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Briefly

The North Dundas Chamber of Commerce hosts survey

NORTH DUNDAS – The survey will look at how the pandemic and stay-at-home-orders have affected businesses within the township. This data will assist the chamber to actively seek ways to improve and support the business community; with information derived from this short survey, the township can begin to understand how to best support and identify business needs and requirements as they grow and move through the pandemic and beyond.

Business Health Check Survey: <http://bit.ly/NDChamberBusinessHealthSurvey>.

The survey will be open until Mon., May 24 at 12 p.m.

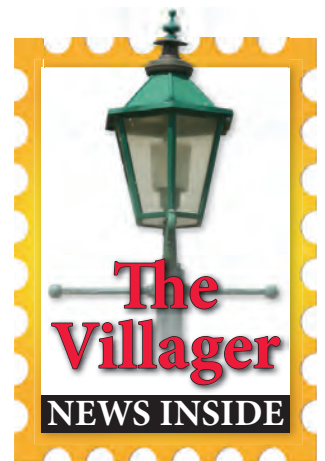
All quantitative responses from businesses will be summarized as percentages. Qualitative comments will be grouped without identifying businesses. Both results will be reported publicly to facilitate recovery for our business community.

Weed spraying season

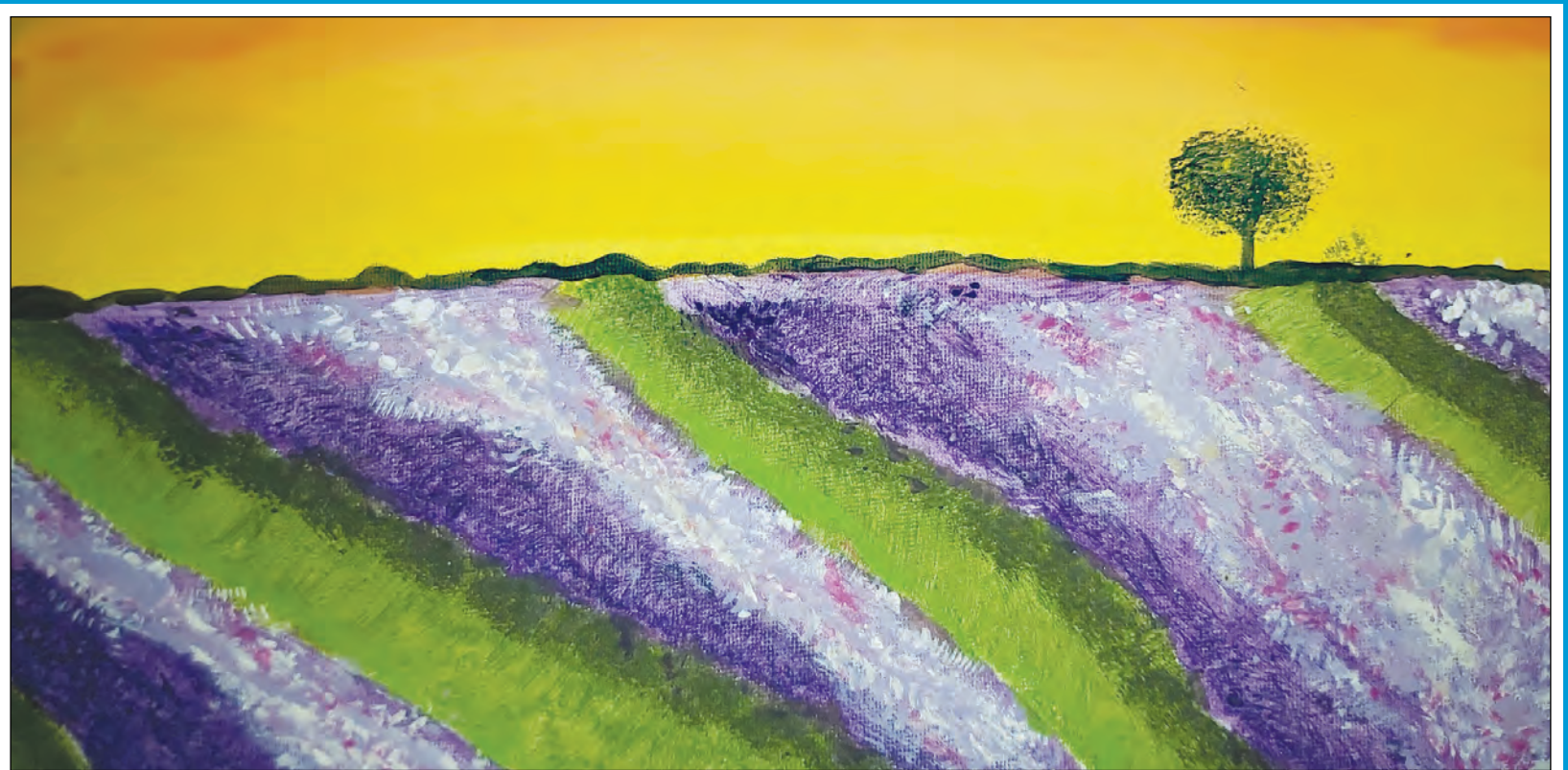
SD&G – As part of the region's vegetation management program, the United Counties of Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, and all the local municipalities within SDG will be spraying noxious weeds. The work is scheduled to start on Mon., May 17 and should be completed by June 18. **For more information see page 7.**



THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD
Serving Stormont and Dundas Counties since 1894



PM40050631R8905 **Volume 128, Number 45 Chesterville, Ontario Thursday, May 20, 2021 Single Copy \$1.00 (HST included)**



Colourful entries in spring art contest

The South Dundas Parks and Recreation's Spring Art Contest was a popular event. The contest winner was Makenna Thomas who along with all other entries created beautiful art depicting scenes of spring. The top prize is a \$100 gift card to a South Dundas business of their choice. **See story on page 6.**

Courtesy Photo

North Stormont denies resolution to support paid sick days

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

BERWICK – The majority of the township of North Stormont's council voted against a resolution requesting the Ontario government require employers to provide no less than five paid sick days annually to workers.

The motion was raised during the township's May 4 council meeting, following receipt of a letter from the City of Cambridge asking that council support their resolution. In addition to the minimum five paid sick days annually, the resolution also requested that the province "provide necessary funding, fiscal relief, and/or support to employers so that all workers in Ontario have access to no less than 10 paid sick days annually in the event of a declared infectious disease emergency, such as the COVID-19 virus, and ensure all Ontario workers have access to protected and paid emergency leave, so care can be provided to children, parents, and/or other family members

Continued on page 3

New detachment commander for SD&G OPP

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

CORNWALL – Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, (SD&G) has a new Ontario Provincial Police, (OPP) detachment commander.

Inspector Marc Hemmerick has been selected to lead the counties more than 100 officers into what he expects to be an effective and efficient future for its members and the communities they serve in.

Hemmerick is an OPP veteran who was raised in Cornwall, experienced policing in different parts of the province, in both urban and rural communities and is now ideally positioned to share his progressive attitude about policing with SD&G.

One of the challenges Hemmerick believes members of the SD&G OPP face is the sometimes-negative impression residents have of their police force.

He said, "The greatest policing challenge I see right now is actually the negative publicity and media coverage that the police are receiving in Canada.

From my personal experience, I have seen bad things be done by police officers but in comparison to all of the great things that police officers do for community, day in and day out and the great work they put in, there is absolutely no comparison."

Hemmerick said, "My number one priority actually is to ensure that we are highlighting the fantastic work that the members of this detachment are doing for their communities so we can push back against that negative narrative."

The new commander has a healthy interest in how social issues and criminal activities sometimes merge, making a police force job more challenging and often more difficult.

Continued on page 2

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WINCHESTER – Well maintained 4-plex with \$25,885 NOI. This all brick building has 2 units on each level - each with their own electrical panels, entrances and 2 bedrooms. MLS #1241591

New detachment commander

Continued from the front

“My views are very progressive when it comes to policing,” he said.

“I certainly believe that our number one mandate is public safety, and I can certainly tell you when I began my career and for a long time the police were the go-to service, whether it was a social problem or health problem.”

Different community associations already deal with a variety of social and health issues that can result in the police becoming involved.

“We are not experts when it comes to social and health problems; those are out of our expertise. I am a huge believer in the collaborative approach [in that] I do feel that public safety being number one that the police have a role to play, but I also feel we should be partnering up with proper community partners in order to ensure that public health and social problems do not become criminal ones; we have a major social role to play.”

When the police and other social services can seamlessly collaborate with each other, the community benefits.

“If you look at any community satisfaction

survey in regard to the service residents get from the OPP, we are always scoring tremendously high, well above 90 per cent.

When you look at the crime scene index that is kept by Stats Canada, this is one of the top 50 safest communities in all of Canada, but we still need positive education and interactions. It comes back to the idea of collaboration,” he said.

Hemmerick said the police are becoming more socially aware of its place and what is expected of them.

“The public’s expectation of us has evolved. They are demanding more accountability,” he said, adding, “How do we better collaborate with our community partners to ensure public safety but also to connect those people who are in crisis or in need with [of] the best services possible.”

Hemmerick grew up in Cornwall.

After winning a scholarship to a university in Michigan. The athletic degree he achieved left him wanting something more.

“Once that was completed the degree did not match up with what I saw myself doing with the rest of my life, which was health and physical education,” he said.

Growing up he had a fondness for first



Time for the spring cleanup in Winchester

The Royal Canadian Legion Winchester Branch 108 held a road cleanup day on Sat., May 15. The event is part of the Legion’s annual spring ditch cleaning program. The Legion work crew assembled in the Legion’s parking lot and then headed to an adopted stretch of County Rd. 43 from Highway 31 to Jennings Road. The group collected eight oversized garbage bags of refuse. Much of the garbage collected was made up of Tim Hortons’ coffee cups and take-out containers. There were many discarded masks and even a Tim Hortons’ cup filled with masks. On a positive note, there were fewer beer cans found in the ditches. Left to right are: Maria Fanning, Sharron Murray, Blake and Janine Fawcett, Gord Fanning, Shannon Sel, Bruce Morris and Gil Yendale.

Morin Photo

responders.

“My admiration for first responders and my sense of community and giving back to the community matched up. I got a degree in police foundations in Ottawa and was hired by the OPP.”

He worked for years in an urban setting such as Toronto and then was transferred in 2008 to the SD&G detachment. There he served as a front-line patrol officer.

He left the detachment in 2017 and was seconded to the Akwesasne Mohawk Police and worked in the

Hawkesbury detachment and Lanark County and was also the regional manager for traffic and Marine at the OPP Eastern Region Headquarters.

In April, when he went back to Hawkesbury, he was named as the detachment commander.

Hemmerick believes that leadership is made up of three important foundations: integrity, strong communication, and empathy. “If you do not have those three legs you cannot be a good leader,” he said. “I [take] the lead from the front

leadership style. I would never ask someone to do something I was not willing to do myself.” That attitude is demonstrated in his relationship with his community and the social partnerships he intends to foster.

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING CONCERNING A PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT 12574 BARKLEY ROAD WEST PART LOT 26, CONCESSION 7 (FORMER GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF WILLIAMSBURG)

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of South Dundas will hold a Public Meeting on the 14th day of June 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office, to consider a proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment under Section 34 of the *Planning Act*.

This Public Meeting is to allow the Public to comment on the request for the change of zoning for the property noted above. This farm lot was subject to a consent application, which resulted in the severance of a surplus dwelling lot from a vacant farm parcel comprising the bulk of the property.

This Zoning By-law amendment is needed to fulfill a condition of approval of the aforementioned consent application wherein no new permanent residential uses are to be allowed on the retained vacant farm parcel zoned Agricultural. This Zoning By-law amendment is also needed to reduce the required minimum lot area of the retained agricultural lot from 300,000 m² (74 acres) to 169,968 m² (42 acres), and to reduce the minimum lot area of the severed lot from 4,000 m² (0.98 acres) to 3,358 m² (0.83 acres) and front yard depth from 15 m (49 ft) to 10 m (32.8 ft).

This By-law would change the retained parcel from Agricultural to Agricultural Special Exception 71 (A-71) and the severed parcel from Agricultural to Agricultural Special Exception 72 (A-72).

This amendment is related to the following Consent Applications: B-96-20. The Key Plan identifies the location of approximately 17.3 ha (42.83) of affected land. This Zoning By-law Amendment is not related to any Minor Variance, Official Plan Amendment, or Plan of Subdivision.

ANY PERSON may attend the Public Meeting via Webex call and/or make written or verbal representation either in support of or in opposition to the proposed Amendment.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the Public Meeting or make written submissions to the Municipality of South Dundas before the By-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Municipality of South Dundas to the Local Planning Advisory Tribunal.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at the Public Meeting or make written submissions to the Municipality of South Dundas before the By-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Local Planning Advisory Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.



For additional information about this matter, including information about appeal rights, please contact the Municipal Planning Consultant via email at planner@southdundas.com.

DATED at the Municipality of South Dundas this 20th day of May 2021.

Planning Department
Municipality of South Dundas
34 Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 740
Morrisburg ON K0C 1X0
Telephone: (613) 543-2673
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New vehicle equipment for Mountain Fire Station

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

MOUNTAIN – North Dundas Mountain Fire Station number 2 firefighters have added another important tool to their fire fighting toolkit.

The fire department used funds from their fundraising efforts to chip in \$15,000 toward the cost of a much-needed new squad truck.

The new pickup truck will be used as one more vehicle to be used by firefighters to get to a fire or fire department event such as a meeting as well as for cleanup operations and some equipment transportation to and from a fire.

This particular truck is replacing one that was purchased after the 1998 ice storm and that one as well was financed through fundraising.

Mountain Station chief Ray Sherrer said, “My goal in Mountain was to have enough trucks so that we could respond to a fire and not have to use our own vehicles. We can also use it for cleanup [and] throw fire hoses in the back.”

Township insurance does not cover the personal vehicles of firefighters.

When the station has enough station vehicles to use, they can get all of their firefighters to the scene of a fire quickly and safely.

The truck arrived at the station in January, but modifications had to be made.

Battlesfield, the company that built the new Mountain fire truck, installed all of the necessary lights and Curtis Sears provided the stickers.

The station members strive to be progressive, and look for the kinds of equipment purchases that will make them more effective and efficient.

They host two major fundraising events each year to purchase equipment.

In the past they have purchased special washing machines to wash the heavy firefighting suits they put on when fighting a fire, as well as drying racks for the same bunker equipment so that it is ready to go back out to a fire as soon as possible.

The Jaws of Life was also purchased through community donations as well as items like chainsaws.

Sherrer said, “We are fortunate at this end of the township that we have the communities support.”

The chief said the Mountain community has always been extremely supportive of their firefighters and fundraising efforts.

The chief stressed that whenever possible he wanted to spare taxpayers from footing the cost of equipment and that was why community support was so important when it came to fundraising.



The new squad fire truck for North Dundas Mountain Fire Station number 2 will make a big difference to firefighters as they serve their community. Courtesy Photo

Hospital's sexual abuse programs operating through pandemic



CORNWALL – National Nursing Week has come and gone however this entire month is also Sexual Assault Prevention Month.

Krystie Small is an on-call nurse with our Assault and Sexual Abuse Program (ASAP), at the Cornwall Community Hospital, and she also works in the hospital's Women and Children's Health Department.

The ASAP is available for any person who has been sexually assaulted or who has been in an abusive relationship, and it offers four types of services: emergency care,

counselling, referrals, and outreach and training.

ASAP Nurses, like Krystie, are on-call for when someone who has recently been sexually assaulted or is a victim of intimate partner violence (domestic violence) presents themselves to the Emergency Department, where they help with both clinical and compassionate care.

“We are doing our best to safely navigate through the restrictions to provide this essential service in our community. Phone and virtual sessions, and some in-person sessions with

extra precautions, has allowed us to provide the same supportive care during this pandemic. We want our ASAP patients to know: we are still here, we still care, and you are not alone,” said an ASAP spokesperson.

More information on the CCH Assault and Sexual Abuse Program can be found at: www.cornwallhospital.ca/en/AbuseProgram.

To reach ASAP, come to the Emergency Department and ask for an ASAP nurse, or for counselling call 613-938-4240 extensions 4567 or 4658.

North Stormont sick days

Continued from the front

who may become ill and that all workers may receive paid time off to enable them to receive the COVID-10 vaccine.”

While Coun. Steve Densham said he understood the request and the need for workers to have paid sick days, he felt that asking businesses who are already struggling to survive to pay for those sick days would be too much. He suggested that businesses that are doing well are probably already doing this or will do this.

“I think what we're seeing through COVID-19 is a lot of businesses are struggling right now,” Densham said. “There are many businesses that are doing well, and I think that those doing well will

do the right thing.”

With no other councillors offering to speak on the topic, Densham continued. He explained that his decision to vote against this motion is due to the way it is worded.

“Those employers who are struggling through COVID-19, this could break their back, and those we're trying to give sick days to would be out of [work],” he said. “I'm okay with sick days. I just don't think it should land on the backs of the small businesses. It's the way it's worded.”

Mayor Jim Wert said he thought the province had already addressed the issue. A vote was taken. Although she refused to comment, Coun. Roxane Villeneuve was the sole supporter of the resolution.



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NOTICE OF PASSING

OF BY-LAW NO. 2021-35 BEING A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NO. 2018-43 BY THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH DUNDAS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of The Corporation of the Township of North Dundas passed By-law No. 2021-35, on the 12th day of May, 2021, under Section 28 of the *Planning Act, R.S.O 1990* as amended.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or public body may appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the By-law by filing with the Clerk of The Corporation of the Township of North Dundas not later than the 8th day of June, 2021 a notice of appeal, setting out the reasons in support of the appeal, accompanied by the fee prescribed under the *Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act* (\$1,100.00 payable to the Minister of Finance).

AND TAKE NOTICE once the 20-day appeal period is complete, the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry will make a formal announcement when the Regional Incentives Program will be accepting applications.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or the group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to the council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION related to the Revised Community Improvement Plan and By-law No. 2021-35 are available by contacting Stephen Mann, Economic Development & Communications Officer during regular office hours at the address noted above.

By-law No. 2021-35 authorized amendments to the Regional Incentives Program within the entire Township of North Dundas. The amendments are intended to modify the eligibility criteria relating to the program and to adjust the funding parameters of the grant categories. The modifications are also intended to correct technical errors and clarify policies for ease of use and interpretation.

The SDG Regional Incentives Program and Action Plan was implemented in 2018 after a year of review and public consultations. The program supports strategic economic development initiatives in the following areas:

- Agriculture-related uses, and facility improvement projects.
- Adaptive re-use of commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings.
- Development of roofed accommodations.

The SDG Regional Incentives Program is incorporated into each local municipal Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and offers additional economic development tools. The proposed amendments would only apply to the County-related portions of the CIP and would be identical for all municipalities. The complete by-law is available at this link: [2021-05-12_Meeting-Package.pdf\(northdundas.com\)](http://2021-05-12_Meeting-Package.pdf(northdundas.com))



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EDITORIAL & Opinion

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Are you up to the challenge?

Last week we announced we were holding a Sunflower challenge. This week we are providing you with the criteria for this competition.

We have made the rules so that everyone can participate in this initiative.

We look forward to the participating entries and even more so, the colour that will be prevalent in our community.

With the various varieties you can grow a sunflower in a pot, on your balcony, or in a flower bed. This can be an individual activity, family, business or group entry.

We challenge you to plant those sunflower seeds and share the beauty of this magnificent flower.

There are great prizes to be won.

Watch the upcoming issues for tips about the beautiful sunflower.

See page 6 for details.

**Show us your community spirit!
Spread the sunshine!**

NDDHS Report

By Jamie Wilson
Student Council Communications



Thankful Thursday

For the last two weeks, we have had "Thankful Thursday." Each Thursday, the student council and some of our staff members hop on to social media to share what they are thankful for; accompanied by some cheerful photos. I am delighted to say that we have had many people sharing what they are thankful for in the comments. Remembering the things that you enjoy and the things you are grateful for is an excellent way to maintain a positive attitude when times are tough. Over the last two weeks, we have seen that there are still so many things to enjoy while we are all stuck at home. We encourage everyone to start their own Thankful Thursday and look out for ours on the school Facebook page.

Last Fri., May 14, we had our second virtual Spirit Day: Tie-Dye and Concert T-shirt Day. Students and staff participated by emailing a photo of themselves to school administration or sending them to the student council Instagram. This Spirit Day saw more participation than the first one, and we hope that this enthusiasm continues to grow.

This week will be our first environmental challenge. Inspired by the beautiful weather and spring growth, we challenge you to go outside and take a picture of a plant. This can be your favourite spring flower or, better yet, a plant you do not recognize. Can you find out what it is called? Students and staff have all week to complete this task and can send in their photos just like they do with spirit days by sending them to the student council Instagram. Just remember to not touch any plants that you are unfamiliar with as they could be irritants to the skin or trigger allergies. Our planet has so many beautiful things to discover; we hope to encourage everyone to get outside and be curious about the world around them.

Editorial

Who do our politicians work for?

I ask this question because it has become all too apparent that all levels of government – municipal, provincial, and federal – seem to be under the impression that the only residents they work for are the ones who own businesses. Last time I checked, our elected officials are supposed to be representing all of us, regardless of our economic status.

I could start talking about minimum wage and how it is ridiculously low or how a living wage for our area has been calculated to be roughly \$18 per hour, which still would only cover the basics. But that's not what I want to focus on today, so we'll save that for later. Let's talk about mandatory paid sick days for all employees, especially those making minimum wage, you know, the wage that doesn't completely cover rent and utilities, let alone food,

transportation, medicine, and so on.

In the last few months, several letters have been received by local municipal councils throughout the area asking for support in calling for mandatory sick days for essential workers. Of the several councils I cover, only one has pulled one of these letters for discussion. The rest have simply "received and filed" these letters. Unfortunately, there has been no mention of the residents who are essential workers who are still making minimum wage while also risking their lives to serve others during this third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, let alone the fact they have no safety net if they become sick.

The Township of North Stormont has so far been the only council whose meeting I've attended that has not buried all letters asking for support for paid sick days. Only one councillor was brave

enough to speak up and when he did, although he sympathized with workers, he expressed concern for the small business owners who might lose their businesses if they had to pay someone to stay home sick. If the business closed, the worker would then be out of a job, he said.

Let's imagine that an essential worker making minimum wage is feverish, vomiting, and almost certainly contagious (with or without COVID-19) and he or she now must choose between going to work or staying home. Sounds simple, right? It should be, but unfortunately for those without paid sick days, it's not. Staying home means not getting paid. If regular pay isn't enough to cover bills and buy food, what happens when pay is even smaller due to illness? Most essential workers will force themselves to go to work, so they don't lose the basics, like food, heat, hydro, and a place to live. This means they take longer

to get better, and they potentially infect everyone they interact with at work.

Meanwhile, if a small business owner is forced to pay an employee who is home sick, they risk nothing. They still pay the same amount. They may have to work themselves and that could mean they lose some time and energy for the sake of their business. Worst case scenario, they pay another employee to fill in. Is that going to mean the business owner's family is going to go hungry? Will their utilities at home be shut off? Will they lose their home because they couldn't afford the rent? In all probability, no.

Yet, at this one meeting where paid sick days were discussed, only one council member spoke up, but in favour of businesses. Another voted in favour of the workers but refused to comment. Four politicians, like all those in neighbouring townships, remained silent. Why?

Sandy Casselman

The Road Home

Carolyn Thompson Goddard

Facebook is quite the information gathering place on the world-wide net. In addition to all the upcoming events your "friends" are interested in, there are lots and lots of questions to answer, such as what was the best thing your mom made (in my case she made the best scalloped potatoes ever), what would you say to your teenaged self (I would say "enjoy yourself") something about the look from your Mom that stopped you talking (yup remember that for sure) and then there was the one about a restaurant that you ate at, but is no longer there.

Among the lunch counter at Woolworths, Miss Cornwall and a few fast-food restaurants, a former resident of Chesterville mentioned Kilby's. For those of us who grew up in Chesterville in the 60's and 70's the mention of Kilby's Restaurant brings back a flood of wonderful memories. It certainly was a hub for the people of all ages back in the day. In addition to having the only jukebox in town and some of the best, greasy French fries ever known, I think the real attraction to the restaurant were Alice and Al Kilby.

These two people have to have been two of the most understanding, compassionate people who walked the earth. If you were having a bad day and sat down at the counter looking sad or lonely, Alice would take a moment to bring you a glass of water and a chance to "spill the beans" about what was going on. She was also known to reduce the price of a snack to make sure the growing boy or girl could have a bite to eat. Al was generally in the kitchen cooking up a hamburger with the works accompanied by some of those delicious fries. If the discussions in the booths got out of hand, he sure could move quickly to quiet things down while Alice made sure the food didn't burn.

I remember a few times as a youngster stopping in the restaurant while out on a shopping excursion with Mom. After spending some time at several of the stores, which were along the Main Street promenade in those days, our tired feet and empty stomachs required a refreshing stop at Kilby's. After ordering her pie and tea and a small plate of French fries and gravy for me, she and Alice would have a great visit while I

swirled around on the stool at the counter.

A few of my childhood friends have commented about how they had to sneak into Kilby's because their parents didn't want them hanging out there. I know Mom didn't mind a bit if any of us frequented Kilby's, maybe because we were a phone call away at Kilby's, and that Alice or Al would make sure we were on our way if needed by her. Mom knew there were a lot of kids hanging around outside on a warm summer evening or inside when it was colder, but she also knew that Al and Alice were there to make sure everyone could safely listen to the music, visit with friends, and enjoy some delicious food as well.

For me, although the restaurant is gone and the beautiful couple have passed on, Kilby's Restaurant will always be an important part of my youth. In my mind I can at will travel back to the booths in the back, chat with friends, listen to the music on the jukebox, order some food at the counter and watch the world go by outside. I also know that Alice will be there asking how my day was, and would I like gravy with my fries.



Etcetera Publications (Chesterville) Inc.

Publisher
Etcetera Publications Inc.

Editor
Joseph Morin

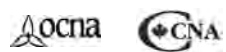
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Proudly printed in North Dundas.

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

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Telephone: (613) 448-2321

Fax: (613) 448-3260

Published Thursdays by Etcetera Publications (Chesterville) Inc.



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It takes a community

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

AVONMORE – North Stormont-Shop Local held a successful “Big Third Wave Give-Away” on their Facebook page, created by Steve and Adelle Densham almost three years ago. The draw was held live on May 7 on their Facebook page, with fifteen prizes donated by local businesses in the municipality won by participants. North Stormont businesses that participated in the draw include Swiss Farmer Bakery, Cedar Barn Homestead, Delastipillow & Weighted Blankets, Crysler Home Hardware, Moose Creek Dental Hygiene Clinic, Treats & Treasures, Over the Moon Photography, Cooters Automotive, Finch Feed and Seed, Jamieson Campbell Monkland, CC Squared Photography and Finch Restaurant.

In a message to *The Chesterville Record*, Adelle explained the Facebook page was created almost two and a half years ago and is maintained by the couple with the mandate to “promote businesses and services located within North Stormont.

Adelle commented how “If ever we needed to support our local small businesses, the time is now,” continuing that these businesses are “a major part of the life blood of our community.” She noted how North Stormont does not have an economic development officer; the couple “are trying to fill a small gap and support (...) businesses by cheering them on and bringing their awareness to our community.” The effects of the COVID-19 restrictions have hit small businesses hard, and she mentioned how “several local businesses stepped forward to offer draws” which would help boost moral in the community as well as promoting local shopping.

The successful “Big Third Wave Giveaway” was described as “a HUGE success,” with Adele commenting how “We live here, we’ve raised our family here and we



From the left: Steve and Adelle Densham of Avonmore created a Facebook page, North Stormont Shop Local, designed to assist in the promotion of small businesses in the township of North Stormont. Courtesy Photo

want to see our community succeed.” She continued how the couple “have been able to bring all three levels of government out to meet business owners and we are happy to do features on the businesses and the owner” on North Stormont Shop Local Facebook page. North Stormont business owners who “would like us to promote you, please message us.”

Councillor spins out over turbine blade replacement

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

BERWICK – Following input from several township of North Stormont residents, Coun. Roxane Villeneuve recently challenged a report submitted to council regarding the Nation Rise Wind Farm.

During the May 4 meeting, Villeneuve said it had been brought to her attention that “Turbine 27, which is located on Concession 6 and 7, will have to have a blade replaced.” She asked CAO Craig Calder if he knew about the situation.

Calder said he did know and pointed out that it was included in the report. The report in question covers a two-

week period from April 19 to 30. In the first week’s report, it states that “there is a need to replace blades at one of the turbine locations – this is still to be determined, but the expectation for this work is anticipated to occur mid-end of May 2021.” The second week’s report simply states that “blade replacement at one location is tentatively scheduled for mid/late May.”

Villeneuve asked for more information about why the blade needed to be replaced. She said she wanted to know because the turbine in question is located near a public road and she believes this could be a safety issue.

“I’m not a wind turbine expert, so, no I can’t

provide details, and I would request anybody from this council or member of the public to reach out to EDP [Renewables] for specific facts on that,” Calder said. “They’re currently widening the turning radius and the blade delivery is a little bit ahead of schedule and the installation is expected mid-May, but I can’t give you details on what the deficiency was or why it’s being replaced.”

Villeneuve suggested there is probably a deficiency in the blade if it is being replaced and she said the public has a right to know if there is a

deficiency and the details surrounding it. She said again that she is concerned for public safety.

“From what I understand, it hasn’t been operational,” Calder said. “Perhaps you should reach out to EDP. I’m not aware of what the details are on the deficiency or if there’s a problem with safety; I don’t know that.”

More information, including contacts, can be found at the EDP Renewables website (nationrisewindfarm.com). Reports are available in the North Stormont council meeting agendas, which can be found on the township website.



Obituary ELIZABETH SUSAN JOAN HENDSBEE (BAMBURY)

MAY 3, 1940 - APRIL 20, 2021

On April 20 in hospital Elizabeth “Betty” peacefully joined her husband of fifty years, Dave. Betty loved to travel and had many trips with her family. She leaves behind her children Debbie (Gary Ostry) David (MayLynne), Deanna (Steven Martin) and her five grandchildren who brought her great joy, Kathleen, Michael, Alison Ostry, Alex Hendsbee and Morgan Gostick. Last but not least, her trusted companion, Winston, who was always by her side and who was every bit as tough as she was. Betty will be greatly missed and not forgotten by all who knew her.



- OBITUARY - LEVERE, LYALL FREDDRICK

Suddenly at home on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Lyall Levere age 78 of Mountain. Beloved husband of Jane (Nee Spruit). Loving Dad of Connie Milne (Gary), late Tom Levere, late Bill Levere (Ann), Patty Thompson (Wade), Jay Boyle (Victoria), Christine VanDenBroek (Eric) and Andrew Levere (Frances). Cherished Grandpa and Papa of many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dear brother of the late Lois Cronin, late Dawson Levere (Shirley), Doreen Smyth, Pauline Fisher (Wally), Lylla Miller-Mackie (Doug), and the late Oscar Levere. Predeceased by his parents Pearl (Holmes) and Dawson C. Levere and his first wife Verla Levere. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, friends and the Spruit Family. A Private Graveside Service will be held at the Maple Ridge Cemetery at a later date. Donations in Memory of Lyall may be made to the Lung Association. Arrangements entrusted to the Byers Funeral Home, South Mountain, (613-989-3836). Online condolences may be made at www.byersfuneralhomeinc.com



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

Spring Art Contest winner announced

MORRISBURG – South Dundas Parks and Recreation’s Spring Art Contest garnered a wide range of interest since its announcement on April 15. The contest was developed as a community engagement and beautification activity where the winner’s artwork would be printed on a wrap for a refurbished waste collection can.

The winner will also receive a \$100 gift card to the South Dundas business of their choice.

Municipal staff were thrilled with the submissions that came from youth aged five to 16. Municipal staff were consulted to select the top five submission pieces with the final winner announced by long-time staffer, Chris “Krusty” Wouters, in a video on the municipal social media channels.

The top five submissions came from Alexis Grenkie-Brooks 16, Joshua Stewart 14, Makenna Thomas 13, Emily Morris 9 and Kate Morell 5.

The winning spot went to Makenna Thomas. “We were so impressed by the skill and creativity shown by the young artists that we’ve decided to print all of the five finalists on wraps for waste collection cans across South Dundas,” said Austin Marcellus, manager of parks and recreation.

“This has been a great activity that will add to the beautification of our parks.”



Alexis Grenkie-Brooks, age 16



Joshua Stewart, age 14



Emily Morris, age 9

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The Employment Ontario programs are funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.

CHESTERVILLE RECORD SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE

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7 - 12 years old
13 and over

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Under 6 years of age
7 - 12 years old
13 and over

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Weed spraying on unmaintained roadsides begins May 17

THE COUNTIES – As part of the region’s vegetation management program, the United Counties of Stormont-Dundas-Glengarry, and all the local municipalities within SDG will be spraying noxious weeds.

The work started on Mon, May 17 and should be completed by June 18; however the schedule and progress depends on weather conditions during this period.

Information about the program, roads and guiderails that will be treated, how to erect “no spray” signs in front of your property and notify us of your signs can be found at: sdgcounties.ca/government/departments/transportation-and-planning/weed-spraying

“The program targets unmaintained rural roadsides where the proliferation of these weeds can impact adjacent fields. The roads that have been selected for treatment are roads with the highest weed pressures,” said Benjamin de Haan, director of transportation and planning services, SDG.

• The main purpose of the Weed Control Act, R.S.O. 1990, is to reduce the impact of noxious weeds on the industries of agriculture and horticulture;

• In 2021, SDG will be treating approximately 840 km of ditches;

• New this year, residents can digitally identify where they have installed ‘no-spray’

signs on the counties’ website. This information will be provided to the contractor.

Roadside Spraying Program

Roadside spraying in SDG takes place in May and June of each year. Spraying occurs from the edge of the gravel shoulder to within one metre of the property limits and uses selective, Government of Canada-approved herbicides to control the growth of undesirable vegetation. The contractor performing the work is fully licensed. Spraying occurs in areas identified during regular weed audits.

No-Spray signage

If you do not want the right-of-way in front of your property to be treated, you must post “NO SPRAY” signs at the start and finish of your property.

The “NO SPRAY” signs must be at least one foot by two feet and located three feet from the edge of the gravel shoulder. Signs must be one foot above any vegetation so that it is easy to see from the road.

Spraying will not occur if the ditch is mowed on a regular basis (maintained as a lawn). To ensure that spraying does not occur, we recommend you install a sign regardless of how the ditch is maintained.

To help us keep track of your area of concern please identify where you've installed a "No Spray" sign on the map below.

Continued on page 8



Your turn is coming soon.

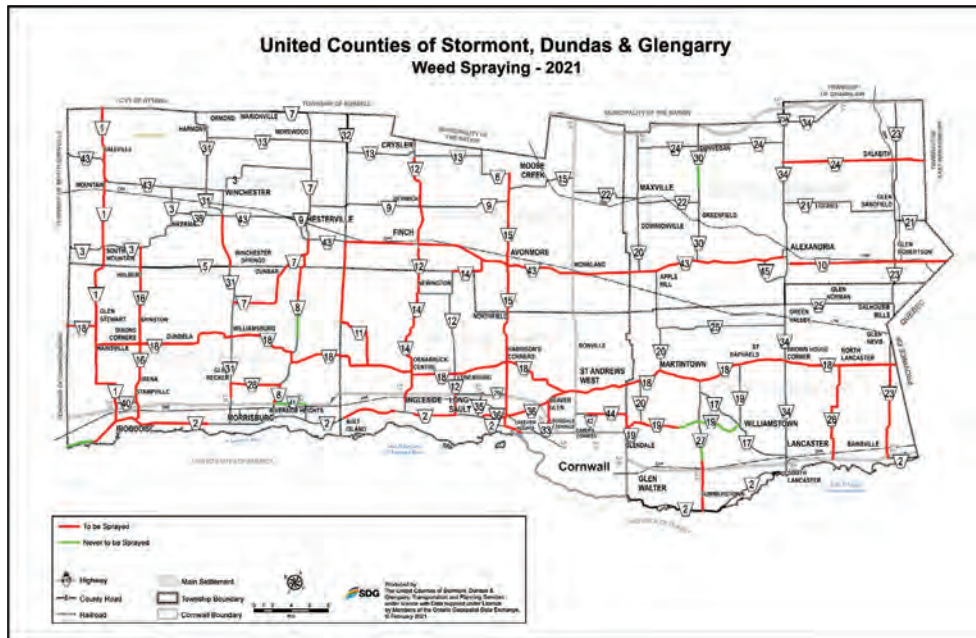


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SD director exits position

Sandy Casselman
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas environmental services department is currently running without a director.

On May 14, CAO Shannon Geraghty announced Danielle Watson had vacated the position, effective immediately. It was noted that the decision was made due to personal reasons.

“The municipality is grateful for all

the contributions that Danielle has made during her time here,” Geraghty said. “We wish Danielle the best on her next venture.”

When asked if he had a replacement in mind or if there was a timeline for filling the now vacant position, Geraghty said no, there is no timeline and decisions on this front will involve further discussion with municipal council. While specifics were available, the township’s website showed a special closed meeting of council earlier in the day to deal with a staff issue.

Weed spraying

Continued from page 7
Guide Rail Spraying Program

In 2021 the county will be completing limited guide rail spraying where health and safety concerns prevent staff from weed trimming. This work will take place through the month of June and make use of non-selective herbicides. The map showing the location of the planned guide rail spraying will be posted on or before May 21.

Current Progress (2021)

Roadside spraying began on May 17. The daily progress log can be found here: Daily Log.

Guide rail spraying is expected to start on June 7.

SDG roads to be treated: Vegetation management in SDG

SDG is required to keep its roadsides free of undesirable weeds and maintained in a responsible manner. Transportation Services manages roadside vegetation by mowing, brushing, tree-cutting and weed-spraying. In the spring, the county will spray areas where a significant growth of noxious weeds is occurring. The county also mows unmaintained ditches from the shoulder of the road to the fence line once per year (depending on the steepness of the ditch and weather conditions). Mowing begins in June and finishes in October. Tree and brush trimming occurs from spring to fall.

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Veterans View Park

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

MOREWOOD—Veterans View Park in Morewood has become a focal point in the North Dundas community of Morewood where people can gather to visit, enjoy a peaceful moment or two, or walk through a bit of nature in the community. It is thanks to the work of community volunteers, the township of North Dundas and the Morewood RA that this beautiful spot is available.

Martin Reichert, in an email to Morewood RA committee president Katie Lesage, described that the name of the park, Veterans View, was chosen during an RA meeting noting: "Since we have a monument of a soldier overlooking this corner lot in our cenotaph,

we decided to name the park Veterans View." Reichert shared that the Veterans View Park began as a Morewood RA project. Fundraising events helped to raise money to purchase the land which would become Veterans View Park and there were also donations to the project made in memory of loved ones by family members.

He described how the project involved a great deal of planning including an "official plan developed by a City of Ottawa landscape architect" which was reviewed by "the local Master Gardener group" which resulted in the design being revised to reflect current conditions. Flower beds were prepared, and flowers planted "along the fence line marking the boundaries of the park" and 2,000 path footings were dug, and the decision was made to follow "the natural path that pedestrian traffic had



Veterans View Park

This oasis of tranquility is undergoing a revitalization to ensure it continues to serve its community with a place to gather and enjoy its beauty. Thompson Goddard Photo

chosen." He noted how Claude Cousineau, a great supporter of the park, suggested "[they] bury power lines in the gravel before [they] lay down the stones." A year later light posts were donated, and the same ones are still in the park today.

Veterans View Park has several trees and Reichert provided information on a few of them. The first tree planted was an evergreen tree which was "transplanted from Glen McGregor's bush", with the Rick Mattice family donating a row of maple trees and a blue spruce. The silver maple in the park was donated many years ago by the township of North Dundas, an oak tree and basswood tree donated by Ken Carruthers "on behalf of the Russell Masonic Lodge." A red maple tree was donated to the park in memory of the broadcaster Brian Smith. The Chesterville Lions Club donated the benches that replaced the original ones which "were donated and installed by D&H Fencing."

Over the past few years, the Morewood RA has been busy planning and working on the revitalization of this

beautiful park, with Lesage explaining there will be the installation of a gazebo, a new sign and arch as well as ensuring the park remains accessible for everyone. She mentioned the Morewood RA held consultations with community members regarding the park renewal, held fundraising events to pay for the project and received assistance from local businesses. She thanked all those who have assisted in the revitalization including K2D2 Landscaping, owned by former RA president Devon Byers, and the township of North Dundas for their assistance in the revitalization project.

With this year being the centennial of the Morewood Cenotaph, Lesage noted The Morewood RA plan to have the project completed in time for the commemorations and celebrations of the milestone. She noted how Deborah

McInnis had pre-ordered red and white flowers for the flowerpots in the park to ensure they were there for the celebrations this summer. The Morewood RA has assisted the cenotaph committee by publicizing their fundraising events as well as making a sizeable donation to the organization for its centennial projects.

Lesage and Reichert expressed their gratitude to the many community members who have ensured Veterans View Park has remained a focal point of Morewood prior to the revitalization of the Morewood RA. Many citizens, including Jerry Baker and his daughter Nicole Centen of Morewood Tire, volunteered their time to maintain the park during this time. Lesage thanked Steve Mattice and other former members of the RA "who generously donated the play structure at the Morewood RA Hall" so the children would have a "fun and safe place" to play after the closure of the Morewood Public School. Morewood is a community with a long history of being home to community minded residents who work together making this village a safe and enjoyable place to live. Lesage concluded her interview by commenting "We are honoured to be part of such a caring and helpful community. Veterans View is our immediate project, and we will work with the township and others to maintain and keep it long into the future."

Krista's Birdhouse Project

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

LIMOGES – Covid has had a profound effect on much of our daily lives; health restrictions have resulted in many plans and projects being cancelled.

Krista Lahey was born with microcephalic, autism and later had to cope with controlling her epilepsy.

She has days when she cannot do anything because of the seizures.

Krista was laid off due to the current pandemic. She was working with the Groupe Convex of Prescott Russell at Prescott Russell Packaging in Rockland, Ontario.

Before she was laid off, she thought going to a summer camp would do her some good and be an adventure but her lay off created a challenge in affording the summer camp. So, she decided she would make and sell bird houses and raise the funds that way, but then further Covid restrictions dried up all the needed raw materials, so her project came to a halt.

When restrictions are lifted, and raw materials are available she will continue to make birdhouses to fundraise to go to camp.

"It bothers her a lot to not work. She misses her job," said Krista's mother Barb Lahey who is Krista's fulltime caregiver.

In a Facebook post Barb wrote, "She likes to keep busy doing things she loves. She reads a lot, does puzzles, writes her own stories and most of all she loves to paint birdhouses."

Barb said, "We are doing this project together as a family. Krista paints most of the birdhouses, sometimes my mother helps out. I help her with the decals, the stencils and the sealing."



Krista Lahey poses with some of her birdhouses.

Courtesy Photo

Working on the birdhouses has been a lot of fun for Krista and her family. "It is working very well, her self-confidence, self-esteem, pride in her work, overall happiness, and dare I say less seizures are wonderful changes in our life," said Barb.

Barb added, "When we run out of birdhouse stock, she will start a Christmas project of assorted decorations. As long as she

shows interest in doing this, I will do my best to find her things to create and spread her happiness."

For more information about Krista's Birdhouse Project, you can search Facebook using that title.

#kristasbirdhouse
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#autismworks #seizurefreedays
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NOTICE OF PASSING OF A BY-LAW BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of South Dundas passed **By-law No. 2021-50** on the **May 10, 2021** under Section 28 of the *Planning Act*.

AND TAKE NOTICE that any person or public body may appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal in respect of the by-law by filing with the Municipality of South Dundas not later than **May 30, 2021**, a notice of appeal setting out the objection to the by-law and the reasons in support of the appeal. A notice of appeal must include the prescribed fee of \$300.00 payable to the Minister of Finance and include the reasons for appeal.

Only individuals, corporations and public bodies may appeal a by-law to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the by-law was passed, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submission to the council or, in the opinion of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

An explanation of the purpose and effect of the by-law and a key map showing the location of the lands to which the by-law applies is included.

By-Law 2021-50 authorized amendments to the United Counties of SDG Regional Incentives Program within the Municipality of South Dundas.

The amendments are intended to modify the eligibility criteria relating to the program and to adjust the funding parameters of the grant categories. The modifications are also intended to correct technical errors and clarify policies for ease of use and interpretation.

The SDG Regional Incentives Program and Action Plan was implemented in 2018 after a year of review and public consultations. The program supports strategic economic development initiatives in the following areas:

- Agriculture-related uses, and facility improvement projects.
- Adaptive re-use of commercial, institutional, and industrial buildings.
- Development of roofed accommodations.

The SDG Regional Incentives Program is incorporated into each local municipal Community Improvement Plan (CIP) and offers additional economic development tools. The proposed amendments would only apply to the County-related portions of the CIP and would be identical for all municipalities.



The complete by-law is available for inspection at the Municipal office during regular office hours.

DATED at the Municipality of South Dundas this 11th day of May 2021.

Brenda M. Brunt, CMO
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Municipality of South Dundas
34 Ottawa Street, P.O. Box 740
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A community cornerstone

CHESTERVILLE – A young Mike Dean purchased Chesterville’s Laflamme’s Grocery in 1976 and began a family business; forty-five years later the grocer remains an integral part of the communities it serves. With stores in Chesterville, Sharbot Lake and Bourget, Mike Dean Local Grocer has expanded to include access to online shopping; a central warehouse located on Industrial Drive in Chesterville provides logistical support to air and sea shipments to Canada’s north.

Information on the company website, located at www.mikedeans.com, describes their operation as: “unaffiliated, independent grocery supermarkets in Ontario [that] are one of only a handful of remaining true independent grocery stores in operation.”

Mike Dean’s son Gordon Dean, business co-owner with sister Julie Jeaurond, explained that “it is very important for kids to have to show responsibility equal to their abilities,” he continued how family members work together “and as they get older and more capable, they can find areas they enjoy focusing on.”

Family members involved in the business include Julie and her husband Daniel who run “prep foods and store scheduling/hiring” and meat departments respectively, Pamela Dean, Gord’s wife, who runs the grocery departments and Nancy, mother to Gordon and Julie, who “works in the office on inventory control and data entry” on a part-time basis.

From the beginning, Mike and Nancy both worked to ensure the business contributed to the growth of their hometown of Chesterville. Gordon commented how his parents were involved in many local organizations, providing support and assistance as needed, a proud tradition carried on by their children. He

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



From the left: Julie Jeaurond and Gordon Dean, co-owners of Mike Dean Local Grocer are shown in the Deli Department at the Chesterville location. Forty-five years ago, on May 11, 1976, their father Mike Dean opened a grocery store in Chesterville beginning a family business which has grown and thrived.

Thompson Goddard Photo

continued how this support was offered only as an opportunity “to help the organizations in the community.”

When asked about the contributions made to their communities in addition to the provision of retail items, Gordon replied how “[they] take pride in being one of the hubs of the community, not just economically but also as a place the community feels at home and welcome because [they] are a rural grocer in the same way they are rural community members.”

Many may have noticed that their grocery store logo has changed from Mike Dean Super Food Store to Mike Dean Local Grocer. Gordon explained the rebranding, completed in 2020, was

undertaken “to simplify [their] brand and focus in on who [they] have evolved to be as a grocer.” He mentioned in an interview on May 11, how the font is like what was originally used by his father in 1976. He continued how it is important to modernize branding and services on an ongoing basis to ensure survival in the competitive retail grocery business which currently exists in this country. There are many changes to the Chesterville community which has resulted in the need for the company “to adapt [their] business model to simply stay alive.” Some of these adaptations include an Amazon Hub located in the Chesterville store, which Gordon explained allows Amazon customers to have their purchases

delivered to a secure indoor location. Another business opportunity arose when the company entered into “a business agreement with a northern company Arctic Fresh” to ship goods to Canada’s north.

The COVID-19 pandemic and precautions designed to stem the disease has necessitated some changes to the services which are provided to customers. Gordon explained how the pandemic has made “food safety and customer shopping safety” a top priority for both retailers and customers. He noted how “it has made our teams in our stores” realize “they are a key part of the local food chain that feeds our families” and how “they are needed and valued by the community.”

The pandemic response has led to a significant investment by grocers since March 2020, with Gordon mentioning the countless additional hours spent by him personally to ensure needed stock was made available for customers. “I can tell you that we and a number of other independent grocery operators like ourselves have worked some very creative and out of the box solutions to keep our stores full.”

Like other frontline and essential workers during the pandemic, those in the grocery business also deserve a resounding vote of thanks.

When asked what the best part of running a grocery business is in small communities, Gordon replied how it is “[their] customers and their rural way of life which means we are all not racing, we can slow down and enjoy things.” The Dean family continues to provide Chesterville, and the other communities served by their grocery business access to quality goods, friendly service, and an opportunity to shop where they live. They also provide support and assistance to organizations which in turn serve those communities; a win-win situation for all by shopping local.

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.

Area efforts to end poverty highlighted at national conference

Sandy Casselman

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

CORNWALL – “Today we gather to start planning the end of poverty. Today we begin a new chapter. Today we launch communities ending poverty.” This statement was made by Paul Born, co-founder of the Tamarack Institute and the Vibrant Communities Collective Impact movement, at the opening of this year’s annual two-day conference titled Ending Poverty Summit, held May 5 – 6. Roughly 700 people joined the conversation on Day 1, while Day 2 saw roughly 1,000 people online and ready to learn, share, and dialogue about ending poverty.

City of Cornwall Mayor Bernadette Clement was one of three mayors to populate the conference’s Mayors Ending Poverty Panel on May 5. This panel followed three-time keynote speaker Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi.

Nenshi spoke about the five-fold crisis people have faced this past year, including the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health/addiction, economic, environmental, and racism. He highlighted the disparity of experiences, exposing long-standing inequities often overlooked in the past.

“The housing crisis that we have allowed to happen in our communities is not just unsafe for the people who are stuck in it, but it’s unsafe for us too,” Nenshi said, adding that investments in housing and investments in communities are, in fact, investments for everybody. “COVID-19 is our opportunity to end homelessness forever and if you’re talking about building back better, this is the only thing we’re going to ask you to do. With a relatively modest investment, we could end homelessness.”

The panel discussion featuring Clement, was moderated by Policy and Public Affairs for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities executive director

Carole Saab. Clement was joined by Hamilton Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Chatham-Kent Mayor Darrin Canniff. Saab began by asking why communities need to be involved in upper-tier housing initiatives.

“Those issues land on the ground in our major urban centres and that accessibility is important because we can see what’s happening in our communities from day to day,” Eisenberger said. He believes Universal Basic Income (UBI) is the answer to providing a decent standard of living for everybody, as well as the key to ending homelessness. He said the “government of choice” is municipal because it is closest to the people.

Noting the high cost of building affordable housing, Eisenberger said municipalities are a key component in solving housing issues. It cannot be done without all three levels of government coming together to make it happen, he said.

Clement talked about Cornwall losing its pulp and paper mill in 2006, which led to a provincial financial contribution to address the inevitable fallout from losing a major employer. This, she said, led to the creation of the Social Development Council (SDC). Then, several years ago, the SDC, which focuses on Cornwall, Akwesasne, and the Untied Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG), created a Regional Vibrant Communities Initiative with direction from the Tamarack Institute and in partnership with regional agencies, businesses, and organizations.

Regional work is always better, Clement said, but it is hard. She said the SDC ensured that all three councils made the proper motions and political buy-ins to bring everyone together. She said the group has a plan that will not be sitting on a shelf gathering dust. The plan includes four top pillars, which were identified by surveying residents throughout the targeted region. The pillars include mental health, access to health services, poverty,

and community safety and well-being.

Canniff said he sees investments in ending poverty as the same as other infrastructure investments, like roads and bridges and so on. He said council leaders can have a significant impact, and he noted the importance of working together in the community, as well as with neighbouring communities. He said partnerships are an “absolute critical piece” in ending poverty.

“Our community has started a Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAC) to share their expertise,” Clement said, noting the importance of including people with lived experience in solving these issues that are directly impacting them. “When we had our four pillars in our community, there was a thread throughout – housing, of course, but a sense of belonging. That their neighbours had their back, that we have each other’s backs.”

Clement said the goal is that everyone feels like they are in this together, working for change that benefits everyone. She said communities need to be open to talking about hard things, like poverty and racism.

“My neighbour’s strength is my strength,” Clement said, referring to what Nenshi had said earlier in the day. “I’m inspired by the bravery and courage I hear from colleagues and from the people with lived experience.”

To learn more about the Vibrant Communities Initiative in Akwesasne, Cornwall, and SDG, visit the SDC’s website (sdccornwall.ca/vibrant-communities-2/) or contact SDC executive director Carilyne Hébert at chebert@sdccornwall.ca or at 613-930-0211.



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Full circle for Hammond firefighter

Joseph Morin
Villager Staff

HAMMOND – Dave Bergeron has retired from his day job.

Dave and Bonnie Bergeron and daughter Graceson own Dream Ridge Farms in Hammond.

The farm features award winning Ayrshire, Jersey and Holstein animals, and according to Dave, is the reason he and his wife first met when in their mid 20's as a result of both being involved in Jr. Farmers and Ayrshire cattle.

Bergeron's other lifelong career is as an Ottawa firefighter, which he has just retired from after 36 years as a full-time firefighter and four years as a volunteer.

Dave retired as the captain of his station, a nice ending to a decade's long career.

While he served as a firefighter for an ever-growing urban area, he continued to act as a judge at multiple 4-H Shows, Breeder's Cups and Regional Shows throughout Canada, including in Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, Columbia, Finland and the USA.

He began his career as a volunteer firefighter in Cumberland Township in 1985 then joined as a full-

time firefighter in 1989. When Ottawa amalgamated with neighboring municipalities like Cumberland Township, he was already working as a full-time firefighter.

Becoming a firefighter was not something Bergeron had planned on. He enjoyed being a volunteer, but as a young man he enrolled in Algonquin College in business administration.

An opportunity came up for two full-time firefighter positions in Cumberland and he applied. Back then volunteer firefighters were given the first chance at any full-time job.

"I was at Algonquin College taking administration in 1988. There was a posting for two full-time fire fighters. They put it to the volunteers first. They always hired from the volunteers' force. In that competition I was in my last year of college and ended up being third so I missed out. I was the only one that stayed on the list for a year," said Bergeron.

He was not selected for the full-time position and continued to be a volunteer while he looked for a job backed by his business administration degree.

Bergeron remembers, "I was working for the Ministry of Transportation



Dave Bergeron retires from his full time firefighting employment to continue his passion of farming.

Courtesy Photo

driving a snow plow. A whole year after the competition I was called into the chief.

The council had given him the go ahead to hire one more full-time person.

They offered me the job and I started in April '89."

He was promoted to lieutenant in 2015, and became a captain in 2017.

He worked the Charlemagne Station, which was the former Cumberland full-time station, then at the Blackburn Fire Hall.

Over the past 36 years firefighting has dramatically changed with innovative solutions to the many never ending challenges modern day fires present.

"There has been a lot of progression in fire fighting," said Bergeron.

"When all of a sudden you become a great big city, there are more people to manage."

There are more calls for service and greater expectations on firefighters, he said.

"Ottawa had a larger tax base and their own training division while the smaller towns operate on donations and fundraising."

New building materials, chemicals in fabrics and lightweight construction all combine to make a modern day structure fire more deadly than in the past.

"Fire burns far (...) hotter and faster than the old legacy type construction," said Bergeron.

"The way I was trained to fight fires is so different from the last day I left to

the first day I got on."

He explained that all the plastics, and synthetics used in modern construction cause a bedroom fire for example, with these new furnishings to reach flashover within five minutes.

"The old legacy furnishings and building materials could take up to 30 minutes."

He said that while there is a great deal of attention paid to fire prevention as in smoke detectors, there is little if any consultation about construction materials and the building code with fire fighters.

"We are not consulted on the building code. That can be frustrating," said Bergeron.

"They are allowing all kinds of building materials,

and it's all about open concept. Everything has to be wide open, no doors on anything so fire has a route to travel," he said.

"When somebody's life gets turned up side down we are in the middle of it."

Being a firefighter has many challenges including answering calls for people that in a small community you probably know.

"There were lots of times when I would be in situations I did not want to be in.

You never heard what the results were. They never called you back to tell you if a person lived or died. You just went, you did your job to the best of your ability and you went back to the station and waited for the alarm to go off again.

Retirement for Bergeron and his family is based on his farm.

"I grew up working on the neighbours dairy farm when I was younger.

My wife grew up on a dairy farm as well. That is how we met through the cows and through the Junior Farmers' Association. When we got married we found this little place in Hammond and we raise a few heifers and showed them at the shows. I have done some judging throughout the years," he said.

In the end, after 36 years serving his community, Bergeron is returning to his beginnings on the farm.



Russell Agricultural Society cleans up

Kim Williams, director of the Russell Agricultural Society, came up with the initiative. The group wanted to give back to the community during these difficult times. The society has pride in its town and noticed that many of the main roads were covered in litter. As a group, they each tackled multiple areas of Russell on Sat., May 15, from main roads, ditches, around the schools, skate park and ball diamonds. In this photo, agricultural society president Mhairi Rowland, her grandson Sidney Rowland and a very happy pup named Piper had a busy day collecting litter.

Courtesy Photo

For our fine feathered friends

Carol Thompson Goddard
Villager Staff

METCALFE – There was a flurry of activity at the Metcalfe Fairgrounds on May 8 with customers purchasing or picking up bird houses created by Metcalfe Agricultural Society (MAS) director Mike Blaney. Tanya Zandbelt, also a director for the MAS, explained that approximately 100 bird houses were made for the fundraiser and more information on how to order the

\$30 homes is available on either the Metcalfe Fair website or Facebook page. People were also picking up pre-ordered flowers for Mother's Day at the same location. MAS president Andrea Taylor told The Chesterville Record that plans for the 165th running of the Metcalfe Fair, scheduled for Sept. 30 through to Oct. 3 are underway, commenting how "we will be going ahead in a way that respects the public health conditions at that time."



From the left: Left to right: Ottawa Councillor George Darouze, MAS Directors Steve Thomas, Erin Merkley and son Gregory Merkley, Tanya Zandbelt, and Jessica Wilson.

Courtesy Photo