decades can be found at the fire station in Chesterville. This priceless piece of our local history has been quietly but conscientiously preserved by members of the Chesterville Heritage Fire Pumper Association (CHFPA), with support from local firefighters and the community since its purchase approximately 20 years ago.

The '53 pumper truck, was manufactured by the American LaFrance Fire Engine Company and purchased by the Chesterville municipal council to replace the reconditioned surplus army jeep with a trailer to haul firefighting equipment used for firefighting in the community in the years following the Second World War. One can only imagine the excitement and pride as the vehicle drove into town coupled with a feeling of increased safety for residents in the knowledge the firefighters would have state of the art equipment to battle fires with.

The Chesterville Record recently interviewed fire chief Mike Gruich and deputy fire chief David Lannin of North Dundas Fire Station No. 4 in Chesterville about the '53 Pumper. Lannin explained that the fire truck was on active service in the Chesterville Fire Department between 1953 and the mid 1990s, he recalls it was used for the last time in an early 1990s fire that destroyed the Kearns Block on Main Street. Lannin mentioned how he and John Thompson are the only two firefighters currently serving, who fought fires using the '53 pumper before it was decommissioned by the township of North Dundas as the new millennium began.

The "Chesterville Heritage Fire Pumper Association" (CHFPA) was incorporated in 2002, with membership

consisting of John VanderVeen, Scott Erratt, Bruce Casselman, Mike Gruich and David Lannin. The group took possession of the '53 pumper after its incorporation, after purchasing it from the Municipality of North Dundas. Gruich explained the committee was formed to preserve this piece of the history of the Chesterville Fire Department and save it from being sold after being declared surplus. Gruich and Lannin told the story of the ongoing restoration project, displaying a depth of devotion to the project which they explained is felt by both committee members and Chesterville firefighters. Gruich explained when the pumper was purchased it was in good condition, but their goal was to get it in "showroom condition." Lannin described the restorative work which involved a complete restoration of the frame, the chrome, with most of the body work professionally done and mechanical work completed by local garages.

Lannin spoke of the support shown from the Chesterville firefighters to the project, commenting how a portion of their monthly firefighting income is donated to assist with the maintenance and repairs of this historic 63-year-old vehicle. Lannin and Gruich mentioned how through the years, retired or honorary firefighters have assisted with the care and maintenance of the '53 pumper, with Lannin mentioning how his father Jack Lannin and Harold Merkley had shown them how to pump water by using either a fire hydrant or the onboard water.

During the interview, Gruich opened a file folder and displayed the original instruction manual which came with the '53 pumper and commented how it would be wonderful to have the invoice which the council would have received when it was purchased. Lannin mentioned most of the pumper's original items such as brass nozzles, fire extinguisher and aluminium ladder are still on the truck and an Ontario 1953 licence plate with 57M10 covering the heritage plate is a replica of the original plate.

Looking inside the cab, the seats were in immaculate condition, the stick shift denoting a standard transmission and an odometer reading of only 12,884 original miles for the



The '53 Pumper Truck that was used by the Chesterville Fire Department is shown beside the current fire truck in use by the firefighters of North Dundas Fire Station No. 4 in Chesterville. While the antique fire truck is no longer in service, it is lovingly maintained by members of the Chesterville Heritage Pumper Association with support from local firefighters. Thompson Goddard photo

historic vehicle. When asked about how many firefighters could travel in the pumper, Lannin explained how there would have been two in cab and four holding onto the handrails at the back of the truck, before noting in 2021 firefighters travel inside truck cabs only.

The '53 pumper truck no longer assists its community in fighting fires but instead has become a welcome addition to local car shows, parades, and fire station open houses to showcase this part of the history of firefighting in the community. On Christmas Eve 2020, the '53 pumper truck left its home at the Chesterville fire station to drive Santa and Mrs. Claus throughout Chesterville.

There is a sense of awe and excitement looking at the vehicle, the first self-contained pumper truck for Chesterville, gleaming in the light and providing a peek into our firefighting history. A special note of thanks must be provided to those firefighters, past, present and future, who continue to ensure this important part of our history is preserved for the future.

## Crysler Winter Carnival

Continued from the front

On Sunday, Bonhomme Carnaval was driven through the village by Roger LaFrance to the enjoyment of young and old alike with a take-out spaghetti dinner bringing the 2021 winter carnival to and end. A live Facebook event provided the organizing team with an opportunity to thank the sponsors and participants of the 2021 carnival. The winner of the 50/50 draw was Brian Como of Chrysler, with Erin McMahon and Rita Leroux each winning a



beautiful quilt. Brady Shane won a \$50 gift certificate from The Old General Store in Chrysler, in the draw sponsored by the Friends of the Chrysler Library.

One of the outdoor activities during the Chrysler Winter Carnival North Vs South Challenge 2021 (Pandemic Edition) was the Saturday scavenger hunt. People were invited to find 55 bonhomme carnivals hidden in locations throughout the village and on the Recreation Trail. Thompson Goddard Photo



Pierre Thibeault, president of the Chrysler Community Centre committee, is shown with one of the delicious spaghetti dinners which were available by pre-ordering the take-out dinner. Thompson Goddard Photo

## Community Food Share announces service changes

**Carolyn Thompson Goddard**  
Record Staff

NORTH DUNDAS – Community Food Share (CFS) team leader Jane Schoones announced changes to client services in the Chrysler and Williamsburg areas in a Feb. 8 press release.

Williamsburg area clients of the CFS will be able to pick up their food hampers at the CFS Williamsburg Satellite Location at 4324 Villa Drive in Williamsburg. Clients are asked to call "613-543-0065 by 8 p.m. on Wednesday to reserve [their] food order," with pickup available between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. Schoones noted that "Drivers and volunteers are in place to begin deliveries in early February" which will allow "residents of the Williamsburg area who may not have previously used the services of Community Food Share due to transportation difficulties" to receive assistance.

CFS has decided to phase out the Chrysler Food Service, as their statistics demonstrate clients in the Chrysler area, place "their food order for pick up at the Winchester location." Schoones continued

that North Stormont residents requiring food assistance are asked to call 613-774-0188 and make an appointment at the Winchester location to pick up the five to seven days of "healthy, nutritious food for their family." The Winchester location is open Monday between 10 a.m. and noon, Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Schoones explained that North Stormont residents who "are unable to travel to our Winchester location" will be able to visit the Finch Satellite Location (FSL) at Chalmers United Church in Finch to pick up their food hamper. She continued, orders can be placed by calling 613-774-0188, by Wednesday at 8 p.m., "to make an appointment to pick up your food order" at the FSL, which is open on Thursdays between "1 p.m. and 3 p.m. for food hamper pickup."

She continued that due to COVID-19 restrictions, CFS continues to have curbside pick up available, but at this time are "unable to provide our client[ele] choice shopping model at our food banks." People are encouraged to share this information with those who may need CFS services.

More information on the CFS can be found on either their Facebook page or website located at [www.communityfoodshare.ca](http://www.communityfoodshare.ca).



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# EDITORIAL & Opinion

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## It's all up to us

After letters of complaint from all levels of local government including North Dundas and the United Counties of SD&G, about how unfair and negative the pandemic restrictions have been to small business in this part of rural Ontario, businesses are getting what they asked for.

On Tues., Feb. 16, Eastern Ontario was designated as being in an orange zone. That means businesses can open with restrictions, community events can take place but with restrictions and the general sense from the provincial government is that we might be almost ready to declare that the virus is not circulating as much as it was.

All good news but followed up with a solemn and serious comment from Premier Ford that the moment he sees the Covid-19 curve start to bend the

wrong way, he will return the province or affected area back into a lock down status.

So, failing a logistical miracle where we all get a vaccine by the end of the week, the only, and it seems the best virus buster will be our attitude and understanding about what is at stake.

The government's decision was based on science; in that the number of new Covid-19 cases is not increasing; and politics, how much the voting public will be wanting to blame the Conservative government for lost business income and overall social discomfort.

If Ford made the right decision and it is safe to reopen, he will be a hero. Of course, if that same decision results in people ignoring restrictions and causing an increase in infections then Ford will of course be the bad guy.

It is not a great spot to

be in. Caught between a rock and a hard place is the phrase that comes to mind.

So, the pandemic ball is clearly in our court.

How we play it will determine what the future looks like for small business and how our rural society in general goes about its business.

Is there ever a fine line to be crossed between economic realities and social responsibility?

The two realities are supposed to co-exist and in the best-case scenario support one another, and now thanks to the pandemic we all get to see if that idea works.

Small rural businesses need to reopen to survive.

The virus must be brought under control for consumers to be able to be consumers.

You cannot have one without the other.

Ideally, we would stay in lock down until everyone was vaccinated, the virus was defeated and our normal would be back on track.

But as we have seen people in general do not have the resources, willingness or commitment to stay in their individual kingdoms.

Apparently, children are exceedingly unhappy, parents are forever

frustrated and the rest of us cannot deal with never ending pandemic restrictions.

So, we find ourselves where we are today.

The ending to the pandemic will hinge not necessarily on a vaccine available to all, but mostly on how seriously people take the suggested restrictions.

If the virus hides out for a while then sneaks back into our lives, we will have to reconsider our lockdown options.

Of course, the only way the virus can get from one person to the next is for those people to move close to each other.

We are the virus' feet and best form of transportation. It cannot do well without our help.

That means the success of the virus relies basically on the lowest form of technology we have, which is our feet, hands, mouth and attitude.

In many ways we have the best remedy to use against the virus next to science and that is choosing to enjoy the new designation for not how open we are allowed to be but respecting our very real role in spreading the virus through our behaviour.

So, follow the rules and wait the virus out.

## Stressing over taxes

Tax season can be a stressful time for many people. The impact of money decisions made during the 2020 year come to light.

If you were one of the fortunate few that were not impacted (on the financial front) with COVID-19, filing your taxes this year may not create any more effort than in the past; however, if you were financially affected by either income level or by the method in which you perform your job, (ie. working from home) you will want to look into some of the new benefits that are out there for you.

The deadline for filing your personal tax return is April 30, 2021. If you or your spouse are self employed, you may have until June 15, 2021 to file your returns. The "may have" comes from whether you owe money to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) or not. Many people do not realize that having a rental property is not considered business income and does not provide the June 15 tax filing extension.

If you are filing your taxes hard copy vs virtually, the CRA is advising that these returns may be delayed. This may be the year to go online to ensure your return is filed in a timely manner and the possible benefits and credits you applied for are not stopped while you wait for the processing of the manual tax returns.

If you are in a financially difficult position, there are options out there to assist you in completing your return. When finances are tight it can be a decision of whether you pay your existing bills or file your tax return. There are implications of not filing your return on time including the loss of GST credits, Trillium Benefit, Child Tax Benefit and Guaranteed Income Supplement.

The Community Volunteer Income Tax Program is available for taxpayers with modest income and a simple tax situation. Volunteers may be able to complete and file your taxes for free.

File My Return is another program for low- or fixed-income taxpayers. If you filed a paper return last year you should receive a letter with your package in the mail advising you of this service. You can call in and answer a series of short questions through a secure automated phone system.

This year the Canada Revenue Agency will start accepting tax returns on Feb. 22.

## NDDHS Report

By Jamie Wilson  
Student Council Communications



### Interesting changes

North Dundas has had some interesting changes in the last week. As of Wed., Feb. 10, all Grade 9-12 students must now complete the online Covid-19 Self-Screening test before coming to school everyday. The test can be accessed through the link sent in the email from Mr. Bourne. It is important to remember to complete it before you arrive at the school. Some of our students have provided great suggestions for remembering every morning. Pinning the link to the home screen of your phone, setting a reminder, or sticking the provided QR Code to your door are the most popular ones.

Last Friday we had a Valentine's spirit day. Students wore Valentine's Day colours of red, pink, purple, and white. The participation was impressive for our second spirit day since being back in school. Almost every grade had over 50 per cent participation and Grade 7 tied with staff for first place, both with 76 per cent participation. Keep up the great spirit North Dundas!

Next Wed., Feb. 24, is Pink Shirt Day. Pink Shirt Day originated in Nova Scotia in 2007 where two high school students and their friends organized a protest to wear pink in support of a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied. Since then, schools in Canada and around the world have been participating in Pink Shirt Day to raise awareness for bullying in schools, the workplace, and online. Let's take a stand against bullying, North Dundas, and wear pink next Wednesday.

## Chaos defeated

I think we can all agree that every one of us that gets up in the morning are assuming that they will have a good day.

Most of us have a routine that is predictable as far as what we can expect to be doing from the time we roll or stumble out of bed, to the moment when at home or at work we switch into a work mode way of thinking.

All the steps required to get us where we want to be are measured and practiced from where our car keys are to what is in your lunch.

But as we all know from experience life does not always follow the plan that we have assured ourselves.

At some point in time some unexpected event can take us off track and into a crisis management situation.

Of course, once the crisis is over, we can return to whatever path we were on before everything went wacky.

Working from home allows for a smaller environment where something can go wrong but there is no guarantee that everything will go according to plan.

Take doing the laundry for example. Seems like a simple task, straightforward, what could go wrong?

It is a good day when after the clothes come out of the dryer and you are folding everything, all the socks match.

That moment when you have socks left over is a typical example of the day's plan spinning off like a balloon flying all over the room as the air comes out of it.

Usually when a missing sock has been officially listed as missing in action, you write the moment off as one that may or may not reconcile itself before the next load of laundry happens the next week.

You probably also feel a bit mystified about how the well-oiled machine you live in could possibly have a flaw resulting in a vanishing sock.

It's enough to shake your faith in science, the supernatural, mysteries of

the universe, how your washer and dryer operate and gravity.

How is it possible to lose a sock?

I have never lost a shirt, hat, sweater or pair of jeans.

I do have several theories why the sock event can happen, but that will have to wait for another time.

Now the potential for a sock loss is how I measure how the rest of my stay-at-home workday will go.

Knowing this I am very diligent about collecting the laundry, making sure nothing falls out of the laundry basket and everything that should be there actually is there.

Policing and managing all the mundane moving parts that is doing the laundry become a priority, a cherished value I am determined to uphold.

The final scene is when you are taking everything out of the dryer, assuming all is well and when thanks to your commitment to get everything right, you fold the last bit of laundry and all the socks line up.

It is truly a great-good day when all the socks that went into the dryer come out of the dryer.



### Etcetera Publications (Chesterville) Inc.

**Publisher**  
Etcetera Publications Inc.

**Editor**  
Joseph Morin

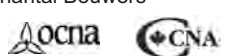
**Copy Editor**  
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**Ad Representative**  
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**Production Manager**  
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Proudly printed in North Dundas.

Advertising Rates on Request  
P.O. Box 368, 1 Mill Street  
Chesterville, Ont. K0C 1H0

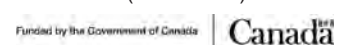
**Advertising E-mail:**  
ads@chestervillerecord.com,  
adrussellvillager@gmail.com

**News E-mail:**  
editor@etceterapublications.ca

**Telephone:** (613) 448-2321

**Fax:** (613) 448-3260

Published Thursdays by Etcetera Publications (Chesterville) Inc.



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Annual Subscription \$35.00 within 40 miles;  
Outside 40 miles \$40.00; USA \$150.00.  
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## BDL Equipment and B&B Engines join forces

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

METCALFE – BDL Equipment of Metcalfe, an established equipment dealer in the region has expanded to include B&B Small Engines Sales and Service in Hallville. BDL Equipment is your one stop shop for compact tractors, attachments and equipment rentals. In addition to the WALCO equipment and HLA attachment, they are a Cub Cadet dealer; they also have rentals.

The local equipment company announced last week that they had purchased the Hallsville business owned by Carl Berends and Susan Baines.

Bob Langlois owner of BDL said, "I have been in the industry for about 15 years. I used to be the general manager for a company in Ottawa and the owner of that company was really good friends with Carl so that is how I got introduced to him."

Once BDL moves into the Hallville location, they will also have the TYM line of tractors as well.

"We know the tractor fairly well; we used to sell them and service them. It is a good line," said Langlois.

B&B Small Engines is a family owned and operated business, serving Eastern Ontario as a tractor sales and service dealer since 1998.

They carry a wide variety of outdoor power equipment and implements for: the backyard farmer, large scale farming operations, construction, commercial landscaping, and back yard gardening enthusiasts.

Langlois has a great deal of respect for Carl and Susan.

"Carl and his wife Susan run it. It is basically a two-person shop. They wanted to retire. We respect each other and it just seemed to be the appropriate move."

BDL is in the process of building a new location for their Metcalfe operation at Bank Street and Mitch Owens Drive.

"We have property there. By the end of this year the new location will be up and running, but we are also keeping the Hallville location," said Langlois.

Langlois said the most important part of the change is the customer base B&B Engines has acquired over the years.

"They are really well respected and well known in the industry. I do not

want to mess with that. We will do everything in our power to make the transition seamless. Their regular customers really will not see any change or difference. We are not changing rates or anything like that," he said.

Despite retiring, Berends is expecting to still work in his former shop a few days a week. "I do not think you will be able to get him away from the shop for too long."

Langlois said, "We will be leaning on Carl. You cannot just take all that experience away. The mechanics will enjoy working with him."

"Everything will stay the same. He is a Cub Cadet dealer and so are we. We will carry the lines at both locations."

"It is incredible how busy they are in Hallville," noted Langlois.

"They have a very large clientele. The same people are going to continue to come by and we are going to continue to offer the same level of service. I am looking forward to it."

The location for B&B Small Engine Sales and Service is 10510 Loughlin Ridge Road 613-258-8913.

BDL Equipment Ltd. is located at 7204 Bank St, Metcalfe. Their number is 613-209-3122.

## NS invites resident input for budget

**Sandy Casselman**  
LJI Reporter

BERWICK – Township of North Stormont residents will have the opportunity for input into the 2021 budget early next month.

"Public participation is an important component of council in general," CAO Craig Calder said. "And in the budget process specifically."

The municipality has allotted time during the March 2 council meeting for public delegations. Those wishing to participate will be given two minutes to speak specifically about the 2021

budget. To do so, residents must register with Calder at: ccalder@northstormont.ca by Feb. 25.

"Last year, members of the public provided budget input in person and we will be providing the same opportunity but in a virtual format," Calder said. "We have left the framework broad and there are no criteria on who may address council. Administration wanted to provide flexibility and accessibility to any and all persons within the township, and have a platform that provided an opportunity to speak."

He noted that residents can present to council as individuals or as representatives of organizations, clubs or businesses. At this point, it is unclear how much time will be dedicated to public delegations during the March 2 council meeting.

"Administration has not placed a cap on the public delegation process portion of the agenda for March 2,"

Calder said. "Should there be significant interest, and a time pressure is identified, administration will review and make changes or set limitations if required."

The first draft of the 2021 budget was discussed during a special council meeting on Jan. 27. A copy of the full first draft is available on the municipality's website under the Jan. 27 agenda package.



## Obituary

### WOOD, Donald Arden

Passed away peacefully at Rosebridge Manor, Jasper on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the age of 85. He is the loving father of Holly Raison (Victor), Keven Wood (Debra), the late Laurie Stewart and the late Donna Wood. He will be missed by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He is survived by his siblings, Earl, Gary and Linda. Predeceased by his brothers, Bert and Paul and his sisters, Marjorie and Evelyn. Cremation and interment have taken place. As an expression of sympathy, memorial contributions in memory of Don may be made to the charity of your choice. Online condolences in memory of Donald may be left at [www.cataraquicemetery.ca](http://www.cataraquicemetery.ca).

Catarqui Cemetery and Funeral Services  
Kingston, Ontario

## Card of Thanks

The families of the late Gregory Baker wish to thank everyone for their kindness and support during this difficult time.

Visits, calls, cards, online condolences, donations, food, and flowers, helped to bring us comfort. Also, thanks to David LaPierre and staff for their professional service.

*With our gratitude,*  
**The Baker & Shortt Families**

## – Obituary –

### SHAVER, Ivy (née Gardner)

With heavy hearts we announce the sudden passing of Ivy Elizabeth Catherine Shaver at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital on Sunday, February 14, 2021; age 84 years.

Beloved wife of the late Osborne Shaver of 56 years. Loved mother of Kelly (Gary), Kim (Garth) and Larry (Lauren). Sadly missed by her grandchildren Paige, Julia, Shealyn, Brooke, Scott (Cristin), Ashley (Tim), Tyler and Sophie, by her great-grandchildren Cailey and Ben, and by her beloved dog Muffy. Survived by her brother Melvin (Jean) Gardner and several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her parents Lloyd and Margaret "Greta" Gardner. Also predeceased by her brother Ray (late Patricia) Gardner.

Funeral arrangements under the care and direction of LAHAIE AND SULLIVAN CORNWALL FUNERAL HOME, WEST BRANCH, 20 Seventh Street West, (613-932-8482). A Private Funeral Service will be held. Spring interment in the Finch Community Cemetery. As expressions of sympathy, Memorial Donations to the Arthritis Society or to the Heart & Stroke Foundation would be greatly appreciated by the family. Messages of condolences may be left at [www.lahaiesullivan.ca](http://www.lahaiesullivan.ca).

## – Obituary –

### MacDOUGALL, HUGH

Peacefully at the Maxville Manor on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 92 years of age. Hugh Allan MacDougall formerly of Finch, ON. Beloved husband of Shelagh MacDougall and the late Theresa (McRae) MacDougall. Cherished father of Carol (late Gordon) McKercher, Moose Creek, ON, and Bob (Hazel) MacDougall, Russell, ON. Dad Hugh to Sandi (Bill) Percival Calver, Bath, ON and Judy (Barry) Rashotte, Ottawa, ON. Loved brother of Archie (Gail) MacDougall, Cornwall, ON. Sadly missed by his grandchildren Jason (Susan) McKercher, Jeffery (Kristina) McKercher, Drew (Ashley) MacDougall and Devon MacDougall as well as Cameron (Margaret) Percival, Peter Rashotte (Sylvia) and Joseph Rashotte (Christa) and his adored great grandchildren Grace McKercher, Kayla and Austin McKercher, Jamie and Taylor MacDougall. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to the current pandemic a graveside service will be held at a later date. The family wishes to thank all staff of the Maxville Manor for their excellent care and compassion. As expressions of sympathy donations may be made to the Maxville Manor Foundation or St. Luke's Presbyterian Church. Online condolences may be made at [www.brownleafuneralhomes.com](http://www.brownleafuneralhomes.com).

# Church DIRECTORY

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5 Casselman St., Chesterville  
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**ST. JAMES - CHALMERS - ST. ANDREW'S**

PASTORAL CHARGE Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet BBA, BTh, MDiv  
Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Email: [revlgaudet@gmail.com](mailto:revlgaudet@gmail.com)

**Worship services are resuming on Sunday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. - Chalmers Finch with Rev. Lois. All COVID rules will be followed. Masks are mandatory.**

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

MINISTER: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Gaver 613-918-0506 Church: 613-984-2201  
[cgvaver@cocego.ca](mailto:cgvaver@cocego.ca) [www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca](http://www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca)

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Interim Moderator Rev. Samer Kandalaft 613-258-4136

**St. Andrew's, Chesterville, and Morewood Presbyterian Churches are closed for the duration of the provincial COVID-19 lockdown.**

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Rev. Edwin Valles  
Email: [ebvalles@hotmail.com](mailto:ebvalles@hotmail.com) Office: 613-448-2272  
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**Please note:** No Sunday and Wednesday meetings during the pandemic  
**Please join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. for our online service on Facebook: Nationside Pentecostal Church**  
[www.nationside.org](http://www.nationside.org)  
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12010 Ormond Rd. & Hwy. 31 613-774-5170 [www.harmony-church.org](http://www.harmony-church.org)  
Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

**Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.**

Join us via our youtube channel for our live stream at 10:30 a.m.  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy\\_DABzz4REc-A76-EvrA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy_DABzz4REc-A76-EvrA)

*No Sunday School or Nursery provided at this time.*

**ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick  
[infostmarysrussell@rogers.com](mailto:infostmarysrussell@rogers.com) Website: [www.stmarysrussell.ca](http://www.stmarysrussell.ca)

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

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

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

**WINCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH**

486 Main St., Winchester  
Pastors Bud McKibbin and Mollie McKibbin

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Parish Secretary: Patricia Guy - 613-448-3262

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



## Home-based business on the rise in SD

Sandy Casselman  
LJI Reporter

MORRISBURG – The response to this year’s South Dundas Chamber of Commerce membership drive shows that home-based businesses are on the rise in this Eastern Ontario township.

The chamber’s current membership drive got underway in mid-December 2020 and will run until mid-February 2021, manager Geraldine Fitzsimmons said. The drive is done early to allow for the organization to produce an updated local business directory.

“We’re in the midst of it now,” she said. “Membership is going really well. We’ve had a number of new members, nine so far. Typically, there’s not that many.”

Fitzsimmons said most of these new additions are home-based businesses looking for new ways to promote their products and services. Becoming part of the chamber

has many benefits, she added, noting opportunities for group insurance, co-operative advertising, and peer support.

“Just being part of a community is really important for your business,” she said, adding that chamber membership brings a certain amount of credibility to a business. The South Dundas Chamber of Commerce is affiliated with both the Ontario and Canadian Chambers of Commerce, which offer valuable programs for members, as well.

“It’s a changed world out there for sure,” Fitzsimmons said about the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, she said there has not been a decline in membership. However, the chamber has had to make changes in the way it interacts with the public.

This past fall, the South Dundas business organization had to change the way it normally does its annual trade show, going from a live in-person event to an online virtual event. The change brought several lessons, Fitzsimmons said, including a major issue with the program used to host the

event. It was not compatible for guests using cellphones rather than computers.

With the knowledge gained, the chamber’s manager said she hopes to incorporate the lessons into the spring trade show, which will likely be held virtually.

She mentioned making changes to other annual projects as well, including the Vintage Antiques and Collectibles event and the All About the River event. The latter will take place with changes to adhere to pandemic regulations, if the chamber is successful in its application to the province for summer students.

Should the local Lions Club be unable, once again, to host their annual Canada Day celebration, Fitzsimmons said the chamber is looking to do something like what was done last year. To ensure everyone was social distancing, the chamber organized a tour of historical sites in the area, where participants would drive by specified landmarks and take photographs.

The biggest disappointment last year, she said, was the inability to celebrate what would have

been the annual Tubie Festival’s 50th anniversary. When asked if they would make up for that this summer, she said the chamber’s board of directors is really hoping it will go ahead. It might need to be revamped to accommodate for the pandemic, she added.

The chamber’s current

board of directors includes Cindy Ault Peters (president), Tracey Veinotte (vice president), Stepheny Rocks (treasurer), Tracy McMillan (secretary), Dale Charbot, Joanne Ouellette, Monika St. Louis, and Julianne Swindells. Fitzsimmons is enthusiastic about the current

board, noting that Peters is very community minded.

“She loves her community, and she knows first-hand what it takes to run your own business,” Fitzsimmons said of Peters, adding that the group as a whole has “a lot of energy and a lot of commitment to their community.”

## Gala 2.0 – Home for the Holidays is a great success

WINCHESTER – The Sisters for Life team didn’t let COVID-19 slow them down. This year, they turned their annual in person gala into a virtual Gala on Facebook over six days in November. Guests made a minimum donation of \$20 and could join in for various events, games, an online auction, a raffle, throughout the week.

There was also a ‘tealight service’ during the finale event, honouring loved ones who are fighting or have fought cancer. The gala also included guest speakers, who provided details about cancer care and research, and how their support would make a difference. The final tally is impressive! Nearly \$33,000 was raised this year, to be shared by the WDMH Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society Ontario. The Foundation’s gift of \$16,494.27 has been matched thanks to the generosity of the late Patricia Fawcett-Ault, bringing the grand total to \$32,988.54!

“The Foundation is grateful to be one of



Maureen Robertson, Sisters for Life team member presents a cheque to Cindy Ault Peters, Manager of Direct Mail & Events, WDMH Foundation. Courtesy Photo

the beneficiaries, with funds directed to the purchase of a new digital mammography machine at WDMH,” notes Cindy Ault Peters, Manager of Direct Mail & Events.

“My brother and I are also so pleased to honour our Mom’s wishes to double the impact of every gift. It is a wonderful way to continue our parents’ legacy of giving.”

The North Stormont-area Sisters for Life team has been fundraising to fight cancer since 2013. To date, they have raised more than \$150,000.

# Tax problems? Get the help you need! The easiest way to prepare your taxes

As tax-filing season approaches, you may wonder whether you should hire someone to assist you with your income tax return. Here's a look at how professional tax preparers can help.

### Why hire a tax professional?

Registered tax preparers specialize in tax laws and are licensed to prepare and file an income tax return on your behalf. In addition to saving you time, they can find deductions that will considerably lower the amount of money you owe for your taxes.

If you have a complicated tax situation or feel overwhelmed by the filing process, a tax preparer can help you gather the necessary documents, provide you with key information and ensure mistakes and late fees are avoided.

### Who should you hire?

While most tax preparers are qualified and trustworthy, it's important to beware of unscrupulous individuals who are looking to steal your money or personal information. The best way to avoid a tax-related scam is to hire an experienced professional who is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Ideally, they should be a tax lawyer, a certified public accountant or an enrolled tax agent.

Finally, if you decide to hire a tax preparer, be sure to do so early since the tax-filing season is a busy time of year for these professionals.



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# EOHU Region moves into "Orange Restrict" category

**Joseph Morin**  
Record Staff

CORNWALL – Small business in SD&G have been asking for government help for months now.

The latest lockdown was too much for a few local businesses that could not weather the loss of business because of pandemic restrictions.

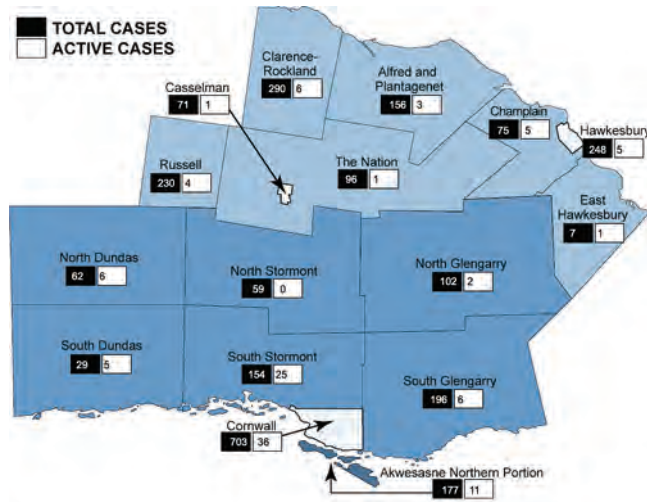
Up until now the province has been determined to stick to its pandemic restrictions as it seems the infection numbers may be indicating a corner has been turned.

On Feb. 12, the province announced that the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) would slide into the "Orange Restrict" category.

The official day for the category change was this past Tuesday when the region's public health measures and restrictions indicated for Orange-Restrict in the framework took effect.

The return to the framework comes as Ontario lifts the province-wide lockdown it put in place on Dec. 26, 2020 and the stay-at-home order it triggered on Jan.14. The province's decision to place the EOHU region in the "Orange-Restrict" category is based on the latest local COVID-19 data for the region.

In an EOHU announcement, Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, medical officer of health at the



EOHU said, I am glad to see the number of COVID-19 cases in our area (...) decreasing," he said.

"However, as more sectors of the economy reopen, I am asking residents to remain vigilant and maintain public health measures as the pandemic is not over yet, and the COVID-19 variants could quickly derail the progress we have made so far," he added.

The EOHU is urging residents to continue following public health precautions such as masking, washing your hands regularly, physical distancing of six feet (two metres) with individuals from outside your household and when out in public, limiting trips outside your home to essential errands only, and staying home if

you aren't feeling well.

In the revised framework: public events, social gatherings and wedding, funeral and religious services, rites and ceremonies are permitted but with restrictions.

Residents are allowed to shop indoors, so long as pandemic restrictions are in place and followed. Stores, restaurants, and bars can open but with restrictions. Gyms and other kinds of fitness centres are allowed to have 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors, while cinemas, personal care services and casinos are also permitted to open.

For more information about what the orange level category allows, please go to [www.EOHU.ca/covidlevel](http://www.EOHU.ca/covidlevel)



## A harmless coffee break can do more harm than you think.

Wear a mask, wash your hands and physically distance to stop the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at [ontario.ca/covid-19](http://ontario.ca/covid-19)

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# A Salute To Farmers



## Farming has not been immune to the negative effects of COVID-19

**W**hen you have livestock to attend to, you cannot call in sick or necessarily self-quarantine from the animals. There are so many unknowns with COVID that farmers need to take additional precautions when dealing with livestock.

Ontario Pork advised that when farmers are in contact with the animals they must "ensure to avoid close contact with them, avoid coughing and sneezing on the animals and to always wash your hands before touching or feeding the animals."

The demand for the slaughter of livestock has put a tremendous strain on the local slaughterhouses. Many businesses rely on having the availability at the slaughterhouse to process their livestock for sale. For some local plants you are required to book up to a year in advance. It has been well documented that we do not have enough slaughter capacity in this area, and the impacts of COVID has exponentially increased this issue.

Farmers rely on their consultants. That may be a crop

advisor, semen distributor, or feed nutritionist. Yes, farming is deemed an essential service but the people coming and going have taken on new protocols as well. Only some issues can be resolved through a zoom meeting. Sometimes the hands-on approach is required to solve an issue. With reduced farm calls from these suppliers, many farmers are feeling the strain of adjusting to the reduced support they have been accustomed to receiving.

Continued on page 9

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# A Salute To Farmers



## Negative effects of COVID-19

Continued from page 8

Chicken and turkey farmers have seen a reduction in sales as large family gatherings are not happening.

Dairy Farmers saw milk being dumped as a kink rapidly developed in the supply chain, which led to decreases in the price of milk.

As with any event, there can also be changes that are progressive. That is true in the agricultural industry as well. There have been changes made, including

more information being transferred through online data instead of the traditional paper trails that were required. There are more direct sales' opportunities allowing local operations the prospect to sell their products locally and supply safe food for the Canadian population.

The stress of the unknown is relevant on the local farms as well. Farmers are typically more secluded on the farm which brings forward the impact on mental health. The traditional supplier meetings, commodity organized events, and farm shows are an opportunity for producers

to socialize and share their personal concerns and to decompress.

A year ago, farmers felt that COVID may not be affecting them, but bring us to a year later, and there are no interactions with the agricultural members, and the large events for this coming year have already been cancelled. More attention is being placed on the mental health of the farming community.

Stay strong! Stay safe! Agriculture is such an important economic factor for the country and for the production of safe food.




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# Fines Home Hardware Building Centre

INGLESIDE—When the opportunity arose to purchase two Home Hardware stores, one in Cornwall and the other in Ingleside, Scott and Amanda Fines decided to move across the country and make their home in South Stormont. In 2016, the couple established Fines Home Hardware Building Centre in Ingleside and Fines Home Hardware in Cornwall. Since then, they have worked to establish a reputation for providing good customer service and helpful advice to their clients.

Recently, Scott took time out of a busy day to speak with *The Chesterville Record* about their businesses. He explained how growing up, his parents had owned a Home Hardware store and it was a relatively easy decision for the young couple to investigate the possibility of owning their own Home Hardware. After searching across Canada for business opportunities, two stores became available, one in Ingleside and the other in Cornwall; the family made their home in Ingleside while developing the two businesses.

When asked about relocating to Ingleside in South Stormont, Scott mentioned that some of the attractions of the community was its proximity to big urban centres such as Ottawa and Montreal; the opportunity for their children to learn both English and French as well as the couple's wish to raise their family in a small town. He continued how since they have moved here, the attractions of Ingleside keep increasing, making note of the friendliness of the people and the strong community support system. From a business point of view, Scott explained that

# SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Owned by Scott and Amanda Fines, Fines Home Hardware Building Centre in Ingleside provides customers with assistance from the beginning to the end of their construction or home renovation project. Thompson Goddard Photo

one of the main attractions to the Ingleside location was that there was a property attached to the Home Hardware store. As such, the property was large enough for them to develop a lumber yard adjacent to the store, which may have helped with the success of the business.

Scott mentioned how he had always been attracted to the art of design and construction, and having studied civil engineering, he was able to assist clients

from the beginning to the end of a construction project. They also have a full-time drafter who designs the home; Scott can also recommend contractors and order and deliver materials to the construction site. He continued how he enjoys seeing the unfolding of construction or renovation projects, describing this as one of his favourite parts of the job.

The lumberyard department serves the building side of the business, with the

Home Hardware store providing the shopper with necessities for inside the home, including building tools, seasonal items, as well as products for home beautification or interior design. Amanda runs the store's kitchen department and provides kitchen design for their clientele.

For the past few years, the Fines have held a "Ladies Night Out at the Hardware" at both their Cornwall and Ingleside locations in mid to late November. Scott explained that the event is a great way for women to get together with friends, have some fun, tasty snacks and socialize. He continued there are fun activities such as sawing a board or perhaps hitting the nail on the head with a hammer, while also having the opportunity to win some prizes or get gift suggestions. The popular event was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but their hopes are that once the pandemic is over it will return.

When asked about the effects of the provincial COVID-19 restrictions, Scott mentioned how both customers and store personnel are getting used to the restrictions and protocols that must be followed. He mentioned that the new store and lumberyard in Cornwall on Vincent Massey Drive, will be larger than the Ingleside location; it is due to open in a few weeks' time.

Amanda and Scott look forward to serving their community in the years to come by providing good customer service, assistance, and advice on a variety of projects designed to beautify the home.

You can contact them at 613-537-2233; email: fineshbbc@homehardware.ca or check out their website at homehardware.ca/store/18184.

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

## Tender opportunities available for sustainable hardwood and softwood sales

FINCH – South Nation Conservation (SNC) is calling on interested contractors to submit tenders to undertake sustainable harvesting operations this year.

For some, the notion of sustainably harvesting trees from forests may seem like an oxymoron and could naturally give the perception of environmental damage. But sustainable tree harvesting is part of managing the long-term health of forests, and harvest operations are needed to help transform plantations into healthy, naturalized forests.

Prescriptions for tree harvesting follow long-term management plans prepared by SNC's Forestry Team, which specify the number of trees that can be harvested

per acre, and the frequency at which this can occur, based on the growth and regeneration rates of the species found in that ecosystem.

The purpose is to harvest in such a way that meets the needs of the local economy while allowing species the chance to regenerate and ensure that the forest's overall ecological health is maintained, restored, or even enhanced.

SNC's harvesting prescriptions will vary by forest area and condition, but the minimum baseline is to usually keep ten dead trees, ten fruit trees, and ten cavity trees in each hectare of a healthy forest.

In turn, this provides wildlife habitat, aesthetic appeal, recreational opportunities, forest products,

protection from wildfire, and protects and enhances soil and water quality and native biodiversity.

SNC does have forests protected through conservation easements which cannot be harvested, where nature is "allowed to run its course," explains Pat Piitz, a Registered Professional Forester who manages the SNC and SDG Forests.

"But sustainable tree harvesting can emulate natural disturbance patterns to create sufficient habitat for a full range of species, which is extremely important as we've seen a decline in forest cover across the local landscape, and timber just so happens to be the by-product which meets the economic needs of society," added Piitz.

The forests owned and managed by SNC for timber production, receive an annual Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, which ensures environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management.

It is also normal for debris to be left on the forest floor; it may seem a little messy, but woody debris enhances wildlife habitat by providing additional sources of food and shelter, and its eventual decomposition adds nutrients to the soil.

"I would caution people against panicking when they visit one of our forests and notice that there is a harvesting operation underway," said Piitz. "We are following best practices to ensure the long-term health of



the forest for future generations and help contribute to our local economy."

Current tender opportunities for both softwood and hardwood harvesting operations are now posted on the Conservation

Authority's website, with more to be added in the coming weeks and months. Interested contractors are invited to review information online for the competitive bidding process at [www.nation.on.ca/about/job-opportunities-tenders](http://www.nation.on.ca/about/job-opportunities-tenders).

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## Diversity committee dives into work

Sandy Casselman  
LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – Russell’s Community, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (CDEI) committee had a jam-packed session at their latest meeting, with discussion topics ranging from policies and surveys to open houses.

The group met virtually on Feb. 8. In addition to Mayor Pierre Leroux: CAO Jean Leduc, Ash Babber, Christiane Koffi, and Carl Sohn were present.

The Russell’s Customer Service Policy and Social Media Policy were reviewed and discussed. These policies were new as of roughly five years ago, Leduc said, noting that municipal policies are generally reviewed and updated every five years.

Acknowledging the many changes in social media since the policy was created, Leduc said there was little engagement or involvement when Russell first started using the platform. Since then, participation has doubled or possibly even tripled, he said.

“We are really focused on engagement,” Leduc said. “Everything we look to do is to foster engagement in the community.”

Although the original Social Media Policy refers to a social media team, Leroux pointed out that the township currently has only one person on staff in the communications’ department, he said they will be adding a second soon.

“Your comments will be addressed and incorporated,” Leduc told committee members. “[The Social Media Policy] is definitely in need of a review and will be done this

year.”

Sohn suggested a message about equity and diversity be included in the introduction to both policies, as well as a reference to values, transparency, and integrity. Babber suggested this could be done with a sentence referring readers to the new Equity and Diversity Policy, which would naturally include these topics.

A brief discussion on the creation of this new policy began with Babber noting he had looked at other equity and diversity policies from other cities. He suggested that, although Ottawa is much larger, its policy could provide a foundation for what Russell might create.

Leroux agreed, saying it did not make sense to “reinvent the wheel.”

In reference to the Customer Service Policy, Koffi inquired about procedures for irate customers, tracking customer requests and complaints, and the annual customer satisfaction survey. Leduc said there is not a central system for cataloguing resident comments just yet. However, municipal staff currently address resident concerns relevant to their department.

Although there was no municipal customer satisfaction survey in 2020 due to COVID-19, Leduc said the township has been conducting such a survey for at least four years. During the survey discussion, Sohn said he felt the annual questionnaire was lacking in terms of demographics, as it currently only asks about residents’ age and whether they are male or female. To ensure all Russell residents are being represented and included, the committee agreed that it is important for staff and council to know more about resident demographics before making decisions.

“We’ve relied on the census but doing a little bit more fact gathering would be helpful. Everyone has to evolve in their way of thinking and that includes the township,” Leroux said, noting that additional demographic questions could help build awareness and education around diversity.

With low survey participation, Leduc said the municipality gets a small demographic sampling. He said it would be a good idea to look at existing databases to get a bigger, better picture of Russell’s demographics. As an example, he mentioned the local school board or the province.

Open houses were next up on the agenda, with Leroux noting that the idea is to meet with residents who want to share their experiences with the committee to identify issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion that need to be addressed in the township.

“The person would share their knowledge and stories with us,” he said. “If you haven’t lived it, you don’t know. We don’t know what we don’t know.”

To gauge community interest in partnering with the township on this initiative, Leroux said he had met with representatives from various organizations, such as the local school boards, police, and the United Way, as well as municipal staff. He said the meeting went well and that there is a willingness to work together.

While Leroux had been hoping to do these experience-sharing sessions in person, Koffi noted that it might be better for the participants if this was done online.

“They don’t have to be on camera, and they can take a break,” she said, noting that depending on the experience

being shared, it could be triggering or traumatizing for the individual.

It was agreed the sessions should not be recorded and that participants should not be required to give their identifying information to anyone other than the mayor, who would confirm their residency in the municipality. Koffi also suggested adding some mental health professionals to the mix in case someone needed support. She said having a meeting with one person facing the panel could be frightening, so she recommended that four to five people be online to share at the same time with the panel. The participants could then control who sees or hears them and whether people know their real name.

The expectation that you are listening and trying to find a solution to help should be clarified to all potential participants, Koffi said, noting that the exercise requires “a lot of emotional labour” on the part of the persons sharing their stories.

Koffi said this initiative should be started sooner than later, and with suggestions in hand, Leroux said he would have something to present at the group’s next meeting.

The committee also discussed forming smaller sub-groups that will research an issue and write an executive summary with recommendations for the committee to discuss.

“Administration doesn’t have the resources to work on all these,” Leroux said. “So,

## Name rededication offers community-building opportunity

Sandy Casselman  
LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – If the mayor has anything to say about it, the township of Russell’s name rededication will not happen until residents are once again able to meet in person.

The subject was raised during the municipality’s Community, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee meeting on Feb. 8. Member, Christiane Koffi asked for a status update during the meeting’s round table discussion.

“It’s in my court. I have to present something to council as to how I think that should proceed,” Mayor Pierre Leroux said, noting that he would like to see a special research committee formed to address this topic specifically. He recommended the new group be comprised of three people.

The idea, he said, is to have township residents nominate individuals named Russell. The new committee would research the nominees to ensure there are no surprises. The mayor’s vision would see an open house set up like a science fair, but the booths would feature a different person named Russell, their history, and reasons why the township should be named for them.

“I’ve had so many Russell names come forward,” he said. “I didn’t even realize there were that many people named Russell.”

He said residents could vote for one or they could honour a different Russell every year, based on the good that they have done. Referring to the current COVID-19 situation, Koffi asked if a zoom session would be considered instead.

“I don’t want to miss the community-building opportunity,” Leroux said. “I don’t want it to be taken lightly. I want people to be involved in this and to have these discussions. I feel it’s very difficult to do in a virtual setting.”

we’re looking at taking one or two subjects and having the committee break into groups.”

Committee members agreed this would be more efficient and allow topics to be dealt with in a timely manner. The following sub-groups were formed: Marie-Claude Malboeuf and Sohn on land acknowledgement;

Koffi and Andrea Beauvais on use of pronouns; and Koffi and Babber on social media topics’ list. Each sub-group will report at the next meeting.

The committee is scheduled to meet virtually again on April 5 at 7 p.m. The public is invited to join by following the link on the municipality’s website.

## Resident input needed for recreation complex

Sandy Casselman  
LJI Reporter

EMBRUN – The township of Russell is looking for resident input on the municipality’s future recreation complex.

Currently, there is an online public survey covering various aspects of the project, from what residents are looking for in terms of amenities, to how they would like to see the building constructed. The survey will be available online until March 12.

A live online question and answer session has been set for Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. In addition to Mayor Pierre Leroux, the project consultants will also be present. Information about designs, concept plans, phases, updates, and more are available on the township’s website.

There will also be two online public consultations where residents can join and participate in discussions. The English session will be held on March 3, while the French session is set for March 10. Each session

begins at 6:30 p.m. Links to the meeting are to be posted closer to the meeting dates.

The Recreation Complex Project has been in the works since the municipality’s 2015 Recreation Plan, where it was identified as an aspiration for Russell residents. The stated purpose of the complex is “to serve as the community hub for recreation and culture for our growing community and surrounding areas.”

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