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Briefly

Rotary Club taking part in roadside clean-up

CHESTERVILLE – The Rotary Club of Chesterville will be participating in a roadside clean up along Hwy 43 on Sat., April 24 and will meet at the Chesterville Legion, 167 Queen St. Chesterville at 9 a.m. This is a fantastic way to earn some community service hours, spend some time outdoors and help your community. Please contact Chris Barkley at christinebarkley60@gmail.com if you are able to help. Please see me Durant for further information.

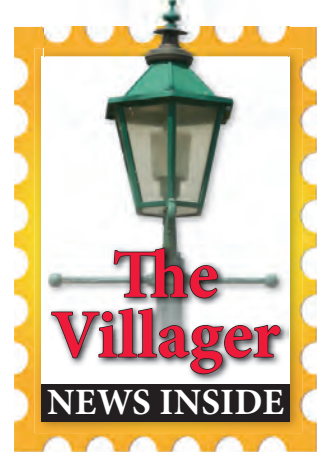
Chesterville Legion holds 1st chicken barbecue

CHESTERVILLE – On April 23, RCL Legion 434 in Chesterville are hosting a fundraising chicken barbecue, on behalf of Kayaking for Cancer in memory of Maureen Corrick. To order a dinner complete with chicken, coleslaw, beans and a bun for \$13.00 or dinner pick up information please call Isabelle at 613-448-1842.

Organization benefits the Ingleside community

INGLESIDE – The 50 years + Community Club in Ingleside is open to people 50 years of age and older, with those younger than 50 able to join as associate members. The goal of the organization is to hold events which benefit the community and area seniors. For more information, please see their Facebook page or call Beverdam at 613-537-9542.

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Flash from the past

This photo appeared in the Sept. 17 issue of *The Chesterville Record*, when Canada Sews' Ontario East received the 2020 Health is a Community Affair Award from the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre "in recognition of the donation of cloth masks to front-line workers and vulnerable populations during the COVID 19 pandemic." The award was accepted by Cheryl Guy on Sept. 8, 2020 on behalf of all those who have volunteered their time and effort in the organization. From the left Monique Clément, Anita Comfort, Cheryl Guy and Joan Davis.

Thompson Goddard Photo

Council listens to residents – defers land use decision

Joseph Morin
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

WINCHESTER – The North Dundas Council decided to defer a final decision on adopting a bylaw that would restrict property owners in the municipality to having to own 8 hectares or 20 acres of land before they could have livestock or small farming operations on it.

The former Mountain Township used 2 hectares or 5 acres as its rule for allowing residents to have livestock on their property. The Mountain Township bylaw stretches back to 1979 while Winchester Village's bylaw about the same issue dates back to 1993.

The amendment to the bylaw was up for discussion at the April 13 meeting. The meeting, because of Covid was conducted using Zoom and was very accessible.

At one point there were 84 people watching and listening to the discussion as well as many who were able

Continued on page 2

Canada Sews – Eastern Ontario

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – When the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, it soon became apparent that essential and frontline workers needed items such as fabric masks, headbands, scrub caps and wet bags to supplement the personal protective equipment they were issued.

On March 20, 2020, Joan Davis, Anita Comfort, Monique Clement and Cheryl Guy organized first the Sewing for Lives Ontario Facebook group and eventually joined Canada Sews, organized by Lee-Anne Moore-Thibert, as Canada Sews Ontario East (CSOE).

Jennifer Normandin, spokesperson for CSOE, recently commented how these four women "led and inspired a dedicated team

of volunteers in Eastern Ontario through a year of making, processing and delivering" over 109,000 virus supplies; including masks, headbands, wet bags, and scrub caps to front line and essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic "within our region, across Canada, and even abroad."

According to Normandin, CSOE was the "largest group of volunteers in one region" apart from the national group; it was responsible for one-third "of all items produced across the country," and through the winter of 2020-2021 also donated "just over 380 items including hats, mitts, scarves and coats."

She explained Moore-Thibert created Durham Region Sews on March 22, 2020, "to make masks for frontline workers" and, within a day, had "over 300 members and

Continued on page 3



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Council listens to residents

Continued from the front

to express their concerns through Zoom about their feelings about the 5 to 20-acre switch. The council's decision to Zoom the meeting was applauded by all participants.

Amalgamation of the two municipalities dates back to 1998 and there have been many differences in bylaws that have had to be harmonized.

Calvin Pol the director of planning building and enforcement made the presentation at the meeting. The change in bylaws was included in a bylaw housekeeping package that covered many issues.

Pol was the first to suggest that the amendment to the bylaw be put off until councilors were able to have a face-to-face public meeting with concerned residents and after all options had been considered.

He read letters to the council expressing concern about the bylaw change.

Councillors, after hearing from those watching the meeting also felt more research was necessary and excluding that particular amendment from the by-law was a reasonable approach to take.

Councillors had a great deal to say about the proposed bylaw changes.

Mayor Fraser said, "Further to Director Pol's

comments I am recommending that we have a second open house when in-person meetings are possible to fully discuss and consider this issue."

He asked the council to consider all of the options.

"I would like to have ministry and county staff experts invited to the open house to be available to provide additional information," he said.

Deputy Mayor Armstrong said, "It was always my intention to defer this and discuss this, and make recommendations such has been tabled now."

Councillor Thompson agreed that the right course of action was a public meeting. "I think if we bring the proper bodies into it and have a meeting; we can discuss what the number should be."

Councillor Annabel said, this was a learning experience for himself as well as the council and the public.

"It would be nice for them to see what we have to do to make things work and it would be nice for us to see what has to be done to make it work for them."

Councillor Hoy said, "I am glad we are gong to defer it and look at it and hopefully get the proper numbers to make everything work."

Most if not all of the opposition to the change came from residents who were anxious to see more information provided about options available. One option is to do nothing and allow the bylaw to have

different rules for Winchester and Mountain. Another was to use nutrient units as the deciding factor as opposed to an actual number of acres. That could mean the amount of waste created by an animal would represent one allowable nutrient unit and the acreage allowed would be expressed as nutrient units. For example so many chickens would equal so many horses and whatever the total of nutrients produced would determine the size of the property needed to allow animals.

Even though the by-law would grandfather in residents who have animals but do not own 20 acres, residents watching the meeting felt that could affect future residents who could not afford to buy 20 acres.

Pol noted that currently the former Mountain Township does not have a separate designation for rural or agricultural land. It is designated as agricultural. Winchester has both designations.

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Raising funds, having fun

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

INGLESIDE – The newly formed “South Stormont Fun Raisers” will be holding Vendors’ Village and Pop-Up Markets (VVPUM) in Ingleside on Fridays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. between May 21 and Oct. 8, on the village green in front of the Ingleside Shopping Mall.

South Stormont Fun Raisers (SSFR) is described by member David Smith as an incorporated non-profit charity organization working to provide “recreational and cultural opportunities to residents and families in the township

of South Stormont. There are currently 43 members who bring with them a lot of experience in event planning and fundraising, with Smith noting there is a “need to include all our residents in events and activities to enhance a stronger and more inclusive community.”

Smith explained there are plans to host “a variety of activities and events to entertain all demographics while raising money to help fund community projects.” He mentioned how people between the ages of 18 years or older “with the best interest of community at heart can join” and he asks

those interested in joining the organization to contact a current member for more information.

SSFR members Kathy and Reg Coffey are currently organizing the Vendors’ Village and Pop-Up Markets in Ingleside. Reg explained in an email to *The Chesterville Record*, that he has “been in contact with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) about Covid restrictions and will adapt as is required,” and notes that the vendors and visitors will be required to comply with EOHU COVID-19 regulations.

Reg explained that most vendors are emailing for more information, and preference will be given to vendors from Stormont,



From the left, front row: Dave Smith, Dale Rudderham; Back Row: Reg Coffey, Kathy Coffey. Four members of the recently incorporated South Stormont Fun Raisers were at the village green near the Ingleside Mall on Fri., April 9. The location will be the site of a Vendor’s Village and Pop-Up Market being held each Friday between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. between May 21 and Oct. 8. Thompson Goddard Photo

Canada Sews

Continued from the front

over 800 requested items.” Subsequently, that group became known as Ontario Sews, with new chapters created “as requests continued to increase.” As numerous requests from other provinces were received, Canada Sews developed.

Normandin went on to explain that “to date, a combined total of over 330,000 items were made, processed and delivered by all Canada Sews’ regions,” which included nine provinces, with “over 35 regional Facebook groups.” She mentioned how the CSOE and other groups “also coordinated the making of gowns, ear savers and face shields in addition to masks, scrub caps, headbands and wet bags.” Eventually the “list of eligible recipients” was expanded from frontline and essential service workers “to include vulnerable persons and school children.”

She continued to share that volunteers not only sewed articles, but also inspected, washed, sorted, and delivered items, with CSOE even being “blessed with a gentleman who serviced and repaired volunteers’ sewing machines, free of charge.” Monetary donations used “to pay for supplies and shipping” were received from people expressing their gratitude for receiving the items or from those who were unable to sew, and donations of material and notions were received and distributed to the sewers.

Recently, the Canada Sews’ request system was decommissioned, with Normandin explaining “we have begun the process of transitioning into a general sewing club.” Members will be “invited to share projects/patterns/tips/tricks” and continue to be connected to those with

similar interests. She continued how “a handful of these groups will remain active, including CSOE” which will continue to facilitate “the delivery of masks, etc. on an as needed basis.”

For those who participated in a Canada Sews’ group, there was a sense of camaraderie that developed as the sewers worked together toward a common goal. As Normandin mentioned in a Facebook post late last year, members shared ideas, supported each other, and “celebrated contributions both big and small.” She commented how “for some, this group was simply a way to help in a time of need; for others, it has been a lifeline. Whatever your reason for joining, we are grateful for each and every one of you.” In an email to *The Chesterville Record*, there were many messages of thanks to the organizers from those who had received items from CSOE.

For over a year, thousands of sewers worked together, though apart, to assist those who needed the items produced by these organizations. In addition to the many, many hours of creating much needed supplies, there were some celebratory times. For example, when reaching the Canada Sews’ milestone of 100,000 items delivered on May 16, 2020, this was “celebrated by co-hosting a “Mask-a-Thon” event with an organization in the US. This event resulted in “nearly 6,000 completed items in one day, in Canada alone,” and marked “the first time many of [the sewers] had seen each other’s faces (albeit over video calls).”

There is a hope that one day, when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, members of the different organizations who produced the much-needed items for our frontline workers will be able to gather and share their stories.

Dundas and Glengarry, “but if space provides, [they] will consider vendors from beyond that.” He is currently calculating the maximum number of vendors and mapping out the area the market will be held. He continued the organization has received “moral support for the village” from local businesses, “with plans to approach businesses for sponsorship opportunities.”

Funds raised by the SSFR will be used for community projects, focusing on waterfront development according to both Smith and Coffey. Once the waterfront plans

are developed by the township and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, it is the intention of the SSFR to review this and see what contribution can be made by the organization.

Looking to the future,

Smith commented how he is “very happy with the club. We seem to have a balance of various age and interest demographics which leads me to believe that South Stormont Fun Raisers will be around for a long time.”

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A proposed settlement has been reached between the parties. While no admission of liability is made and none of the allegations have been proven, this settlement, if approved, will make compensation available to class members who allege they suffered certain sexual assaults or physical assaults while admitted to CPRI.

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

There will be an online court hearing on **June 23, 2021** to decide whether the proposed settlement of the lawsuit should be approved. The hearing will take place virtually.

Compensation to Class Members is not yet available. If the court approves the settlement and you are part of the lawsuit as a Class Member, you can then make a claim for compensation.

To obtain further information, please visit <https://cpriclassaction.ca> or contact Epiq at 1-866-640-9989, or by email at info@cpriclassaction.ca.

The lawyers acting for the class are Koskie Minsky LLP. You may also contact Koskie Minsky LLP at 1-844-819-8523 or by email at cpriclassaction@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 by **May 26, 2021**.

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Step up or step out

Communities for centuries have relied on volunteers to help develop and expand their neighborhoods. This is an opportunity to give back to your community and to make it a better place.

Volunteering is not for everyone. The definition of a volunteer is a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. This is so vital for the well-being of a community.

Yes, realistically, for many, volunteering is a personal choice. For some it is an opportunity to get to know others in the community. For others it is to assist in the development of their children and to ensure that there are activities for their children in their own area. For some it aids in bringing attention to their strong beliefs and I don't refer to this as only on a religious basis but also on a passion or belief in a specific way of life or topic.

Unfortunately, sometimes people start out with good intentions and really do join a group to volunteer because they do feel strongly for the cause or see how advantageous this group or activity is for the betterment of the community. When this passion is depleted, and a volunteer finds themselves personally gaining financially from their community involvement, there is a breaking point. This is when you need to re-evaluate your reason for being involved as a volunteer.

When considering volunteering there are other considerations to evaluate. Why are you wanting to volunteer? Are you truly there for the betterment of the community and to promote the specific activity? If you cannot answer that this is truly something you are willing to give of yourself for free then maybe volunteering in that specific area is not for you.

A volunteer must have strong ethics. It is important that you understand what a conflict of interest is and that it is okay to announce that you cannot vote or decide on a specific item if you are considered to be in conflict.

It can be the end of an organization if there are volunteers around the table who do not understand that volunteering is not a place to promote your personal or self-serving interest and professional duties.

If you are one of those incredible people who are willing and able to donate your precious time for the betterment of an organization you are a very welcomed sight. This does not mean that you will never come into a situation where you may feel that you are in a possible conflict of interest.

It is okay to state to other members that you are going to abstain on a specific decision or discussion because you feel you maybe in a conflict of interest. Your wealth of knowledge and passion for a specific project or topic can be invaluable to the future growth and potential of the group.

On the other hand, if you cannot recognize when you maybe in a conflict this maybe something you should consider learning more about.

Many associations have been brought down because those who thought they were there to help began to put their own personal desires ahead of the mandate of the group.

A big shout out to all of those volunteers who willing give of themselves and are truly committed to the cause and community!

You may not always receive the recognition you deserve or realize how important your contribution is, but your community is a better place because of you.

Thank you!

Linda Vogel

Statement from SD&G Warden Frank Prevost

CORNWALL – Our residents have been through the wringer over the last 14 months. We have endured lockdowns, shutdowns, physical isolation, fear of getting sick and concern that local hospitals are bursting at the seams because COVID-19 cases are spiking.

In short, we are fed up.

We look on with envy as other regions and countries, including our neighbours just across the St. Lawrence River in the United States, enjoy the benefits of mass vaccination.

Because Canada has been slow to roll out mass vaccination, and because COVID-19 variants are entrenched in Ontario, we once again find ourselves in a shutdown.

Just today we learned that 10,000 vaccination appointments were cancelled in this province, due to lack of supply.

This situation is unacceptable to our residents and we are here today to call upon senior levels of government in Ottawa and Toronto, as well as our local MPs and MPPs, to turn heartfelt words into concrete action.

Our local health unit has begun the process of vaccination in our region.

At last count there were approximately 35,000 vaccinations completed by

the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. More vaccinations are being planned at hospitals and pharmacies. By the end of this current shutdown, the EOHU has plans to vaccinate another 35,000.

But the total eligible population within the EOHU region is 170,000. The EOHU can only vaccinate individuals when it has enough vaccines to do the job.

I am calling on the federal and provincial governments to do more to get an increased number of vaccines to our local health unit so they can continue the good work they are doing.

There has been much made of COVID problems in southern Ontario, and there is increased focus on other 'hot spots' throughout the province. With all due respect to the terrible tragedy unfolding in the GTA, I want to ensure our voice is heard as well.

It is the voice of rural and small-city Ontario. I have to remind our political leaders in Toronto and Ottawa that our residents are just as vulnerable to the coronavirus – and our businesses are suffering just as much, if not worse, than those in other jurisdictions.

I further call on senior levels of government to

level with us. We keep hearing that there is a light at the end of the tunnel – but this seems like an awfully long tunnel. The yo-yoing our residents have been forced to grapple with these last few months is unacceptable.

In one breath we are told vaccines are coming and hope is on the horizon. But at the same time some vaccine clinics are being cancelled due to lack of supply, schools are shuttered and businesses closed.

This is confusing and frustrating. Our residents deserve the respect of straight-forward answers, without unnecessary spin.

Our business owners have been forced to grapple with a tsunami of change in recent weeks.

They need a greater understanding of what is to come in the months ahead and better supports to keep their doors open right now.

I have heard directly from businesses in SDG, some of whom tell me they are falling through the COVID cracks. Some businesses, which opened just last year, cannot get supports because they are unable to prove a sustainable income over the last 12 months. How is this fair?

Our local economy is built upon these small

businesses. I look at our local barbershops as an example. Why have they been forced to close an operation that can be limited to just two people, who wear masks and liberally sanitize themselves? Yet I can go into any grocery store and be surrounded with a multitude of individuals.

What's good for one business should be good for all, because it's discrepancies like this that anger our business owners and frustrate our residents. This pandemic is not new. We have been battling the scourge of COVID-19 for more than a year.

It's time for concrete plans that will lead us out of the pandemic as quickly as possible and so far, unfortunately, I am left with the impression that the tunnel I spoke of earlier continues to get longer and longer.

Finally, I have a message for our residents. We understand your frustrations. You have been put in an impossible situation, and many of you have risen to this challenge. Until we get effective vaccination in our region, I urge you to continue physical distancing and maskwearing. You are our first line of defense, and we need your help too.

Editorial

Hard to believe - difficult to accept

The recent demonstration of public stupidity and disregard for the rest of us at the South Branch Bistro patio event in Kemptville is disgusting.

With the virus poised to leap ahead and as health units, municipalities and hospitals rush in to vaccinate as many of us as possible to cut off the virus before it can make great gains, this public demonstration is more than disappointing.

Every one of those people who felt they had to defend their rights from an imagined attack on them by the province, believed it was ok to throw our rights out the window.

Imagine in days gone by when indoor smoking was banned. Imagine a smoker coming up to you and brazenly blowing smoke in your face claiming it is their right.

I wonder what our reaction would have been then.

The virus is real. It does not kill everyone it infects but with each infection it has the potential to end a life.

Those who have been infected and were able to fend off the virus on their own, still say it was an experience they do not wish on their worst enemy.

The government's response can be challenged. The last year of regulations, shutdowns and restrictions have

wounded many industries, driven up costs, interrupted many supply chains and made the provincial economy act like a mouse frantically trying to evade a cat.

It's one thing to criticize the government about the logic behind some of their regulations, and indeed many of them do not make sense and unfairly cost small business money and in many cases their future, but it is another thing altogether to bring a hundred people together in the middle of the lockdown with no social distancing or masks and declare it's their right and there is no problem for the rest of us.

Hopefully, no one at this protest will pass the virus on to anyone else.

Just for the folks who protested in Kemptville here are some facts:

Since the pandemic began, 3,677 people in Eastern Ontario have become ill with the virus.

Thirty-five were actually in the hospital while those people were protesting. Eight people are struggling to stay alive with help of the Intensive Care Unit, eighty-four have lost the battle and are dead. There are currently 16 outbreaks.

Shame on those protesters who manage to ignore the facts and threaten the rest of us with their lack of responsibility.

Joseph Morin



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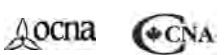
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SDG outlines amendments to Regional Incentives Program

Sandy Casselman

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

CORNWALL – In a virtual public meeting on April 8, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG) provided an overview of proposed amendments to the SDG Regional Incentives Program (RIP) and its Terms of Reference.

“This is largely a living document, so with any grant program, you’re going to find that as the program grows over a couple of years, it needs to expand in new directions and to have revisions to help correct different parameters of eligibility and modifications just to make the program function better,” SDG manager of economic development Tara Kirkpatrick said, noting that the purpose of the meeting was to allow stakeholders and the public the opportunity to learn about the changes, as well as to ask questions or make comments.

Implemented in 2018, the program supports economic development initiatives by providing financial incentives to successful applicants in all six counties. It was noted that the program has been incorporated into each municipality’s Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and offers additional economic development tools. The changes proposed during the April 8 meeting apply only to the county-related portions of the CIP.

Kirkpatrick provided viewers with a detailed presentation beginning with showcasing some of the businesses that received grants through the RIP already, and ending with a series of amendments to the program meant to improve it. During the showcase portion of her presentation, Kirkpatrick noted that the RIP helps to increase short-term roofed accommodations for visiting tourists, supports agri-tourism by helping local food producers create experiences and products that drive growth in local economies, and generates jobs, helping businesses and industries to expand.

“The amendment is intended to modify the eligibility criteria relating to the RIP and to adjust the funding parameters of the grant categories,” Kirkpatrick said. “The modifications are also intended to correct technical errors and clarify policies for ease of use and interpretations.”

She then summarized each of the changes, section by section, noting where things were eliminated, added, or merely altered for clarity. Section 1.3 pertaining to the enhancement of trail networks was eliminated with the note that \$32,000 has already been invested in these types of projects since the program’s inception in 2018 and the RIP approvals committee believes these investments satisfy the original goal for this section.

An addition was made under section 2.0 making local municipalities and other government or quasi-government organizations ineligible, as they have other avenues of funding. This change, Kirkpatrick said, would allow the RIP to fund more priority projects focused on increasing tourism, creating jobs, and growing local business.

Another change under section 2.0 was the alteration of

the RIP approvals committee composition. Kirkpatrick said the changes were made to ensure fairness in the decision-making process. Originally, each township’s economic development officer would have a say in approving a project in their jurisdiction.

“The revision to the committee composition is intended to improve the administration of the program,” Kirkpatrick said. “County staff and local economic development officers will continue to support the program, by providing an essential, front-line role in assisting applicants with their applications and walking them through the program criteria. As non-voting participants, they will remain neutral advocates for their applicants.”


SDG is currently seeking two lay appointees for the Regional Incentives Program approvals committee. Applicants must be a Canadian citizen who is at least 18 years old who lives in SDG but who is not an employee of the county. With the expectation to attend four to six meetings per year, the successful applicants will be compensated. Applications, which are due by 4 p.m. on April 23, are to be mailed to the county or emailed to tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca.

Changes were also made to how many times an applicant can apply. Kirkpatrick said a property could be considered for multiple grant approvals provided all approvals’ for a single project do not exceed \$50,000. It was also noted that successful applicants must wait two years to apply again for another grant, except during 2021 when all can apply. It was made clear that success is not guaranteed.

A complete list of changes is included in the April 8 presentation, which can be found on SDG’s YouTube channel. As for next steps, Kirkpatrick said the public is invited to voice their opinion on the proposed amendments verbally or in writing by contacting their local clerk, or by emailing or sending a letter to Kirkpatrick. Once the consultation period is up, the recommendations will be reviewed by the approvals committee and the draft amended accordingly.

Once approved by county council, each lower-tier municipality will be contacted and invited to prepare and pass a draft bylaw updating their CIP with the new version. The public then has 20 days following the passing of the bylaw to make an appeal. If no appeals are made during this time, SDG will then be able to open the intake for the next round of RIP applications.


Municipality of South Dundas Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner reminded viewers it is a competitive process and while sometimes it is possible to grant all requests during an intake, sometimes it is not. She encouraged those who are not successful to continue to apply for future intakes. For more information on the SDG Regional Incentives Program, visit the County website (sdgcounties.ca/stay-discover-grow) or contact Kirkpatrick.



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
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 Email: ebvalles@hotmail.com Office: 613-448-2272
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Evangelical Missionary Church

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– *Obituary* –

DAVID FERGUSON



Peacefully at home with family by his side, on Monday, April 12, 2021, David Ferguson of Chesterville, age 64. Loving husband and best friend of Lynda Ferguson (nee Droppo). Loving father of Ashley Manktelow (Danny) of Merrickville and Courtney Ferguson of Chesterville. David will be fondly remembered by his granddaughter Emmerson Manktelow. Son-in-law of Erva Droppo of Chesterville. Brother-in-law of Steven Droppo (Joanne) of Belleville. He was predeceased by his parents Carl and Bernadette Ferguson and his father-in-law Murray Droppo. He is also survived by nieces, nephews and friends. There will be no visitation or funeral service. Donations to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 434 in Chesterville or 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. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Bayshore homecare, nurse Zena Reoch and nurse practitioner Melanie Spencley for the excellent care they provided to David.



Obituary

Ruth Nitschke

Suddenly at the Brockville General Hospital on Thursday, April 8, 2021, Ruth Nitschke of Cardinal, formerly of Chesterville, age 68. Beloved wife of the late Barry Sharpley. Loving mother of Trevor Sharpley (Lise Belaire) of St. Albert and Louise Sharpley of Cardinal. Dear stepmother of Darlene Sharpley (Ken Crerar) of Greely and Robyn Boyd (Steve) of Osgoode. Dear sister of Helen Sharpley of Barrhaven, Grace Kelly of Findlay Creek, Ron Nitschke of Gatineau and Eileen Grimes (Greg) of Ottawa. Dear mother-in-law of Marc Longchamps of Cornwall. Ruth will be fondly remembered by 13 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents Oscar and Louise Nitschke, her stepdaughters Debbie Longchamps and Donna Simpson and her son-in-law Myles Simpson. She is also survived by nieces and nephews. Due to the Coronavirus restrictions, a celebration of Ruth's life will be held at a later date. Donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation 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.

Cass Bridge Gift Shop closes after 35 years

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – A bit of the areas history is slipping away as Barbara Barkley, owner of the Cass Bridge Gift Shop decides to retire.

She first worked at the shop when it was a cheese house back in 1986.

Eventually she would purchase the store as times changed and appetites went from local cheese to great gift ideas.

The gift shop in many ways has been a constant in her life and now it is time for her to move on.

The pandemic was a gentle reminder of how small business was in a fragile position even at the best of times.

Now, to Barbara, seemed to be the perfect time to retire.

Barbara and her husband Raymond, who has been retired now for three years, are excited about this next chapter.

“It’s bitter sweet,” said Barbara.

“I have met lots of people.”

One of her daily tasks each day over the years was scooping out ice cream to visitors to her shop. That memory is so meaningful to her that the only thing she is keeping as a souvenir from her business is one of the original ice cream scopes she has been using since she first started working at the shop.

“I have made friendships I would never have had if not for the business.

I will miss those certain ones,” she said.

“There are people coming in here now for ice cream that I certainly served their parents when they were children.”

She estimates she has served hundreds of thousands of ice cream cones over the years.

The Cass Bridge Gift store was the place to go every Christmas or special occasion for that special gift. Many of her items were difficult to find elsewhere which made what she offered all that more special and sought after.

Ault Foods originally owned the shop. It was a factory outlet for their cheese.

“I managed the store part-time in 1985 and full



Barbara Barkley starts the next chapter of her life armed with the original ice cream scoop she used when she first came to work at the shop in 1986. Morin Photo

time in 1986,” said Barbara. In 1993 Ault Foods made a decision to close these little food outlets throughout the countryside.

“They gave the managers the option of staying on so I thought I’m already here. I have already established the business, for the first few years I kept it the way it was.

Then you could see cheese getting more expensive. You could see it changing.

I slowly started to introduce other products. I went on from there.”

She feels the popularity

of her gift shop was because of the quality and variety of items she carried.

“I knew my clients and what they liked.”

When she decided she wanted to retire she put her building up for sale imagining someone might want to buy it as a gift shop.

“It was listed as is or as business. I thought maybe someone would want to come in and continue on.”

In the end the building sold very quickly but the new owners were not interested in running the gift shop.



How sweet it is!

Doyle’s Sweet Shop (DSS), located at the corner of Main and Queen Streets in Chesterville, held their “soft opening” on Sat., April 10. Christina Thompson, co-owner of Doyle’s with husband John, mentioned the entrepreneurial couple are planning to hold a celebratory grand opening for Doyle’s Pub and Eatery and Doyle’s Sweet Shop when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. She continued that ice cream, novelties and grab n’ go treats are offered from the DSS, certain items from the regular menu, such as hamburgers or French fries and gift certificates are available for purchase. Recently Doyle’s Sweet Shop, as part of their program to give back to their community, held two cupcake fundraisers for St. Mary’s Catholic School and the Chesterville Public School. Thompson explained these initiatives were suggested by a staff member during a brainstorming session on ideas for community support. She continued both schools usually had fundraising teas, which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. Staff donated their time to creating and decorating the cupcakes with Doyle’s providing the ingredients. The delicious treats were sold at DSS, with the resulting donations of \$765 for St. Mary’s and \$781.85 for C.P.S.; the schools mentioned their appreciation for the activity. More information on Doyle’s Sweet Shop can be obtained by visiting their Facebook page.

Thompson Goddard Photo

“I am not sure what they are going to do but it will not be a gift shop.”

She had to clear all of her stock out of the building.

“I have had had a few days of selling at 40 per cent off. Now I am doing a bit of

curbside. I will take an item to the door to show it.

Several of the display units have been sold.”

Her plan is to re-open on May 6 to clear the rest of her stock out and then hand over the empty shop to the

new owners on May 28.

The past few weeks she has been busy clearing out her basement and now she is focusing on the main floor of the shop.

To contact the Cass Bridge Gift Shop call 613- 774- 3353.

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South Dundas focuses on improving communication

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas will soon see some changes in the way the township communicates with the public.

Communications coordinator Kalynn Sawyer Helmer provided local politicians with a detailed presentation on the 2021 Communications Plan during the March 29 “committee of the whole” meeting. The communications’ goals set for 2021 include improving community engagement, making the website more user-friendly, implementing a targeted approach to social media, working toward online community unity, and facilitating staff and community online connections.

“We’ve put together this report to act as a guideline for the way that we approach communications in 2021,” Helmer said.

The first item on the agenda was communications’ tools, which include the municipal website, social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok), print publishing, e-newsletters, and press releases. Helmer said she would like to see South Dundas shift to a greater reliance on the website, rather than social media as the community’s main source of information. She said the website would need to be redesigned in the next three to five years, noting the importance of providing residents with online services. She also noted that staff had created both weekly and monthly schedules for what to post on social media in 2021.

“I like the movement with the social media guidelines and you’re absolutely correct with the website. The South Dundas Economic Development Committee has absolutely stated that, without a doubt, the website falls short,” Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner said, noting a concern with potential cost and getting what South Dundas needs.

Helmer said when staff is given the greenlight to redesign the website, they will be looking at a closed source. She said this means everything will be made by one company, rather than a piecemeal approach.

“It might cost us more money, but the investment will pay dividends down the road,” Mayor Steven Byvelds said, noting, however, that now is not the time to take on this project.

Helmer next highlighted the importance of community engagement. She said it is important to ensure residents have access to accurate information.

“Our goal is to help the public better understand why a recommendation is being made by staff, why a decision is made by council, and what parameters we might be working in, be it policies set by higher levels of government or maybe financial reasons,” Helmer said. “With that in mind, we’re aiming at finding more diverse and effective ways in connecting with residents. One of these ways we’re recommending is for council to consider

adopting a platform called Bang the Table.”

Bang the Table is a community engagement platform that would provide South Dundas with its own independent URL along with eight diverse engagement tools, including surveys, polls, questions, guestbook, stories, places, ideas, and forum.

“We can then engage the public in a positive and controlled environment that ensures transparency. The platform is somewhat costly for an annual subscription. However, if we could get our targeted amount of users, then that data could be invaluable in representing the voices of our citizens,” Helmer said, noting a target of 1,000 to 1,500 users.

Gardner said Bang the Table could be “the way of the future to get that meaningful feedback.” Byvelds said he would like to wait and see what South Stormont, who has approved the platform, has to say.

As for the Municipal Guide and the Community Living Guide, Helmer said there is an issue with information changing from the time the document is created to the time it is printed. She suggested using general information with prompts directing readers to the website for specifics. She also suggested the possibility of allowing for advertising to offset production costs.

Gardner said she would prefer a rack card model for programming schedule information, as it has a fast turnaround and can be posted on residents’ refrigerators for easier use. Councillor Archie Mellan suggested combining the two guides. Most of council agreed with using tasteful non-cluttered advertising.

Branding was next on the list. Helmer emphasized the difference between a corporate brand, such as the current South Dundas logo, and a community brand, which would represent the experience of living in South Dundas.

“Brands are about building communities and building consumer trust and loyalty. Staff understand that we’re not at a stage to do full branding this year but have identified some action items,” she said. Action items include community engagement, stakeholder meetings, and inter-departmental collaboration, which would provide a foundation for community branding in the future. “What this comes down to is an opportunity to work on unifying South Dundas under one image that represents them.”

Council members agreed with the notion of a community brand but were not interested in taking on a branding exercise. They agreed that laying the groundwork for future branding is a good idea, but it would need significant support from residents.

“Branding is a catchy thing but let’s face it, if we have a good enough community and we build it up strong enough and we have the opportunity for housing and employment and whatnot, you can have a dead skunk on the road and people are still going to come here,” Mellan said.



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NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 18 - 24, 2021

THE VALUE OF ONE. THE POWER OF MANY.

Where to find volunteer opportunities



Every year, Volunteer Canada dedicates a week in April to celebrating volunteers and encouraging more Canadians to get involved in their communities. This year, National Volunteer Week takes place from April 18 to 24, and the theme is The value of one. The power of many. If you want to volunteer, here's where you can find opportunities in your area.

VOLUNTEER CENTRES

The primary purpose of a volunteer centre is to promote volunteerism in the community by encouraging people to donate their time and providing them with the resources they need to get involved. Volunteer centres also help local organizations improve the way they recruit, manage and retain volunteers. Additionally, these centres play an important role in raising awareness about the community's needs and the importance of volunteer service.

If you want to give back, a volunteer centre can provide you with an up-to-date list of the opportunities in your area. Alternatively, some centres may ask you to fill out a form so they can contact you with opportunities based on your skills and availability.


To find a volunteer centre near you, consult Volunteer Canada's online directory at volunteer.ca.

ONLINE

Another simple way to find volunteer opportunities in a particular province, region or city is to use Volunteer Canada's pan-Canadian volunteer matching platform. This resource allows you to choose from more than 75,000 volunteer opportunities and narrow your search based on your location, interests and skills. You can even find opportunities to volunteer virtually.

Finally, remember you can always reach out directly to local organizations, or speak with friends, neighbours and colleagues who might know of a good cause that could use your help.

CHECK OUT NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR OUR NEW SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS!



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North Stormont debates sole sourcing engineering work

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

BERWICK – The township of North Stormont has approved sole sourcing engineer work for the Crysler Fire Hall and Moose Creek Recreation Building, despite recorded opposition from one council member.

During the April 6 council meeting, Coun. Roxane Villeneuve said she was against sole sourcing this contract and that she would prefer that North Stormont follow its procurement process bylaw. She reminded Mayor Jim Wert that when originally asked, he told her the work would be tendered. He said sole

sourcing is for the engineering only, but everything else will require Request for Proposal (RFP)s.

“This recommendation arises from the fact that Eastern Engineering has previous experience working on the engineering for both the Avonmore Recreation Building and Fire Hall,” Austin Winters said in his report, noting that the Moose Creek Recreation Building is to be modeled after the Avonmore structure, to keep things consistent throughout the municipality.

He also noted that the procurement policy allows for single-sourced purchases, provided it is being recommended by a department

head or “the compatibility of a purchase with existing equipment, product standards, facilities, or service is a paramount consideration.” While only one of these conditions is necessary, it was noted that both apply to this situation.

“Sometimes you have to use your judgement and I believe this is a judgement call,” Deputy Mayor François Landry said, noting that Eastern Engineering is already familiar with the building plans and will not be starting from scratch, as other firms would be required to do.

In a recorded vote, Wert, Landry, Coun. Steve Densham, and Coun. Randy Douglas all voted in favour of the request, agreeing it made sense to do so. With staff and the remaining four members of council in favour, the request was granted.



Raising awareness with respect

Concerned citizens from Embun and Russell held a protest rally on April 10 to raise awareness about the stress and negative effects of the pandemic on their community and the small businesses in it. Compared to similar protests in other communities about the provincial pandemic business lockdown, the Embrun protest was remarkably respectful and without incident. The protest highlighted the lack of knowledge business owners and consumers had about what their rights were regarding store closures as mandated by government. Courtesy Photo

McDougall Insurance - helping clients cope with Covid

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

WINCHESTER – Shelley Sirois, branch manager of McDougall Insurance & Financial in Winchester, recently spoke to *The Chesterville Record* about insurance and the effect that COVID-19 has had on this industry.

Sirois explained McDougall Insurance offers “personal, commercial, farm and life insurance” with their local office located at 473 Main Street East in Winchester. She explained how the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the move “towards more digital solutions to service clients”, continuing services ranging from reporting a claim, setting up a policy or making changes to a policy “can all be done digitally”.

She noted how insurance, “considered an essential

service,” which resulting in the day to day operations not changing greatly, with the company focusing on “our clients during the course of the pandemic,” with McDougall Insurance providing support to small businesses, and “helping our insureds through our insurance carriers to verify if they could benefit from other rebates due to the pandemic.”

When asked about the benefits of improving the value of a home, she noted how, “during Covid, a lot of homeowners took time to renovate their homes.” She mentioned it is “important to let your insurance company know,” when doing renovations such as finishing a basement or adding a space. These changes may necessitate a change to a person’s insurance coverage such as

adding a special endorsement to your policy.

Sirois mentioned how McDougall provides clients with MyMcDougall, an

online portal “where our clients can access their policy information documents” as well as other services.



exchange. Access to the reading material is year-round and she mentioned people of all ages are enjoying the opportunity to borrow a book to read and commented how there have been “no issues or no problems” encountered. Cross-Barkley routinely checks and re-stocks titles in the “little library”, commenting how she tries to “keep it seasonal” and is finding that childrens’ books are constantly in demand. A note of appreciation is certainly due to Myles and Christine for facilitating the availability of reading materials for people of all ages to enjoy.

Chesterville’s Little Library

Thanks to the work of Christine Cross-Barkley, her husband Myles Barkley and the people who have donated books, Chesterville’s very own “Little Library” has been operating at 54 Victoria Street since March 2020. Cross-Barkley explained how, as an avid reader, she realized people might want to have access to books for reading during the pandemic and associated closures. Her husband Myles created the structure shown in the accompanying photo, with Cross-Barkley and community people donating books for people to “borrow,” mentioning people “will leave a box or a bag of books on the veranda” for the book

Thompson Goddard Photo



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 18 - 24, 2021

THE VALUE OF ONE. THE POWER OF MANY.



Thanks to the wonderful team of volunteers at the South Dundas Chamber of Commerce!

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Vice-President, Tracey Veinotte - Red Door Team
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Auction Opens Thursday, April 15 at 12 Noon & Closes Thursday, April 22 at 6 p.m. (Soft Close; Staggered) Pick-Up: Will occur Sat., April 24 from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (one day only).

Preview: Friday, April 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. only. NO OTHER VISITS PERMITTED!

Tractors & Machinery: Case IH Farmall 80 4WD open station with L730 front end loader bought new on farm in 2010 (4540 hrs.), International 686 open station, International 656 open station (draw bar pto only), NH H7220 disc bind (nice), NH 648 silage special round baler (nice), Case 1220 early riser 6 row corn planter with dry fert, pto pump, (bought new on farm in 2013 sewed less than 1000 acres very nice), AC 2300 13 ft tandem hyd disc, NH 790 forage harvester with 2 row 824 corn head & 890W hay head, NH#27 forage blower, 2 Papec forage boxes, IH 720 4 furrow semi mount plow, International 560 manure spreader, 2 hay wagons, 12ft 3ph s-tine cultivator, 3ph post hole auger, 3ph wood splitter, IH 15 run grain drill on steel. Other Farm & Misc. Items: Q Catch 400 series portable crowding tub/head gate with drop down vet panels, digital scales (like new paid over 27,000.00), Jamesway stable cleaner with 14 ft stacker, 180ft cw chain (new 2 years ago), Burg stable cleaner unit approx. 180 ft cw chain, 3 18 ft ring drive ValMetal silo unloaders (silo unloaders and stable cleaners to be paid for at close of auction and to be removed by purchaser within 30 days), Gates, qty of rough lumber, qty of scrap iron, drill press, hyd shop press, various other small farm and shop modern and antique items too numerous to mention

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40-2

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Sat., April 17, starts at 4 p.m. Steak, salad, and dessert \$18 per person. Salad only \$8. Get your tickets early.

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40-3

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All leaf and yard waste must be placed in a compostable bag and placed at the curb by 7:30 a.m. on the above dates.
Any questions concerning pickup: Contact Landfill: 613-774-5157

CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 15, 2021
CLUES ACROSS
1. Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
4. Ceramic jars
9. Monetary units
14. Alias
15. "Superman" actor
16. Britonic tribe
17. Shorten
18. LA Dodgers manager
20. Hoarded
22. Theatrically portray
23. Noah's grandson
24. Dependent
28. Peyton's little brother
29. Cools the house
30. Principle part of
31. Type of wrap
33. Peels
37. Commercial
38. Make an attempt
39. Arrange in steps
CLUES DOWN
1. Batflower genus
2. Predatory seabirds
3. Fish farm
4. Arrangements
5. Go in advance of others
6. Bulgarian monetary unit
7. "Maria"
8. W. African ethno-religious group
9. Wild Asian oxen genus
10. Vinegary
11. To this
12. Explosive
13. Female sibling
19. Orlando museum (abbr.)
21. Type of hoop
24. About Holy Father
25. Academic environment
26. Extremely angry
27. Surrenders
31. Swiss mountain pass

THE BENEFITS OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES
Even though crossword puzzles have been entertaining and helping people pass the time for more than 100 years, the benefits of crosswords go beyond boredom-busting. Various studies have shown the positive effects crossword puzzles can have on a person's brain and capacity to learn.
- Improve vocabulary
- Strengthens memory
- Improve socialization
- Help relieve stress
- May help prevent brain diseases
Crossword puzzles can fill empty hours with an entertaining and educational activity. However, there are many other benefits to doing crossword puzzles that may surprise even the most ardent puzzle enthusiasts.

K2D2 Landscaping poised to expand and grow

MOUNTAIN – There is never a bad time to think about making where you live your own little paradise.

During the summer months and especially during the pandemic, creating a nice environment at home becomes more tantalizing than ever.

Landscaping your backyard to create your special space has never been easier, thanks to the help from the folks at K2D2 Landscaping in Mountain.

Owned and operated by Devon Byers, K2D2 Landscaping has been busy this spring.

The local landscaping company does everything from lawn maintenance to gardens and what he calls hardscaping with interlocking stones.

“We have a designer on staff,” said Byers.

If a homeowner has an idea about what they want to do with their backyard for example, a call to K2D2 gets the ball rolling.

“We sit with the client and figure out a budget and come up with a design and then we will have a few more consultations where the client will pick their colours and layout, and then we will implement it in the real world.”

He said, “Because of Covid, people are staying home, so they want to have a nice outdoor space, so that they can bring their living outside.”

Byers said his business has exploded because of Covid. People are wanting to stay home and make their outside area an extension of their living room.

“I find a lot of people are doing the renovations they only dreamed about because they are not travelling and they have some extra money,” he said.

“It’s really something to go to

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Devon Byers has exciting plans for K2D2. In this photo, he is standing beside his new sign in Mountain at 10430 Shaw Rd. Courtesy Photo

someone’s property and see nothing and then when we leave you see their dream outdoor space. It’s very rewarding.”

After consulting with a homeowner, the designer will help bring a homeowner’s vision to life and then K2D2 puts that plan into action.

The company has plans to open a landscaping depot at their location in Mountain on May 3.

“We will be selling mulch, aggregates and soil and all that good stuff,” said Byers.

His dream is to be able to incorporate his landscaping capabilities with the products that go into creating a special place in your backyard, such as plants as well as providing gardening supplies.

The landscaping depot has been one of his dreams for years.

“As we strive to be the one stop shop for all your landscaping needs,” Byers said on a Facebook post, “we are so excited to announce our new Landscape Depot will be opening in May.”

The depot, once opened, will operate Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon.

“Deliveries will be available.”

The depot is the first step Byers is taking toward expanding his landscaping services and product.

While doing landscaping, he tries as much as possible to work with other local companies.

Byers said, “I am very dedicated to keeping things in the community and keeping things local. I deal with local as much as I can.”

Byers has been in the landscaping business for eight years and has only been at the location at 10430 Shaw Rd. in Mountain for about a year.

“We just put our sign-up last week,” said Byers.

You can run across K2D2 from Kemptonville to Kars, Morrisburg and Finch, and Russell. “We cover a pretty large area,” said Byers.

For the moment, he has five full-time staff and is in the process of adding two more.

The demand for landscaping in the area has only increased because of the pandemic.

People want to be able to stay at home and enjoy their space.

Byers said, he is already booking jobs into August.

People are wanting a variety of landscaping projects done.

“We are doing a great deal of interlock and for the maintenance jobs, we have a full-time crew working Monday to Friday. For the interlock, we have a crew basically working full-time all week on that.”

One of the recent jobs Byers has been working on is in Morewood, at Veterans Memorial View Park.

K2D2 Landscaping was given the task of repairing and making enhancements to the interlocking pathway at the park.

Byers serves as a volunteer fire fighter in Morewood, a job he took on when he was 16. This October he will celebrate nine years with the Morewood Fire Department. He grew up in Morewood.

During the winter months when we are all longing for those hot summer days, K2D2 Landscaping switches over to winter maintenance of properties and keeping the snow off parking lots.

For more information about K2D2 Landscaping you can call 613-857-7072 or email Byers at: devon.k2d2@outlook.com.

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

Online fundraiser for breast cancer

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

INGLESIDE – Recently the 50 years + Community Club held an online “Pot of Gold Auction” fundraiser with funds raised and split equally between the organization and the Breast Cancer Society of Canada (BCSC). Janice Beverdam, president of the group, commented how \$1,598

was raised during the three-day auction. She mentioned that member Ray Beaugard would shortly be sending a cheque to the BCSC for \$800.

Beverdam thanked the people, businesses and organizations who donated items for the auction, as well as the people who purchased the items. She mentioned how volunteers were invaluable in the success of the event, mentioning how the support provided by Beaugard was most appreciated as was the work of her granddaughter

Danielle in the photographing and uploading of auction pieces, as well as monitoring the online auction and updating the information as needed.

The 50 years + Community Club is open to people 50 years of age and older, with those younger than 50 able to join as associate members. The goal of the organization is to hold events which benefit the community and area seniors. For more information, please see their Facebook page or call Beverdam at 613-537-9542.



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Grass Cutting Contracts Available

South Nation Conservation is seeking pricing for grass cutting services at the following locations for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 seasons. Mandatory site visits will take place on April 26, 2021, at the times listed below.

SNC Administration Office	38 Victoria Street, Finch	8:00 a.m.
McIntosh Park Conservation Area	Crysler Road, Berwick	9:00 a.m.
Reveler Conservation Area	14255 Concession 10-11 Road, Chrysler	10:00 a.m.
Cass Bridge Conservation Area	12212 Cass Bridge Road, Winchester	11:00 a.m.
W.E. Burton Conservation Area	601 Church Street, Russell	12:00 p.m.
J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area	98 Craig Street & 110 Forced Road, Russell	12:00 p.m.
Nokomis Park	464 Limoges Road, Limoges	1:00 p.m.
Lemieux Memorial Site	County Road 16, Casselman	2:00 p.m.
Jessup’s Falls Conservation Area	6675 Highway 17, Plantagenet	3:00 p.m.
Two Creeks Conservation Area	11319 County Road 2, Morrisburg	4:00 p.m.

For more information:
Mike Leger, Community Lands Representative
mleger@nation.on.ca | 1-877-984-2948



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Telephone voting teeters on extinction in Russell

Sandy Casselman

Local Journalism Initiative Report

EMBRUN – The township of Russell is preparing for the next municipal election and, with direction from local politicians, staff will be seeking Request for Proposal (RFP)s for both telephone and internet voting.

In a report to council during the April 6 regularly scheduled council meeting, clerk Joanne Camiré Laflamme recommended that she be directed to prepare a bylaw to confirm the use of internet voting as an alternative voting method for the 2022 municipal elections, and that she be directed to continue partnering with interested United Counties of Prescott-Russell

(UCPR) municipalities in a joint RFP, which could lead to cost savings. Also in the report, director of finances-treasurer Richard Godin noted there is \$39,440 currently in the 2022 municipal elections' reserve.

Councillor Jamie Laurin asked for confirmation as to whether in-person (tabulator/paper) and phone voting would still be options. Camiré Laflamme said they were not part of this recommendation. Mayor Pierre Leroux reminded council that with internet voting, staff made a point of going directly to retirement homes to help residents with the voting process and, for those without a computer or internet at home, the library offers these services free of charge.

The report noted that for the 2018 election, 89 per cent of voters used the internet service, while 11 per cent used the telephone to vote. With only 11 per cent, down from 22 per cent in 2014, of residents using telephone voting in 2018, the clerk recommended eliminating that option for 2022 and focusing solely on internet voting. The report also included a long list of advantages when using internet voting, including enhanced accessibility to vote because residents can do it from home or while on vacation, if needed.

"I think by trying to make it easier for everyone to vote, I think we're making it harder for others," Laurin said, noting that 11 per cent is still 11 per cent, not zero. "Removing it is not a proper way to encourage residents to vote. I think there should be a one-day hand ballot."

Laurin said the biggest complaint he has heard during the past two elections was from residents who did not vote because they wanted to physically go to a building, sign their name to a register, and mark an "X" on a ballot; with telephone and internet voting, this is not possible.

While he was unable to get any of his colleagues to support including tabulators to the mix, Coun. Mike Tarnowski did second Laurin's motion to add telephone voting to the RFP. At first, Tarnowski said he was interested in learning more about the in-person tabulator voting, but after hearing from the clerk and CAO Jean Leduc, he decided against it.

Leduc said the more voting options that are added, the more complicated it becomes for everyone, staff and residents included. Camiré Laflamme pointed out that it makes the RFP complicated because it is difficult, if not impossible, to find companies that do more than one voting method, so then it becomes a matter of hiring separate companies for separate voting methods. In addition to complicating matters, this also adds to the overall cost of the election, she said.

In the end, council agreed to add telephone banking to the RFP. Camiré Laflamme will be looking for quotes from companies for each and, if possible, for both together. Once she has more information, she will go back to council for a final decision on what voting methods are to be made available in the 2022 municipal election.

The Ace of Spades has gone into hiding – one more time

RUSSELL – In consultation with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), the Kin Club of Russell's Catch the Ace lottery 11001 will continue during the stay-at-home order, however, all paper ticket sales ceased this Sunday, April 11 at noon. Additionally, all online ticket sales ceased at 11:59 pm Saturday, April 10.

These measures will ensure the odds of winning the Catch the Ace lottery are not impacted.

The draw will take place at the earliest opportunity, projected to be Sunday, May 9 at 3:15 pm, pending



any further extensions of the stay-at-home order.

No paper or online tickets will be available for sale for the proposed

May 9th draw after this weekend as noted above.

We thank you and AGCO for your continued support.

Russell's new website goes live April 16

Sandy Casselman

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

EMBRUN – The township of Russell's new and improved website is set to go live April 16.

Local politicians received a sneak peek during the April 6 council meeting, when communications coordinator Megan Beehler gave a brief presentation. In addition to announcing the new website launch via social media, a press release, and municipal email list, Beehler will also be hosting two bilingual virtual sessions for residents on April 29 at 10:30 a.m. and again at 6 p.m. She will provide staff and council with a private virtual session on April 13.

Councillor Mike Tarnowski congratulated staff on the project, noting the achievement of coming in under budget. In the written report, director of finances-treasurer Richard Godin noted a savings of \$1,500 on the website redesign project. Pre-approved in the 2020 Budget for \$25,000, the project's final cost was \$23,500. It was also noted, however, that there is an annual licensing fee of \$5,700. The new website was designed by eSolutions Group.

Built in full compliance with the *Accessibility for*

Municipalité de RUSSELL Township

Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements, Leduc said the updated website will satisfy legal requirements, as well as some consumer-requested requirements. The project also satisfies items listed in the municipality's strategic plan, including providing service excellence, and, more specifically, enhancing website experience.

Leduc said the new website means a better experience and greater access when using phones or tablets. Beehler agreed, noting that mobile and tablet users make up more than 50 per cent of the website's visitors.

"It will be a lot easier for residents to find pages," Beehler said, noting one of the biggest changes was giving permits and forms, its own menu tab, making it easier for residents to find and access these documents online.

Website visitors can subscribe to any website page and when information is updated or changed for that page, an email

notification will be automatically sent. Searching the website will be much easier, as well, Beehler said. Those residents identifying issues, such as a blocked road due to a downed tree, will be able to report it directly online via a message window that also allows for uploading any accompanying photos.

"Another great feature of this new website is the calendar," Beehler said. Dates will include invoices, payment deadlines, meetings, events, special waste collections, and more, all categorized by colour and listed by dates. The calendar also has an easy-to-navigate search feature, she said.

Most importantly, Beehler said the new website is designed to maximize what a visitor sees in the first five seconds of visiting the site. With six quick-link buttons and a rotating banner near the top to display shortcuts promoting key webpages and timely seasonal information, Beehler said the front page is

user-focused, as well as user-friendly.

"In collaboration with our IT department, there is an extra layer of security on the new website to ensure all website users' information remains protected," Beehler said. "The new website's back end and functions provide staff with a much more efficient process to manage the bilingual content on the website."

The last website design was completed in 2016. Since then, accessibility requirements, website capabilities, and municipal services have all seen significant changes, making a redesign necessary, as well as welcome.

Councillor Cindy Saucier applauded the new design's user-friendliness.

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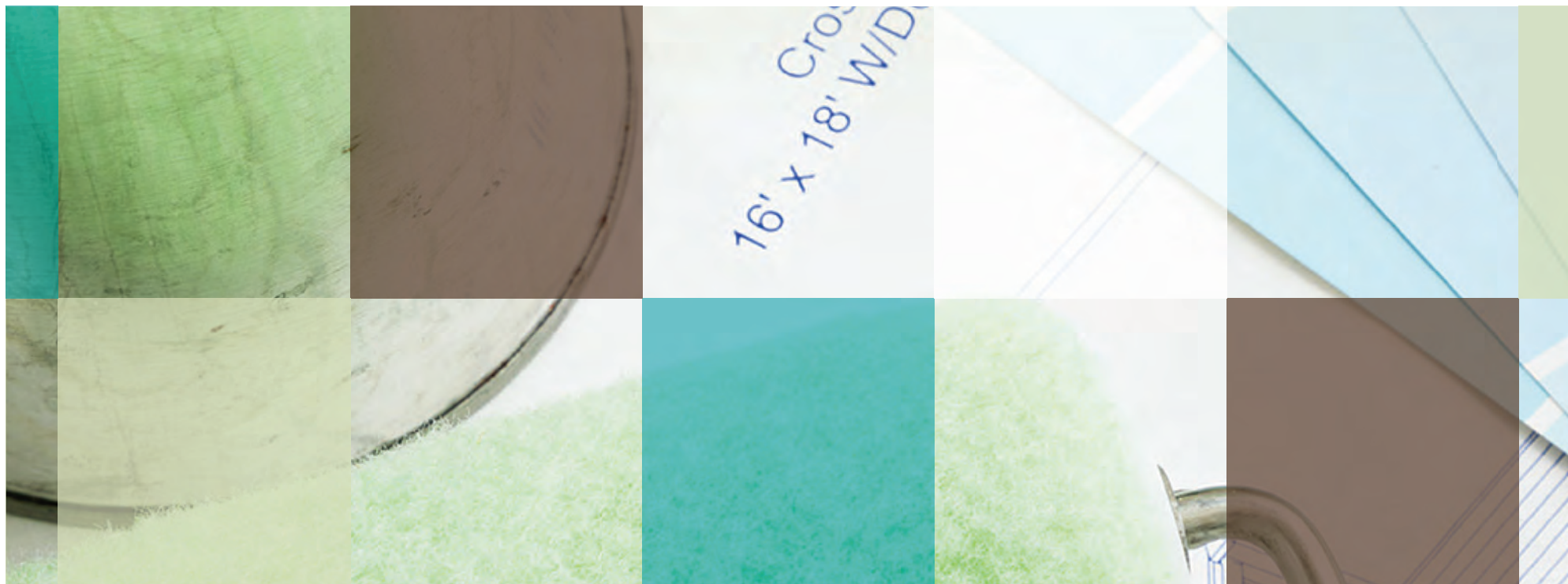
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A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD/ THE VILLAGER – APRIL 15, 2021



Not just nuts and bolts

CRYSLER – The Crysler Home Hardware is nestled in the quiet town of Crysler. This store is definitely worth the stop. As a local small business, they are here to serve the local community and with being in a quiet rural town it is definitely a hidden gem.

This store prides itself for being local and having that hands on assistance. When many stores are offering two or three day wait times this team has been able to get the majority of the orders out within the same day.

With people spending more time at home they are noticing things that maybe just does not fit their idea of their perfect home and living space. You can make changes inside or out and this store is there to help.

“Paint, is always the easiest way to rejuvenate a space and sales have increased dramatically in the paints”, states Lauren Hay, store operations. You can choose your colour and paint online or you can call in and they will work with you to assist in the choice that best suits your individual needs. They can also match a sample that you have if you are looking to freshen up what you currently have.

With three series of paints in their paint selection, the Home Hardware is proud of their paint offerings. There are many things to consider when choosing a paint. Are you painting interior or exterior areas? Are you looking for an all-in-one paint with paint and primer? Or do you want a higher quality paint that does not require as many coats? Do not be overwhelmed, contact the store and their friendly staff will ask the right questions to be able to provide you with the best option for you.

With the current warm weather, people are starting to think of moving their living space outdoors. “We at Home Hardware are not just nuts and bolts”, states Hay. “A big part of what we do is help home owners. We are local and homeowners as well, so



Mark Begg, owner of the Crysler Home Hardware stands proudly outside of his store. Serving the community with top-notch service. Courtesy Photo

With the current warm weather, people are starting to think of moving their living space outdoors. “We at Home Hardware are not just nuts and bolts.” states Lauren Hay, store operations. “A big part of what we do is help home owners. We are local and homeowners as well, so we have used many of the products we sell...

we have used many of the products we sell. This gives us an advantage to help you make an informed decision on that purchase.”

With a complete offering of items for your outdoor entertainment including pool chemicals, tools for your garden or lawn, soils, mulch, patio furniture, lawn mowers, wheelbarrows and the list goes on.

“We have a selection of items in the store, so you, are not having to wait for delivery. We can’t have everything that is available through the Home Hardware line up but we definitely have a good selection” states Hay. “We are here to help make your backyard your own paradise.”



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Funtastic Pool & Spa Ltd. helps with that Covid staycation

WINCHESTER – The pandemic has had a devastating affect on business and residents across Ontario but at the same time it has created opportunities for some in different pool industries.

Backyard recreation is one of them.

Funtastic Pool & Spa Ltd. located in Winchester at 495 May St. has been looking after the summer fun needs of residents for 14 years.

Trevor Carruthers and Christina Stewart are the brother and sister team whose dedication makes Funtastic Pools & Spa the leader in design, installation, customer service, and supplies for pools and spas.

Their customer base goes from Kemptville, Vernon, Metcalfe, Greely, Manotick and Ottawa.

The pandemic has been a mixed blessing for the family business.

On the one hand, because of the pandemic, there has been a rush on all kinds of supplies which has resulted in various shortages but on the other hand the pandemic has encouraged homeowners to make their backyard their summer recreational centre. That means having a swimming pool instead of a summer holiday road trip.

They are experienced in the design and installation of in-ground pools, on-ground pools, hot tubs, and swimspas.

“We have been very fortunate, because of Covid, people are investing in their back yards. We have not slowed down at all.

It has exploded actually. People cannot travel, and they are not going anywhere so they are investing in their back yard,” said Christina who looks after the Funtastic Pool & Spa office.

“We do mostly in ground and on-ground pools,” said Christina.

The demand for swimming pools has outstripped the supply and installation capabilities of the business.

“Right now we are fully booked for the year and booked into next year. We have stocked up the supplies we knew we would need for this year. We are well stocked in our everyday pool accessories,” she said.

Funtastic Pool & Spa carries a Canadian line of hot tubs called Equinox.

Even though they are booked up for this year, they still have all of the pool supplies you could ever need.



The Maytonics 600 Robotic cleaner. Courtesy Photo

“Depending on what people are looking for, we have a great deal to offer. We have some cash and carry kits that we have brought in as stock. We have a couple available but they are going fast,” said Christina. They have a few above ground pools in 18, 24, and 27 ft. sizes.

Note that Funtastic Pool & Spa cannot install these pools.

“We have everything you need to maintain your pool for the summer,” said Christina.

“We have two new models of robotic pool cleaners in stock.

They have Bluetooth capability or have timers. Some stock is coming in this summer and the rest expected to come in 2022.”

Because of Covid, industry producers have not been able to keep up with the demand.

Christina said, “Prior to Covid, if you came in on a Saturday and bought a hot tub I could have it delivered by the end of the week. Now we are almost a year.”

Covid has brought its own challenges. A lot of companies are increasing their stock because they are afraid they will not be able to get it when they need it and that increases demand. Funtastic Pool & Spa sells and services in-ground and on-ground pools, hot tubs and swim spas, pool openings and closings, pool repairs, liner replacement,

pool boss and spa boss chemicals, water analysis, pool and spa parts and accessories.

You can connect with Funtastic Pool & Spa at 613-774-2341 or go to www.funtasticpoolandspa.com or through email at: info@funtasticpoolandspa.com. Saturday 9 to 12 and from Monday to Friday by chance or appointment.

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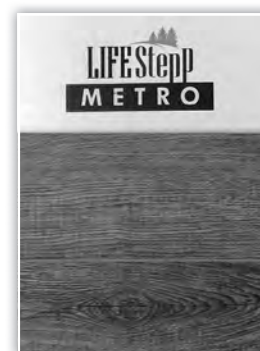
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EMBRUN – Snake Island Roofing is ready to serve you and all your roofing needs.

Located at 1596 Route 400 in Embrun, Ontario, this privately-owned business is focused on good customer service and getting the job done. With business hours set at 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Saturday, Snake Island Roofing is on the job and ready to work.

Owned and operated by George St-

Pierre, Snake Island Roofing has been in operation for more than 20 years. In addition to friendly professional service for both commercial and residential projects, Snake Island Roofing offers free estimates.

Products and services: commercial roofing contractor; commercial roofing; chimney repair; cedar shake; asphalt roof; animal damage roof repair; flat roof; gable roof; farm roofing; and emergency roof

repair. Specialties: eavestroughs; barn repair; asphalt shingles; garage roofing; steel roofing; and wind damage repair.

Keeping it old school and personal, Snake Island Roofing can be contacted at 613-720-7663 for more information and to discuss how this company can meet your roofing needs. So, don't wait, call Snake Island Roofing now. You will be greeted with a friendly and helpful voice on the other end of the line. Happy roofing!



How to simplify your spring cleaning

After a long winter cooped up inside, and with warmer weather on the horizon, now's the perfect opportunity to thoroughly clean your home. Here are a few tips

that can make spring cleaning easier.

Clean from top to bottom

Even if you use a cloth or brush designed to trap and hold dust, there are sure

to be particles that get swept into the air as you clean. Since dust settles, however, you can catch any remaining debris as you work your way toward the floor.

Choose the right tools

Invest in quality equipment to ensure your cleaning is as effective as possible. For example, using a vacuum with a HEPA filter will significantly reduce the number of particles that get recirculated into the air. Similarly, a strong sponge will hold up to scrubbing

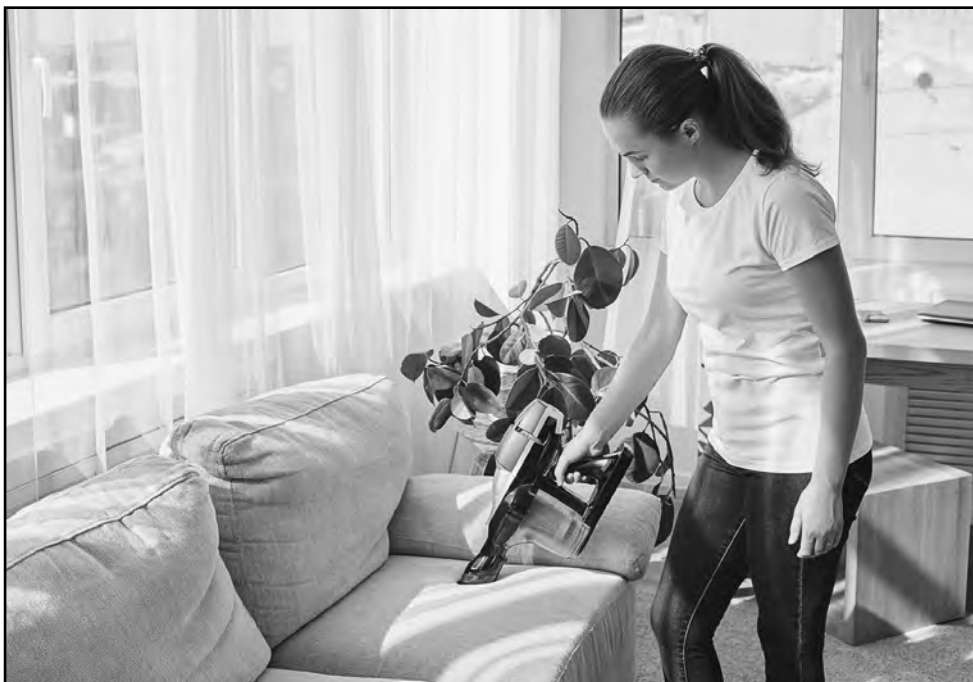
even the toughest stains if it's paired with the right cleaning product.

Use your tools correctly

If your vacuum has several attachments, alternate between them to effectively clean blinds, curtains, fabric lampshades, armchairs and narrow spaces. Do you have a high-

performance washer? If so, take the time to read the labels on your rugs, cushions and other decorative pieces so you can wash them using the right settings.

Visit local stores to find all the cleaning products and equipment you need to make your home shine this spring.



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Challenging but exciting times for the real estate market

Making sense of the current real estate market these days is a challenge for buyers and sellers.

As anyone who has been paying attention to the current market can see things are actually pretty insane out there. I have been in the rural Real Estate business for over 15 years now and this is my first experience with a super HOT Seller's market that extends way beyond the borders of the City of Ottawa. Now there is both good news and bad news. Right now is an excellent time to sell your property. The inventory is flying off the shelves and all the buyers looking for a property are competing, strongly, for what comes onto the market.

This leads to multiple offers with well above asking price and little to absolutely no conditions. Sellers can relay their preferred closing dates, and any inclusions and exclusions. Buyers just want to be the one to win that property. The bad news? Ya, that's for those buyers out there. Finding a property is extremely difficult, and very stressful. It can and most likely will take quite a few different attempts before you win a bid. This is where you must try to not become too emotionally attached to any particular property, but do not despair, we will certainly help guide you on this crazy tour and get you into your new home.

Our recommendations for buyers- first thing, speak with your mortgage broker. It is not enough to just get yourself a pre-approval, you must have a very in depth conversation about exactly what you can and can't submit with your offers. Be prepared! Some properties will include pre-listing inspections, but most do not. If you can, we would even recommend you

consider a second showing where you can hire a building inspector to check it out for you then, prior to the offer presentation date. You must be comfortable with your bids and able and ready to make informed decisions about what you are prepared to offer, both with money, and conditions.

As always, make sure you consider using your trusted, local Real Estate agent to guide you whether you are selling or buying. We are here to help you navigate all the paperwork and nuances to make sure that you are satisfied and happy.

*Kim Monkhouse
The Oldford Team*



A space dedicated to your well-being is a must in 2021

Calm and inspiring spaces are becoming increasingly popular. To design your own little wellness retreat, choose a spot in your home that's as removed as possible from all noise and activity.

Once you've selected a location, surround yourself with colours that evoke nature such as sky blue, forest green and stone grey. Be sure to have at least one live plant nearby.

Additionally, consider including a comfortable chair, a soft mat and decorative or meditation cushions. A lamp emitting a soft glow or a light fixture with a dimmer switch can be useful for lighting the space according to your preferences.

Once the space is set up, use it for meditating, daydreaming, reading,



breathing deeply, writing in a diary or listening to music. In 2021, a respite from the stresses of everyday life may be exactly what you need.

Finding the right home for the right family can be a bit of a puzzle.



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Jason Munro Plumbing and Heating

CHESTERVILLE – The pandemic may have presented challenges for many industries not to mention individuals but heating and plumbing needs have never been greater.

Jason Munro Plumbing and Heating has been as busy as they have ever been despite the pandemic.

The Chesterville business is a family one. Jason, and his wife Angela look after it employing a staff of five.

The family business has been serving North Dundas and the surrounding areas including Winchester, Chesterville, Morrisburg, Iroquois, Kemptville, Cornwall, and Ottawa for over 30 years.

Jason's father Gary Munro started his business in 1985.

Jason began working alongside his father when he was around 16.

"I went to school and got my gas and oil technician licences. This is all I have ever done except for working on a farm as a kid," said Jason.

"It is a lot of work but if you like doing it, it's not work."

Even with a staff of five the local company is busier than ever before.

Rural Ontario has its share of older homes with any number of plumbing and heating situations. Years of well-intended plumbing repairs and furnace upgrades often result in a need to eventually call a professional.

Jason believes working on older homes with unique plumbing and heating situations is always a challenge, but one he is ready for.

Spending more time at home has revealed to many homeowners plumbing and heating upgrades that they did not have



Jason Munro Plumbing and Heating has been serving North and South Dundas and the surrounding area since 1985. Founded by Gary Munro on the right, now retired, the family business continues to provide great service to the community through his son Jason.

Courtesy Photo

time for in the past.

Now that their focus is on where they live they want to get these projects done.

As people settle down to pass the pandemic at home they want to make where they live as comfortable and efficient as possible.

The pandemic has affected what kind of home improvement projects people want to have done.

Jason Munro Plumbing and Heating has already received a great many calls for information regarding air conditioning and home projects.

Jason said, "Residential Air Conditioning demand increased a lot due to

so many people working from home last summer and I'm sure it will be the same this year, so for anyone debating as to whether

or not they are going to install an air conditioner this season, they shouldn't wait too long or everyone gets booked up."

Making your home and backyard ready for a summer you expect will feature more stay at home moments means you want to make your space as nice as possible.

"A lot of people are planning their backyard projects and natural gas/propane pool heaters are a common item this time of year, as well as running piping for natural gas/propane barbecues," said Jason.

The plumbing and heating company works on and serves, water pumps and softeners, residential and commercial properties. Installation and repairs, propane and natural gas, hydronic boilers, in-floor heating systems, Air conditioning, fireplaces, ventilation and is WETT certified.

For more information about Jason Munro Plumbing and Heating you can go to: jasonmunroplumbingandheating.com or you can email them at: office@munroplumbingandheating.com

They are located at 14012 Gibeault Rd, Chesterville and their phone number is 613-448-9000.

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The average timelines for popular renovation projects

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. Working with skilled and experienced contractors can ensure projects go smoothly and are completed promptly. Timing is a big consideration for homeowners as they begin renovating their homes, and the home improvement experts at HomeAdvisor note that the following are some general timelines for popular renovation projects.

Home addition: Short of a full-scale demolition and rebuild, home additions are the most time-consuming projects homeowners can undertake. HomeAdvisor notes that its survey of customers who recently completed home addition projects reported that the average time from start to finish was between three and four months. Certain variables, including the scale of the project and the local permits process, can extend the time it takes to complete a home addition.

Kitchen remodel: Scale is a big factor to consider when estimating the time it takes to complete various home improvement projects, and kitchen remodels are no exception. Some



HomeAdvisor users reported projects taking as long as four months, though the average time reported was roughly six weeks. Projects that require major overhauls like rearranging the plumbing and moving walls will likely take longer

than more cosmetic projects that are limited to replacing cabinets and countertops.

Bathroom remodel: More than 1,000 homeowners surveyed by HomeAdvisor reported that bathroom remodels took

about 4.5 weeks from start to finish. Small-scale remodels that focus on painting the walls a fresh colour and replacing existing tiles can be completed in less than two weeks. But like with kitchen remodels, bathroom remodels that involve replacing plumbing fixtures and removing walls figure to take much longer than that.

Siding installation: HomeAdvisor users report that new siding projects take roughly two weeks from start to finish. That estimate is the same regardless of which materials homeowners are replacing and installing.

Replacement windows: Homeowners who want to replace all the windows in their home can expect such a project to take roughly three weeks. HomeAdvisor notes that such a timeline need not concern homeowners worried that they will be forced to brave the elements during the length of the project. Much of a contractor's time during a window replacement project will be spent on upfront measuring and then ensuring a tight fit once the windows have been installed.

3 Tips to help you get approved for a mortgage

If you want to buy a home, you'll probably need to take out a mortgage. Here are some tips to help you get approved.

1. Improve your credit score

Before you apply for a mortgage, review your credit score. This is the number lenders use to evaluate your credit risk and determine if you're a good loan candidate. The higher your credit score, the better your mortgage rate is likely to be.

To improve your score, pay your bills on time, keep



your credit balances low and reduce the amount of debt you owe.

2. Pay off debts and avoid

incurring new ones

Another important factor that mortgage lenders look at is your debt-to-income ratio. The lower your debt is

compared to your income, the more likely you are to be approved for a home loan. In addition to paying off existing debts, you should reduce the amount of new debt you incur. Take a careful look at how you spend your money and figure out where you can cut back on expenses.

3. Save for the biggest down payment possible

The minimum down payment you need to get a mortgage is five per cent of the home's total cost. However, if you can afford it, a 20 per cent down payment will lower the balance of your mortgage and alleviate the need for

private mortgage insurance, thereby reducing your monthly payments.

If you don't currently meet the requirements for a home loan, don't give up. Instead, take steps to improve your financial situation and, once you're in a better position, try again.

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Four factors to consider when selecting flooring

When it comes to flooring, homeowners have a range of options. Popular choices include hardwood, vinyl, terrazzo, laminate, ceramic, cork, natural stone and bamboo. Here are four factors to consider if you need to update your floors.

1. Function

Do you have kids or pets? Do you like to exercise in a particular part of the house? Opt for flooring that's practical and suits your lifestyle. For instance, while blonde hardwood and white marble floors are stylish, they may not be the best choice if you have a cat or dog with dark fur. Additionally, you may want to avoid flooring that's excessively hard in rooms where you spend a lot of time on your feet.

2. Atmosphere

Flooring is an integral part of your home's appearance, so make sure you choose a type that contributes to the style you want to create. For example, natural stone generally provides a Zen-like ambiance, whereas blonde hardwood will add warmth to a space. If you want a retro vibe, consider pastel terrazzo. For a more sophisticated look, opt for dark laminate flooring.

When you visit your local stores and suppliers, make sure to compare different flooring samples and seek advice from a qualified salesperson. It's a good idea to bring along photos of the rooms you're renovating.

3. Installation requirements

Before you install new flooring, you may need to update the subfloor. This could be the case if you have heavy flooring that requires extra support. It will also be necessary if you choose to install electrical wiring, plumbing or radiant heating in the subfloor. A qualified professional is always the best person to install new flooring.

4. Upkeep

Some types of floors require maintenance that goes beyond simply sweeping and mopping. For example, you need to periodically apply a sealant to porous flooring such as unglazed tile, limestone and concrete. In the case of hardwood, you need to sand and varnish it every so often. Before you settle on a particular type of flooring, make sure you know what sort of upkeep it requires.

Keep in mind there are professionals who can provide expert advice. Contractors, interior designers and the staff at your local home improvement and furniture stores will be able to recommend specific solutions for your home.



Low-maintenance lawn alternatives

A traditional lawn may not be right for every property nor desired by every homeowner. There is no denying that lawns take time and effort to establish and daily or weekly maintenance to thrive. Homeowners who find that a traditional lawn is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

Wildflower meadow

Homeowners with wide swaths of property may discover meadows are cost- and time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes of seeds or homeowners can use wildflower plug plants throughout areas where grasses are left to grow longer. This natural area can be a home to wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most meadows only require a spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the property for ornamental grasses to grow. The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-maintenance. They won't need much fertilizer and are often resistant to pests as well. Ornamental grasses grow in tufts or sprays and will not require mowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traffic.

Moss

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimic the look of a traditional lawn but won't require mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take over quite rapidly. You will need to protect areas where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

Gravel

Stone and gravel areas can reduce maintenance in the landscape and require very little upkeep. When gravel is installed correctly, weeds may not grow readily. Gravel installation may include laying heavy-duty, semi-permeable landscape fabric, which is available in home improvement centers. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as beautiful.

Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various artificial grass options on the market. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and other lawn tools.

Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.

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3 springtime home improvement projects

Are you thinking about updating your home this spring? If so, these three projects are perfectly suited to the season.

expanding it to create zones for eating, cooking and relaxing.

1. Upgrade the landscaping

Spring is the perfect time to upgrade flower beds and walkways or even install a pool or hot tub. Your garden will have time to grow in and you'll be able to enjoy your new outdoor space all summer long.

3. Replace the siding

If your siding took a beating over the winter, now's the right time to replace it. Choose a quality product and consider using a more modern colour. Cool tones like grey, blue and green have been popular in recent years.

2. Rebuild or refinish the deck

If your deck has seen better days, this is the ideal time to repair or rebuild it. Consider

Spring is the best time of year to tackle most outdoor projects. Just be sure to get to them before the hotter weather arrives.

The best storage solutions for every room in your home

Did you finish your spring cleaning only to realize you need more storage space? Here's a room by room look at some of the best solutions available.

Kitchen

Install hidden trays under your cabinets to hide chargers, coffee pods and other essentials. In addition, placing pull-out shelves in cupboards will make it easier to organize your items.

Bathroom

Store your cleaning supplies on a Lazy Susan to make them easy to find when you need them. Use baskets to hold things like

bath towels or toilet paper.

Living room

Put a bowl on the coffee table to stylishly corral remote controls, magazines and other items. Additionally, a storage ottoman is perfect for holding throws and pillows.

Bedrooms

Take advantage of the space under your bed by adding drawers or using under-the-bed storage boxes.

Garage

Install overhead racks near the ceiling. This allows you to incorporate storage in the garage

without sacrificing parking space. Use this area to hold stuff you don't need to access often, like seasonal decorations and sporting gear.

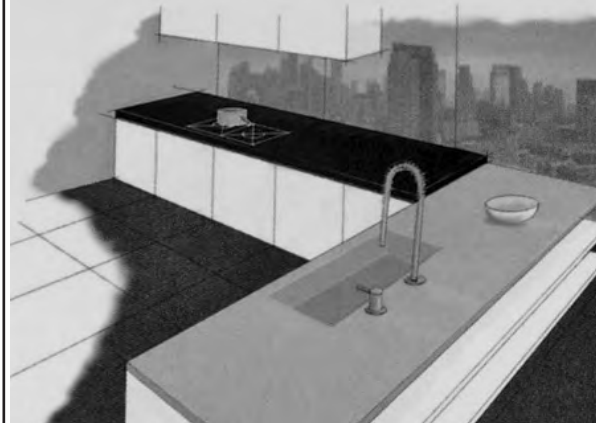
Workshop, office or craft room

Mount a pegboard above your work area and use it to organize your tools or supplies. By hanging things on the wall, they'll be easier to find and you'll free up some room.

In addition, be sure to use the vertical space in your home. Install shelves above doors, get extra tall bookcases and put hooks on the back of closet doors.

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 **Here's How.**  

Pest-proof your home

Household pests such as rodents, flies, ants, spiders, cockroaches, bedbugs may find their way to infiltrate inside the house, which can lead to serious health issues, distress, and structural damages. Thus, pest management has gained significant importance in the recent years.

The global pest control market forecast was valued at US \$20.6 billion in 2019, and is project-ed to reach US \$30.0 billion by 2027. In Canada, the Pest Control industry is estimated at US \$1.7 billion in 2021, with over 1250 establishments registered in the country, employing over 14,000 people. The COVID-19 outbreak has impacted positively on the global pest control market owing to the support from government bodies that have started offering subsidies to the pest control market key players as reported by Allied Market Research.

Rodents' prevention

Rodents are the most destructive vertebrates in the world; they cause damage to structures and transmit over 45 diseases. Rodents can carry fleas, ticks and lice on their body and pathogens on their feet which increases the spread of disease.

Rats and mice may live outside and indoor. The most found species of rodents in Ontario are the brown Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*) and the house mouse (*Mus musculus*). Both species are originated from Asia, then they spread worldwide. Rats and mice can get through a hole of 1" and 0.5" in diameter, respectively. Prevention is a key in rodents' control: repair cracks and seal any hole around doors, windows and roof to minimize the potential access of rats and mice to the house; remove uncovered garbage from around the house; and control weeds and shrubs in the backyard.

Carpenter ants' prevention

Ants are important components of ecosystems. They existed on earth about 140 million years ago during the Jurassic period. There are more than 12,000 species of ants worldwide, and over 100 species in Canada, some of which are structure-damaging species.

Carpenter ants build their colony preferably in decayed wood softened by fungus which is associated with a moisture problem, or in standing trees (living or dead). Eliminating an existing infestation of carpenter

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ants is a challenge, the nest should be found to destroy the whole colony which is difficult in case of high infestation. The nest can be inside or outside the structure. However, prevention plays an important role in the integrated pest management program for carpenter ants. For example, seal all opening and cracks around the house, inspect the wood fireplace before bringing it inside, store the wood away from the structure foundation, and the structural wood should remain dry.

Bedbugs' prevention

Bedbug (*Cimex lectularius*), is a small insect that feeds only on the blood of humans and animals while they sleep. The infestation with bedbugs may spread in several ways such as: with luggage, on the cloths or shoes, from neighboring apartments, infested furniture, hotels, planes, or any other place with a high movement of people in and out. Blood meals are needed for the adult females to lay eggs and for the larvae to complete their development.

Tips to prevent bedbugs: Inspect used furniture before bringing it into your home, vacuum the mattress and box spring regularly, and if you live in an apartment, seal between the baseboard and floor, and any cracks in the walls.

Asian lady beetle's prevention

The Asian lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridi*) is native to Southeastern Asia and was introduced gradually in the United States since 1960s as a biological

control agent in agriculture to control aphids and other insects of crops. The species spread quickly and reached Canada in 1994. Its infiltration into the buildings may be a source of discomfort affecting the life quality. These beetles may bite if they are in contact with the skin without transferring any diseases. Also, they emit a yellowish fluid with an odour (volatile compounds used in defense against predators) that can stain surfaces.

This insect is attracted to illuminated surfaces, and often seen around windows and light fixtures. They often congregate in attics, wall cavities, and other protected locations. Structures in poor repair with many cracks and openings are most vulnerable to infestation with the Asian lady beetles. Once the beetles are indoors, the easiest way to remove them is with a vacuum cleaner. The house should be inspected from



Rat populations are on the rise in North America. An adult rat trapped in the backyard of a house in Ottawa. Al-Rajab Photo

outside and all cracks in the structure or openings around windows and doors must be sealed. Finally, light traps can be useful for capturing lady beetles in the attic or other inaccessible places.

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A whole new feel, without the move

It seems that many people attribute home improvements to building additions. There is so much more you can do to spruce up your home without getting bogged down in all the hype about expensive lumber and long wait times.

Heather McDonnell, store manager at the Manotick Home Hardware states “The challenges are every where. For example, 14-2 wire went from \$69.99 a spool to \$99.99 a spool practically overnight. ABS pipe is one item that just cannot be kept in stock. As soon as an order arrives it is gone because contractors are buying in bulk.”

“We place orders weekly, but we also have season orders placed six months in advance and our flyer items are ordered three months in advance”, says McDonnell. Like any business, planning happens ahead of time to ensure that supply is adequate but when there is a complete shift in the supply and demand chain it is almost impossible to change the process quick enough to prevent the bottle neck that is occurring now.

A fresh coat of paint is a great way to revive a current space without having to spend a pile of money or wait on a professional contractor to do the work. McDonnell said “Don’t let the current weather deceive you. It is still too early to do outdoor painting. Nighttime temperatures need to be over 10 degrees consistently or the product won’t cure properly.”

Oh no! Feeling overwhelmed and not sure how to make a decision. Looking for that much needed advice? Beauti-Tone has an online tool and app that can assist you in choosing what is right for your design. Check out <https://www.homehardware.ca/en/beauti-tone> for assistance.

The app is a neat tool. If you are a visual person and just need to see what the final project will look like this is your



Building team spirit

Theme days help build employee and customer moral. Western Day was one of the choices. Some of the staff from the Manotick Home Hardware are from left to right Kim Gulis, Sonja Laing, Clarissa Thompson, Adam McCosham (owner), Mike Schaub, Laura Burns, Ashley Lamoureux, and Heather McDonnell (store manager).

Courtesy Photo

answer. Download the app onto your device. Choose the colour you think you would like and then use the camera to bring in your room, yes, this will include the current furniture so you can see what that room will look like with the accessories that you currently have.

Have patience when contacting the local store “we don’t like the lockdown anymore than the customer do, but we are doing the best we can with the given situation and if we have to adapt then so you, because it is good for everyone. Our staff are providing the best service they can, and everyone is going above and beyond to try and keep

customers happy.” says McDonnell. Right now, due to the lockdown, we have contractors and customers expecting same day service and the sheer volume makes that extremely difficult. Tack supply issues on top of that and we have upset customers and emotionally and physically drained staff.”

“Planning ahead is definitely key”, states McDonnell. “don’t expect to buy all of your stuff the week you are planning to start.”

If you are looking to build something new then planning ahead and expect to have additional costs, but if you are looking for something to improve what you already have, take a look at painting and feel like you have bought that new home.



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Spring home painting projects made easy

CORNWALL – Spring means many things to homeowners.

Spring can be an exciting time and at the busy as we come out of winter determined to get all those projects around the home and yard done.

Many homeowners get the urge to do some interior or exterior cleaning up of their home and that usually means doing some painting.

Painting projects can be very simple but usually they turn out to be more difficult than expected.

That's where Glengarry/Cornwall Student Works Painting comes in.

The student driven company is led by third year Ottawa University Biomedical Mechanical Engineering student Danika Longtin.

"I decided to run my business this summer through Student Works to gain experience and skills in business," she said. "I saw the opportunity and jumped at it and now here I am," she said.

Entrepreneurial skills are not easy to come by and operating and managing Glengarry/Cornwall Student Painting touches all of the bases one needs to successfully understand how business works as well



Danika Longtin owns and operates Glengarry/Cornwall Student Works Painting. Courtesy Photo

Entrepreneurial skills are not easy to come by and operating and managing Glengarry/Cornwall Student Painting touches all of the bases one needs to successfully understand how business works as well as how people work together as a team. The range of services covers just about all situations around the home from staining decks to interior and exterior painting.



Courtesy Photo

as how people work together as a team.

The range of services covers just about all situations around the home from staining decks to interior and exterior painting. They also do floor and concrete sealing and enameling, and all of the washing, cleaning and prep work involved in a painting job. They also paint

aluminum siding.

Longtin explained that she personally goes out to do estimates and supervises each job as it is being done.

She currently has a staff of four and is hoping to round out her staff to eight.

The company is already booked up for the next few weeks and the summer season has just begun.

Longtin said she has a goal for what she would like to see accomplished by the end of the year and at the moment she is half way there.

"Basically we are trying to book all of the work during this school semester and once summer comes we can focus on the jobs," she said.

"This is a great experience learning how to run a business," she said.

Student Works has 200 operators across Canada. Because of the scope of the program they are able to offer a three year written guarantee, they carry \$5million in liability insurance, their employees have full WSIB coverage.

For more information about Glengarry/Cornwall Paintings and to book a free estimate please call 613 227 1548 or email: danikalongtin@gmail.com

Glengarry/Cornwall Paintings covers a wide area. You can see where you fit in by checking these postal codes K0C, K6K, K6J, K6H

"We have a 100 per cent satisfaction process, we will not leave until you're satisfied with the work," said Longtin.

She is currently offering a 10 per cent early bird discount.

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