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Briefly

Garden party market

WINCHESTER – Welcome to the 2021 Garden Party Market.

The Planted Arrow is excited to bring Winchester a unique shopping experience with up to 25 vendors. Each vendor different from the other.

The market is at two locations to allow traffic flow and larger vendor display. Join us at The Planted Arrow 535 St Lawrence St. and at St. Paul's Church 517 Main Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Roast beef dinner

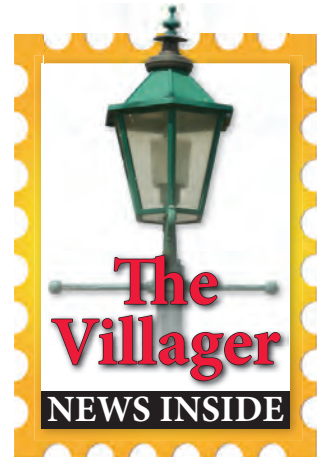
AVONMORE – The Avonmore Fair organizers are hosting a drive through curbside Roast Beef Dinner at North Stormont Place on July 17. The cost is \$20 in advance and the time to be there to pick up your supper is between 4:30 and 6 p.m. Dinner includes, roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, cooked vegetables, coleslaw, a roll and dessert. To reserve your dinner order for pick up at your chosen time go to the fair's home page at www.avonmorefair.ca and click on the instructions in the menu on the left-hand side of the page. Look for Roast Beef Diner Order in the menu. You can make your payment using e-transfer.

Fair time in Russell!

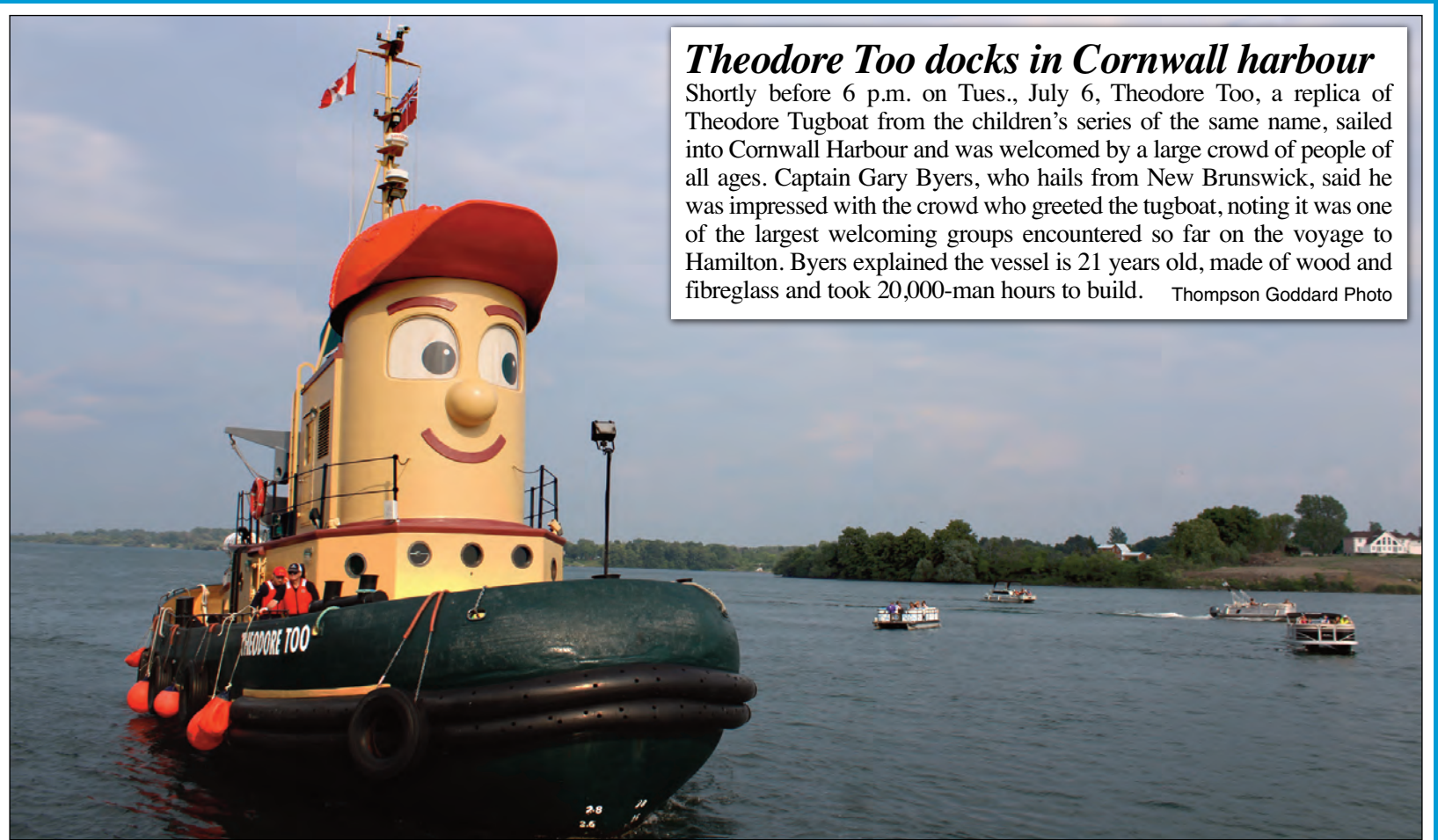
RUSSELL – Planning for the 2021 Russell Fair is well underway for August 19-22. The event will be an in-person fair this year. Fair organizers have been working with the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) and keeping a close eye on restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19.

THE CHESTERVILLE RECORD

Serving Stormont and Dundas Counties since 1894



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Theodore Too docks in Cornwall harbour

Shortly before 6 p.m. on Tues., July 6, Theodore Too, a replica of Theodore Tugboat from the children's series of the same name, sailed into Cornwall Harbour and was welcomed by a large crowd of people of all ages. Captain Gary Byers, who hails from New Brunswick, said he was impressed with the crowd who greeted the tugboat, noting it was one of the largest welcoming groups encountered so far on the voyage to Hamilton. Byers explained the vessel is 21 years old, made of wood and fibreglass and took 20,000-man hours to build. Thompson Goddard Photo

Celebrating Canada Day in Avonmore

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

AVONMORE – The North Stormont community of Avonmore is always ready to celebrate Canada Day and this year was no exception. In addition to a fireworks display, there was an Avonmore Canada Day House Decorating Challenge, a Canada Day Scavenger Hunt and a Canada Day Colouring Contest and a very successful bottle drive in support of the children's park in Avonmore.

The fireworks' display was held and organized on June 2 by locals, Jeff and Natalie Lavallee. Residents of the village were able to enjoy the fireworks while socially distancing from their vehicles and/or drive way.

The bottle drive, organized by the ACAA, raised just over \$2,000, with Josee Poirier on behalf of the Avonmore Community and Athletic Association, giving Jeff and

Continued on page 2

Remembering them forever

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

MOREWOOD—This July 6 marked the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the First World War memorial which stands in the centre of the small North Dundas community of Morewood. For over two years, members of the Morewood Cenotaph Committee have been working with volunteer organizations, local residents and businesses to raise funds to revitalize the cenotaph and increase awareness of the sacrifices made during wartime.

In a June 28 press release, Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry MP Eric Duncan announced the contribution of up to \$25,000 from Veterans Affairs Canada through the Commemorative Partnership Program. This will be added to the monies

already raised through various fundraising activities including, but not limited to, contributions by the township of North Dundas, an online Go Fund Me donation page, an online auction, take-out ham dinner catered by Christ Church United and held in the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 434 in Chesterville.

Duncan notes "The restoration and enhancement project is estimated to cost just \$63,000 with this undertaking to include "cleaning, examining and ensuring the structural integrity of the monument; repairing the damaged World War One plaque; adding a small plaque for a Morewood soldier whose name is currently missing" as well as a pillar to acknowledge those who returned home from war but died

Continued on page 3



<p>CAVENDISH FRENCH FRIES ASSORTED 1 KG BAG</p>  <p>1.99</p>	<p>PEPSI-COLA PEPSI, DIET PEPSI OR RAINBOW CRUSH 24 x 355mL</p>  <p>7.99</p>	<p>FOLGER'S CLASSIC ROAST COFFEE 920g TIN</p>  <p>7.99</p>	<p>TWIZZLERS STRAWBERRY, NIBS OR SUPER NIBS 200g - 227g</p>  <p>1.79</p>	 <p>Mike DEAN LOCAL GROCCER</p>
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Support aging adults during 65-hour online giving event

EASTERN COUNTIES – Nearly everyone experienced the feeling of isolation and loneliness during the global pandemic. Unfortunately, these feelings are common for the older adults in our community. Carefor Eastern

Counties is committed to helping aging adults stay connected and engaged with their peers and community through our programs and services.

When the pandemic hit, we adapted our programming to continue serving the vulnerable older adults in our community. We worked tirelessly to modify our services in a safe but meaningful way to ensure aging adults remained connected to each other even while they were isolated at home.

We rely on the generosity of this community to support these vital services and programs that are helping older adults to age with dignity and on their own terms. We are kindly asking for support during the Give65 Event to continue serving our aging clients and eventually transition back to how we operated before the pandemic.

From July 13 to 16, Carefor Eastern Counties is participating in the fourth-annual Give65 Event, a 65-hour online giving event exclusively for charitable organizations serving aging adults presented by Home Instead Charities.

This year, we're raising funds for the Carefor Eastern Counties Meal Delivery Program, providing nutritious meals to over 500 seniors across the region. Gifts can be made here: www.give65.ca/carefor.

During the Give65 Event, Carefor Eastern Counties are also raising funds with the hope of receiving up to \$5,000

in matching funds from Home Instead Charities. Not only does this increase the impact of the donations received, but we are hopeful it inspires people to give back.

"Give65 allows us to help aging adults in our community while raising awareness of the critical need for the programs and services they rely on to safely live independently," said Jennie Stephenson, Carefor Communications & Fundraising Specialist.

The 65-hour Give65 Event begins at 9 a.m. EST on Tuesday, July 13 and concludes at 2:00 a.m. EST on July 16.

"COVID-19 has really highlighted the challenges aging adults face every day. Supporting aging adults and providing them the tools to define their own aging journey is always important, but particularly during a global pandemic. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Carefor Eastern Counties for the fourth-annual Give65 Event and hope our partnership inspires greater charitable giving in support of older adults who rely on the important work of the charitable sector," said Lenli Corbett, executive director of Home Instead Charities.

To learn more about Give65, visit www.Give65.ca. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible in Canada. For more information about Carefor Eastern Counties, visit www.Carefor.ca or call 613-932-3451 ext. 4247.

Canada Day in Avonmore

Continued from the front Natalie Lavalée a special thanks "for their unwavering support with the Avonmore Park Bottle Drive." Poirier continued "They have been volunteering their time and using their trailers to help transport the bottles for the last three bottle drives." During the week prior to the July 4 bottle drive, the Lavalée's had two trailers in their front yard, to allow people to drop off their empty bottles if unable to attend the Sunday bottle drive event.

For several years, Barkley's Store in Avonmore has sponsored the Avonmore Canada Day House Decorating Contest. As in past years, Rock'n Ronda's Diner & Pizzeria won first place in the competition, receiving a \$50 gift certificate from

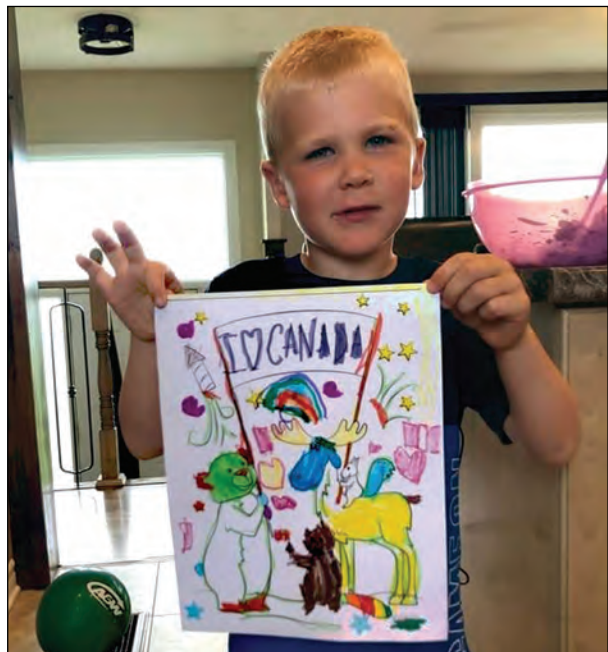
Barkley's Store. The ACAA sponsored a Canada Day Scavenger Hunt, with Josee Poirier, a member of ACAA. She explained that an association member "walked around town to find spots and created the form for people to print." Alexis Mainville won the contest and received a family photo shoot from CC Squared Photography of Avonmore. There was also a Canada Day Colouring contest held with Lily Lewis, Nolan Griffin and Kate Plasse who each won a free ice cream cone from Rock'n Ronda's Diner & Pizzeria. Poirier explained all winners in these contests were chosen randomly.

There is certainly an abundance of community pride in this small North Stormont village.



Nine-year-old Alexis Mainville was the winner of the Canada Day Scavenger Hunt, receiving a family photo shoot from CC Squared Photography of Avonmore as her prize. She is shown here with her winning entry in the Canada Day Scavenger Hunt.

Courtesy Photo



Nolan Griffin, shown here with his entry, was one of the winners in the Canada Day Colouring Contest.

Courtesy Photo



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South Dundas youth step up

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

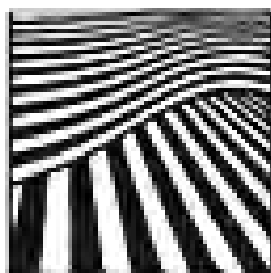
MORRISBURG – “It’s nice to see the youth engaging. They’re our future, at the end of the day,” Municipality of South Dundas Coun. Lloyd Wells said.

Wells was referring to manager of parks and recreation Austin Marcellus’ report during the June 28 council meeting. Marcellus presented South Dundas’ local politicians with the township’s Youth Advisory Committee’s Terms of Reference and logo designs. To be clear, there is one design for the logo, but it comes in four different colours, as the students are striving to be inclusive, Marcellus said.

“It’s a wonderfully engaged group of students. They really came alive around the discussion with this design and the logo,” Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner, who sits on the committee, said. “They really love the fact that they were able to do that and personalize it and feel a connection to the municipality, which is kind of the whole point of the youth engagement committee.”

As for the Terms of Reference, Gardner said that while the group found the exercise boring, they did stay with it, and they did contribute their opinions of what should be included in the document. Councillor Archie Mellan said he would like to see members of the committee come to council once or twice a year, so they know that South Dundas’ politicians are listening to them and supporting them.

“I tip my hat to all who participated,” Coun. Don Lewis said.



THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

“They are our future; they’re going to be here when we’re gone.”

The group’s mandate, which is outlined in the Terms of Reference, is to “provide a voice for the youth of South Dundas while advising municipal staff and council of important recreational and social issues concerning the community’s youth.” In addition to providing a link between South Dundas youth and municipal council members, the committee will “encourage facilities, programs, and projects that will enhance the quality of

life, as well as the mental and physical wellness of the youth in our community.”

In 2019, municipal staff completed a report about youth engagement to better understand and address youth needs. Council officially approved the development of the Youth Advisory Committee in March of this year. Gardner said the group has chosen to continue meeting throughout the summer so as not to lose momentum.

“I think amazing things are going to come out of this,” Gardner said.

Remembering them forever

Continued from the front

later due to injuries sustained during their service and 20 granite pillars bearing the likeness of the soldier, if available, as well as information about the soldier.

The revitalization of the monument and the other associated projects are as a result of the Morewood Cenotaph Committee spending countless hours in meetings with stakeholders and fine-tuning plans on how to commemorate this milestone anniversary. It was during these meetings that discussions centred around many of the projects which are now in the process of being completed. The committee agreed that adding the name of Private Maurice Ogden Cheney to the memorial, and the placing of the granite pillars bearing the likeness and information on the twenty names of soldiers fallen during the First World War were a top priority for the group. The twenty granite

pillars will serve to remind those who have benefitted from the supreme sacrifice made by these men who ranged in age between 14 and 38 years of age are not just a name, but people with loved ones and a future ahead of them.

One of the early memorial fundraising projects was the commissioning of a painting for the community by Gordon Coulthart, a former resident of Morewood by the Chesterville & District Historical Society. Entitled “A Fallen Leaf”, the painting currently hangs in the Morewood Recreation Centre, with prints of the painting sold at the fundraiser for the centennial commemorations. Over the past 18 months, there have been many residents who have stepped forward to make donations of time, energy and money for the project as well as several businesses who have worked collaboratively as the centennial approaches to revitalize the memorial and its surrounding space.

Morewood Cenotaph Committee chair, Bill Smirle commented in the press release, “I am so pleased that Veterans Affairs Canada has supported this project to celebrate one hundred years for our well-recognized cenotaph in the centre of town,” continuing how the community stepped forward, demonstrating their “responsibility and gratitude once again, by getting involved quickly with very generous donations that completed our fundraising in record time.” Duncan thanked Veterans Affairs Canada and the support from the federal government for this project and noted how “We are very fortunate that the local volunteers have done such a fantastic job raising funds and finding a nice way to both refurbish and enhance the already stunning cenotaph in Morewood.

While the COVID-19

pandemic will prohibit gathering at the Morewood Cenotaph on July 6, we will be able to quietly remember how one hundred years earlier, hundreds of residents and visitors travelled to Morewood to watch as the oversized Union Jack was lifted, and

the magnificent memorial came into view. There are tentative plans to hold a commemorative and rededication service on Fri., Sept. 10, “once further Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted to allow the local community to attend and participate in the

service.” Certainly, the torch thrown to us by our fallen, has been picked up by this community, ensuring the phrase “Their Name Liveth Forever More” which is carved into one of the granite slabs of the memorial; it will remain as true today as it did in 1921.



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Restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a smaller than usual group gathering for the 100th Service of Remembrance at the war memorial in Morewood. The Morewood Cenotaph is shown with the wreaths laid during this service on Nov. 11.

Thompson Goddard Photo

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EDITORIAL & Opinion

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There is only one path forward

Now that Canada Day has come and gone, we can only hope that the horror, shame and determination to do something about the discovery of all of those Aboriginal children carried off to residential schools, in our past, is not forgotten.

Unlike Remembrance Day where every year the honoured combatants of several world wars slip further and further into the past, the realization as a nation that our Aboriginal counterparts were systematically ravaged by a culture intent on coming out on top of everything cannot and must not be forgotten much less tolerated for one more second.

It is not the kind of thing you build a memorial to and parade around every year, but rather it is a living and breathing reality of what our ancestors did to the original owners of this house.

Many of us have sincerely tried to put into words what they feel as they encounter such a horrible fact of their history, and few have managed to find a way to explain their grief. Over time they will find a way to show what right now they only feel.

There is nothing wrong with the idea of Canadians accepting what they have discovered about their past culture and vowing to never let something like that ever happen again. The past is exactly that, the past. We cannot go back and change it, but we can definitely change the present.

No Canadian alive today would allow the residential school policy to exist.

Armed with the accepted government policy of terrorizing and literally killing, if not the body but the soul of so many children, their parents, brothers and sisters; a great wrong was allowed to take place and continue well into the modern era.

We did not believe what the Aboriginal community was trying to tell us all these years.

Having realized what the past was hiding, our outrage should know no bounds.

Can you imagine for one horrifying second what our reaction would be if our children today were rounded up and taken away?

The ground we stood on in the past has crumbled, but the ground we are standing on today has a chance to remain solid.

Canada Day was different this year, and there seems to be a line that has been drawn between the past and present that we have to step over.

If we do nothing, our shame, now that we know what we know, will be too much to bear, and the first thing we can do is not pretend this history did not happen.

Joseph Morin

Mixed emotions

Hurray! The number of people who have received their vaccinations are increasing, the number of cases is low and the restrictions are lifting. We are free to start moving on with our new normal.

My daughter had her first Western Games' competition in Quebec this past weekend. In pre-COVID times this was a highlight of most weekends for the duration of the summer; getting together with the other competitors who have become great friends over the years, and to cheer on the competitors.

Well, this past weekend came with a mix of emotions. It felt so great to be free to visit with other attendees, and to be able to sit back and socialize like we used to.

Talking with the group, some of us had that feeling of guilt. What if one of us get sick after this? What if there is an outbreak? Were we doing the right thing sitting there, having social time, and enjoying each other's company?

There was so much anticipation of the fun filled weekend, and then once we had it there was so much uncertainty. Yes, masks were worn when indoors, but outside things are wide open. People kept a distance – not saying it was always six feet but definitely not as close as it used to be.

We do need to get out, stretch our legs and support the events that were a staple in our community. These organizations and businesses that have survived the past eighteen months need us as much as we need them.

We all needed this time to relax and take the stress and worry away. Watching the competitors and socializing with people we have not seen in almost over two years felt like those first days of high school when you were glad to meet

up with old friends, and unsure of how the next year was going to be.

There are so many opportunities to support local initiatives and if we are going to continue to move past this unprecedented time we are going to have to step past these mixed emotions and reach for the stars.

Each and every one of us have been affected in one way or another. It is irrelevant if you were affected financially, mentally or physically. It has taken a toll.

For some it was an opportunity to stop and step out of the rat race you were in and for others it has created nothing but stress and anxiety.

Keep this in mind as we all come out of this cocoon; like a butterfly we have had our lives suspended under regulations, and hidden under the fear and anxiety of this virus. As we morph out of this phase and into our next cycle of life, bring forward the most beautiful person you can be.

Developing ourselves, families, friends and community is a whole new challenge and one we can all embrace.

Looking forward to getting past those mixed emotions, and being even better than the past.

Linda Vogel



When it's too hot for hell to freeze over

Who would have thought it could get too hot in Canada.

We seem to have now established that there will be two extremes to deal with when it comes to the weather.

Winter in Ontario is expected to have a few weeks of below zero temperatures as well as weeks of never-ending snow. Great for staying indoors with occasional walks outside to walk off all that winter food.

All winter long we can enjoy a frosty walk in the snow with the clear understanding that summer will bring hot, but pleasant temperatures ideal for the beach or backyard.

The Canadian reality has been to expect hot summers, the odd summer storm, a few evenings of lightning and thunder and then just a pleasant roll back into winter.

Now we get to watch with horror and some fascination as Western Canada gets hammered by what they are now calling a heat dome. The town of Lytton in British Columbia, no stranger to very hot temperatures during the summer broke all of the country's records last week by reaching an unbelievable and dangerous 49.5 degrees Celsius. For those still clinging to the Fahrenheit system that would be around 121

degrees.

Not too shabby as far as hot temperatures go. Of course the dry extremely hot temperatures spawned several lightning storms that found the trees around the town a perfect place to set up camp. Consequently the small village of 250 people was engulfed by a forest fire and completely destroyed and two elderly people died.

The heat dome that caused this tragedy in Lytton is also operating in the US Pacific northwest, in the Arctic Circle and parts of Siberia.

The heat dome is exactly that. It is a dome of hot air that cannot escape because of the surrounding colder air around it pushing it downwards. The dome can move so it had decided to slide east and is expected to cause havoc wherever it goes.

The current thinking is that we who live in Ontario will see some really hot temperatures, but not the life threatening ones experienced out west and in British Columbia.

So it is the luck of the draw so to speak that has placed Ontario in a relatively safe spot.

It never occurred to me that heat stroke would be something to watch out for in Ontario in 2021. Most of us thought it would be murder horns, Covid or old age that would

make our existence too hot to handle.

Fortunately, Environment Canada has set down some ground rules to help alert the population about when heat is becoming an issue. Environment Canada issues heat warnings after an extended period of heat. Each region of the country is different at different temperatures depending on the region. For typically warmer climates, like Southern Ontario, a heat warning will be issued after at least two days of a humidex of 42C or higher. Whereas in Labrador, there will be a heat warning after only an hour of the humidex reaching 40C.

So, at this point in time, it does not matter what you want to call this phenomenon. Is it climate change related or just an unknown severe cycle of hot weather that Mother Nature trots out every now and again?

The trick to understanding all of this may be to accept the fact that nature does whatever it wants to do and we just have to find ways to cope with it.

A normal summer in Ontario used to be between 20 and 30 degrees Celsius. Let's see what we end up with this year and what new coping strategies we may have to create to make it all bearable.

Joseph Morin

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North Dundas Chamber of Commerce hosts marketing event

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

NORTH DUNDAS – “Let your goals be your guiding light,” Marketing Specialist Dan Gasser said during this week’s North Dundas Chamber of Commerce free information event.

The July 6 virtual session, Marketing Plan Made Easy, saw Gasser share some of the knowledge he’s gained from his more than 13 years of experience in the field of marketing. Roughly a dozen people tuned

in for this free event, which was open to all business owners located in the Township of North Dundas.

With marketing experience online and offline, Gasser covered a variety of topics from easy quick fixes entrepreneurs can do right away to benefit their business to tips for staying focused and building on the “Big Picture” plan. Gasser also shared ideas for planning around specific marketing areas, such as social media, search engine optimization (SEO), and more. Time-saving marketing tools, free and

otherwise, were covered, along with automation ideas. To cap off the discussion, Gasser gave viewers some pointers on tracking success, measuring performance, and only building on what’s working.

Gasser, who has assisted many local small businesses and charities with his expertise in marketing, has a Bachelor of Commerce with a concentration in Marketing and Managing People and Organizations. Following the presentation, he answered questions from participants.

More information on upcoming informational events through the North Dundas Chamber of Commerce can be found by visiting the website (northdundaschamber.com). Joining the chamber has never been easier, as members can now sign up with a six-month (\$60) membership or annual (\$120) membership. To find out how the local chamber of commerce can help you, contact them by email (info@northdundaschamber.com) or phone (613-223-9765).



Award for outstanding performance

Lawrence’s Dairy Supply Inc. has been awarded the Gold award for their outstanding sales performance of GEA milking equipment and hygiene products, as well as being awarded the Silver award for their outstanding sales performance of GEA manure equipment. We would like to thank our amazing team, for all your hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank our fellow farmers for all your continual support. Pictured on the left, (left to right) is Eric Almeida (GEA Hygiene specialist), Brian Morton (GEA sales rep), Dan Delhey and Mike Johnsen (owners of Lawrence’s Dairy) and Claude Decelles (GEA manure rep). Pictured on the right, (left to right) is Eric, Dan, Mike and Brian. That award was for Expertcare certification for excellence in dairy maintenance and client aftercare.

Courtesy Photo

Some local road speeds in North Dundas have been reduced

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

SDG – Complaints about excessive speed on numerous county roads has promoted the United Counties of Stormont Dundas and Glengarry staff to recommend speed reductions on selected county roads.

Over the past several months, staff have investigated and reviewed existing speed limits on roads in every county municipality.

North Dundas had its share of roads that have become unsafe due to speeders.

County Road 1 which runs through the village of Hallville has a current speed limit of 50 km/hr. That speed limit extends to St. John Street in the village and then continues with a speed limit of 60 km/hr north for another 200 plus metres.

Hallville is experiencing growth which results in more people, more children and more pets living near a busy road.

North Dundas Mayor Tony Fraser said, “This is something we have been concerned about with Hallville growing.”

With the announcement that the long-awaited park will be happening, there is a concern about the number of residents who will be walking along the road.

“We have been thinking about different ways we could get the speed down,” said the mayor.

He does not believe there is any reason for motorists to have to feel they have to travel quickly through a village or hamlet. He said extending the 50 km/hr speed zones a bit further along the road through Hallville going North is a good idea.

“It is just better for all of our communities to be safer.”

Tying into that growth is the news of a grant designed to develop the Hallville Community Park. The SD&G report stated: “(The park) is located near the 60 km/hr. hour zone (opposite an existing residential area). All of these factors will result in increased vehicle access and pedestrian use; which is why staff are recommending the extension of the 50 km/hr speed limit north (past the entrance to the Wylie Creek Subdivision) and the creation of a new 60km/hr transitional speed zone north of the newly expanded 50km/hr zone.”

SD&G County Road 18 is in St. Raphael’s. An investigation into complaints about excessive speed in the community confirm that the existing speed limit of 60km/hr is too high.

A speed limit review has confirmed that the existing speed limit of 60 km/hr through St. Raphael’s should be reduced to 50 km/hr. The report stated: “Transitional speed zones were considered at the limits of the 50 km/hr zone; however, after input from the OPP during the recent SDG Road Safety Task Force meeting, it was confirmed that a transitional speed zone would not be effective given the roadside environment outside the existing settlement area (there is a rapid transition from rural to urban cross section).

In Williamsburg on County Road 18 the speed limit review indicated that the existing 50 km/hr west of County Road 31 needed to be expanded to the Schell St. entrance to the west. The report stated: “The 60km/hr transitional speed zone was also extended (400 m west).

In the village of Summerstown on County Road 27 the

review concluded that the existing speed limit of 1,000 metres north of SDG 2 should be reduced from 80km/hr to 70km/hr.

The report stated: “This is a result of the continued development having direct access onto SDG 2. As development in this area continues, staff expects that further speed limit reductions will be warranted.

A review of Post Road, SDG 36 suggests that a reduction in speed is warranted (from 80 km/hr to 70 km/hr.). “Similar to the findings of the SDG 27 review, as additional development takes place along this section of SDG 36, staff expect [that] further speed limit reductions should be considered,” stated the report.



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Lots going on at the Lost Villages Museum

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

LONG SAULT – The Lost Villages Museum, located at Ault Park in South Stormont, opened for the 2021 season on June 11, with what is referred to as a “modified” opening. Visitors to the site are able to walk along the paths which connect the ten heritage buildings located there, but due to COVID-19 restrictions are unable to enter them. Lost Villages Historical Society (LVHS) president Jim Brownell explained people are very understanding about the lack of access to the buildings with the Society “being glad people can come” to learn about this part of our local history.

Brownell continued there is limited access to the Village Store, with one person or a small family group able to enter the building in keeping with COVID-19 protocols. The LVHS archives are housed in the Forbes Memorial Reading Room, with access to these archives available by appointment to one person at a time. The archives are a treasure trove of both genealogical and historical information,

with an alphabetical index of subjects, people’s names, etc. completed and the Gerry MacDonald Genealogical Collection, indexed by subject only, at this time. Indexing greatly improves the ability to find resources in a timely fashion.

When asked about upcoming events, Brownell explained there are plans, subject to COVID-19 restrictions, for guided tours of the museum on August 8 and 22 as well as Sept. 12 and 26. Tickets will have to be purchased online prior to the event and he suggested people monitor the Society website or social media site for more information. He continued there are 6-7 weddings planned in September and October, subject to provincial COVID-19 regulations, with the Society hoping to have an art and craft show in August.

While there will not be a Civil War encampment this summer, Brownell mentioned there are still memorial bricks for those Canadians who served in the American Civil War available for purchase, with more information available from the LVHS.

HOL’s Janet Carkner hangs up her hat

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MOUNTAIN – “How do you replace a legend?” Ross Bennett asked.

The former member of the House of Lazarus Outreach Mission board of directors posed the question during the local non-profit’s annual general meeting last month. He was referring to the then imminent departure of long-time employee Janet Carkner.

Last week, employees, volunteers, customers, and friends joined together to celebrate Carkner’s 15 years as one of the mission’s most ardent supporters, and Stormont, Dundas, and South Glengarry MP Eric Duncan was one of them.

Carkner spent her last official day as the HOL executive assistant and bookkeeper on June 30.

“An executive director has a special relationship with their executive assistant,” executive director Cathy Ashby said. “Janet and I formed a special relationship. We developed a rapport whereby we finished each other’s thoughts and sentences. I relied on her knowledge of the history of HOL every week. Janet has a true passion for HOL. She has been generous with her time. Not many employees would believe that she only worked part-time, as she was usually there until closing.”

In addition to hosting the June 30 event, Ashby presented a PowerPoint tribute to Janet during last month’s AGM. The



Janet Carkner
Courtesy Photo

presentation included photos, along with notes and anecdotes about several of Carkner’s many contributions to the mission during her time there.

In addition to her regular workload, Carkner spent many volunteer hours helping with daily activities, such as filling in at one of the stores or the food bank when HOL was short staffed. She was first in line to help get new programs off the ground, such as HOL’s weekly community meal. At one time, Carkner was the lead organizer for HOL’s more than 100 volunteers.

She also took the lead, or co-lead, in organizing and hosting the mission’s major events, including fundraisers like Ladies Night Out. Carkner was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Linking Hands initiative, as well as its Lunch and Learn program.

Ashby said Carkner always added her own “special touch” to everything.

Last week, during an afternoon of socially distanced camaraderie, Carkner turned the page on a 15-year chapter devoted to helping and serving

others. Although she was saying farewell to her time as an HOL employee, she made it clear that it is not goodbye.

“I will be back doing something in some capacity,” a tearful Carkner said following the AGM presentation.

Over the past few years there has been a lot of work done by members of the Society which included a new constitution being approved and a new agreement with the township of South Stormont completed which is pending ratification by council. Brownell commented there has been “cooperation and interest from the municipality” in working with the LVHS, with the municipality providing repairs as necessary to buildings such as replacing roofs, creating two bike racks at the park and refurbishing the stone fireplaces at the site. Both Brownell and Tim Gault explained the stone fireplaces were original to the park, created with stones from houses which were demolished during the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project.

On behalf of the LVHS, Brownell thanked South Stormont council and administrative staff for all the assistance provided to the organization, mentioning the development of a good working relationship between the executive and South Stormont director of parks and recreation Kevin Amelotte. He also expressed his appreciation for the assistance

provided by South Stormont Coun. Andrew Guidon who is the council representative for the LVHS.

There has developed a strong relationship between the LVHS and historical organizations as well as businesses such as the St. Lawrence Cruise Lines. Brownell mentioned that local author and historian Maggie Wheeler will be doing a presentation on one of the cruises about the British Home Children.

After many years of planning, Brownell mentioned there has been approval given for a pavilion at the LVM in collaboration with the municipality. He expects construction will begin in 2022 and is expected to be similar to the pavilion located at Upper Canada Village and large enough to hold outdoor activities.

Like many organizations, the Lost Villages Historical Society has had to change and modify many of their events which have become part of the fabric of our community due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the behind the scenes work of members of the Lost Villages Historical Society, there is a hint of the post-Covid world in this corner of SDG.

Drive-thru Chicken Dinner a success

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

IROQUOIS – Once again it was a sell-out event as the Iroquois-Matilda Lions Club held a drive-thru BBQ Chicken Dinner in the Iroquois plaza on Sat., June 26. Lion Evonne Delegarde explained that there were 600 chicken dinners ordered consisting of a barbecued half chicken, baked potato, beans, coleslaw, bottled water and for dessert a donut, donated by the Iroquois Tim Hortons.

Due to weather, the chickens were barbecued off-site and delivered to the Lions’ tent at the Iroquois Plaza where volunteers completed and delivered the dinners to the customers who arrived in their cars to pick them up. There was the opportunity to have the barbecue dinners delivered for seniors and others unable to pick them up by prearrangement.



There were plenty of volunteers available to help at the Chicken BBQ arranged by the IMLC and held at the Iroquois Plaza on June 26. From the left, front row: Evonne Delegarde, Carol Thompson, Liz Asselin, Shirley Pettinger. Back Row: David Horne, Linda Testerink, Jim Locke, John Marston, Vince Lauzon, Christine Hartle and Jacques Asselin.

Thompson Goddard Photo

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Walking through history

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

SOUTH DUNDAS – Upper Canada Village, located in South Dundas along County Road 2, opened for its regular season on July 1. Since it opened 60 years ago, it has been providing visitors with the opportunity to learn about the history of the local area since the coming of the United Empire Loyalists following the American Revolution, currently concentrating on the 1860s time period.

Since mid-June, visitors to UCV have been able to book pre-season 90-minute guided walking tours with UCV interpreters providing a wealth of information during the stroll around the village. However, on July 1, Upper Canada Village (UCV) opened for the season with

visitors able to tour the living history site at their own pace, following the COVID-19 precautions in place to protect staff, animals and visitors. The protocols include hand sanitization, the wearing of face coverings in the Discovery Centre and Village Store and maintaining a six-foot distance between groups.

Julian Whittam, UCV site supervisor, explained buildings remain closed to the public, with interpreters present throughout the village to provide information or assist visitors. He continued there will be no special events, for example Horse Lovers' Weekend, held this summer and the train, bateau and wagon rides will not be running.

Whittam mentioned there will be no access to or touching of animals at UCV due to concerns about COVID-19 transmission between animals and humans, but people will be able to see them at work or grazing in the fields.

The sawmill, woolen and grist mills will soon be operational, with "village" bread available for sale in the near future at the

Village Store, which is open at a reduced capacity. Whittam mentioned that Food Services in the village are currently not open, with the exception being the Beaver Tails Kiosk located near the entrance to the village.

He explained tickets must be purchased online only with a specific entry time provided with season pass holders able to enter without an online ticket. If, however a season pass holder brings guests then tickets must be purchased online for them.

Whittam mentioned that a significant amount of planning and infrastructure improvement has been done such as the installation of touchless water stations and washrooms and extra cleaning carried out to ensure the safety of everyone. He mentioned how the administrative staff are looking for feedback from visitors to the site.

For more information on the 2021 season at Upper Canada Village, a visit to their social media sites or website is encouraged. Whittam mentioned that the post season events such as



Interpreter Debbie DeCooman of Chesterville takes a moment to rest in the shade at Cook's Tavern in Upper Canada Village. Thompson Goddard Photo

Alight at Night and Pumpkinferno are expected to be held this year.

Forward House sits on shaky ground

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The future of the Village of Iroquois' Forward House is growing increasingly uncertain.

During the June 28 Municipality of South Dundas council meeting, Ann Banford and Pierette Racine made a short presentation on behalf of their group, the Friends of the Forward House. They listed the many actions they have taken, gave an update on where things stand presently, and made it clear that should their efforts to secure funding fail, they will be returning the fate of Forward House over to the municipality, once again.

"Once it's gone, it's gone forever," Banford said.

In addition to applying for and being granted charitable status, the group has sent several applications for various grants to an assortment of organizations, including the township. To date, they have been denied grants through the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Municipality of South Dundas, Red Grant, and the Healthy Communities Initiatives Foundation. They are still waiting for responses from Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit and from the Canadian Steamship Lines.

"The one thing, when it gets right down to the nitty gritty, [granting organizations] want to know financials," Banford said. "When we sit there with maybe five or \$6,000 in our account, that doesn't give a really positive perspective to the people that are looking after the grants. We feel that if the tourist information booth had been set up in that building, it would have been a little easier. We would have been able to start with that and maybe work around it."

Each member of council praised the group for their hard work and effort to save the building. Some expressed hope that things might still work out. Others offered alternatives should things not go well, and the final two grants are denied.

"I want to thank you for all the work you put into this," Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner said. "I want to applaud your efforts regardless of the outcome. You have been cheerleaders for your community and cheerleaders for heritage in South Dundas and I will say this, 'Regardless of the outcome of the actual building of Forward House, I still do believe that under the wing of the South Dundas Historical Society, there is space for you and for your passion.'

Should the final two applications be denied, the group will have until the end of the year to decide whether to hand the reigns back to the township. If they do, council will be faced with making the decision on the Forward House's fate sometime next year.

"There's always hope," Coun. Lloyd Wells said. "It's not over yet. There may be a light at the end of the tunnel."



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Ingleside's Vendors' Village opens

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

INGLESIDE— The South Stormont Vendors' Village and Pop-Up Market officially opened on Fri., July 2 in the park area to the south of the Ingleside Plaza in that South Stormont community.

Local dignitaries including SDSG MP Eric Duncan, SDG warden Al Armstrong, South Stormont Mayor Bryan McGillis were on hand for the ribbon cutting as the market opened. The market, organized by Reg and Kathy Coffey, will run each Friday between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. until Thanksgiving. The couple are members of the South Stormont Fun Raisers (SSFR), a recently formed organization which seek to raise funds for community projects in South Stormont.

Dave Smith, a member of SSFR, mentioned there were approximately 12 vendors, selling manufactured goods

such as artisans and direct sale businesses, with non-profit organizations able to set up at no cost.

Smith noted that vendors and customers respected the COVID-19 protocols with approximately two hundred people visiting the event during the four hours it was open. He mentioned as soon as these protocols allow, there is the possibility of some special events being held at Vendors' Village such as Seniors' Day or a Pet Parade for example. Smith continued the organization is looking for sponsors for these special events and if interested to contact the organization. He commented the South Stormont Fun Raisers are looking to host events, depending on COVID-19 precautions, such as card and dart tournaments through the winter, a volleyball tournament on Labour Day weekend, Elton John Tribute Show in



From the left: Dave Smith, Reg and Kathy Coffey are shown at the South Stormont Vendors' Village on July 2 as the event wound down. Courtesy Photo



From the left: SDSG MP Eric Duncan, SDG warden Al Armstrong, Reg Coffey (vendor coordinator), South Stormont Mayor Bryan McGillis and Dave Smith SSFR chairperson/club founder. Courtesy Photo

October and a ball Facebook page for tournament in August. It is information on upcoming suggested to visit their events.

South Dundas sole sources' website redesign

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas is set to have a new website within the year for less than half the expected cost.

During the township's June 28 council meeting, communications coordinator Kalynn Sawyer Helmer asked council for permission to sole source the website redesign to UpanUp Studios Inc. for roughly \$18,000, as part of the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry multi-site platform. It was noted that South Dundas would be saving close to \$30,000 by taking this route, as the coding templates, which take the most time and the most money to complete, have already been created for SDG.

"Is it a \$50,000 site for \$18,000 or is it an \$18,000 site for \$18,000," Coun. Archie Mellan asked.

Sawyer assured council the low price was simply a matter of having

most of the time-consuming background work already completed. If the coding templates needed to be done, it would be roughly \$50,000, she said, but these have been completed for SDG already and through this agreement, South Dundas is able to make use of these same templates provided they hire UpanUp Studios Inc. to do the redesign, as they were the template creators.

Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner had concerns about the look and functionality of the new website if they chose to go with SDG's designer. Gardner said she had looked at the township of North Dundas and the township of North Stormont websites, as they had partnered with SDG originally, and there are things she would like to see done differently.

"I've gone on North Stormont and North Dundas, and it leads me to an app," Gardner said, referring to her

search for information on garbage pickup. "I'm totally lost in North Stormont. I don't even know if they have garbage pickup. How are we going to make sure it's a one-click, maybe two?"

Sawyer said this is when it comes down to content. She said it's her job to make sure residents can get to the most popular pages quickly and easily. A link to information on garbage and recycling will be on the homepage, she said. Sawyer also assured Gardner she would still be able to create an event calendar, where the public can send in event information to be posted on the calendar for all residents to see.

"I believe we will be getting exactly what we are looking for," Sawyer said. "For much less money and much less time." By going with UpanUp Studios Inc., she said the project would take only 15 weeks, roughly, rather than the originally forecasted 40 plus weeks.

Ultramar to provide cardlock fuel system for South Dundas

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – Local politicians recently approved a three-year lease agreement between the Municipality of South Dundas and Parkland Industries Ltd.'s Ultramar Fuels for a Cardlock Fuel System.

The decision was made during the township's June 28 council meeting, where director of transportation Jeff Hyndman made the recommendation for a Cardlock Fuel System to dispense coloured diesel, clear diesel, and regular fuel for the Matilda and Williamsburg Public Works' Yards. Hyndman said there would be a learning curve, as this was a new system for both him and the municipality.

In his report, Hyndman said the fuel management system would provide 24-

hour fuel availability, fuel tracking by unit number and by employee number, Cloud storage for tracking information, monthly tracking reports for each department, and reduced fuel costs. While the initial set-up costs are free, there is a monthly Cloud data storage fee of roughly \$84 per month that will begin in July of next year.

"I think this should have been done before us, going back years ago," Coun. Lloyd Wells said. "It's just a good way to do it, good business, and I think we should run this municipality like a business. It's a start. I think when it's all said and done, we'll see results and we'll see our fuel costs go down. I think it's good, a very good system."

As for fuel costs, council voted 3-2 for market pricing rather than a locked-in

amount. While Mayor Steven Byvels, Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner, and Coun. Don Lewis opted on


the side of market price, it was Wells and Coun. Archie Mellan who voted in favour of locked in pricing.



Obituary


LEVERE, MARY TERESSA (NEE GAYDA)

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Levere of Winchester, in her 83rd year, on Friday, July 2, 2021. Beloved wife of the late Bob Levere. Loving Mother of Grant and his wife Wanda, and the late Wade Levere. Cherished and proud Grandmother of Darren and Justin Levere. Predeceased by her siblings Mike Gayda, Henry (Sheila) Gayda, Sophia (Don) Wilson, Nick (Chris) Gayda and Edward Gayda. Dear Sister-In-Law of Marie Gayda. Fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, friends and neighbours. The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Migicovsky and the nursing staff at Winchester District Memorial Hospital. A private memorial service will be held at Maple Ridge Cemetery. Donations in Memory of Mary may be made to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital or a charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to the Byers Funeral Home, South Mountain (613-989-3836). Online condolences may be made to www.byersfuneralhomeinc.com.




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Market in the vineyard

Smokie Ridge Farmers' Market will open starting this Sat., July 10 from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. There is still room for vendors. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Valerie at 647-673-3163 or smokiesfarmersmarket@gmail.com. The vineyard is located at 10090 Cameron Rd. in South Mountain. In this photo, owners Debbie and Paul LeBlanc take a break while getting ready for their first farmers' market.

Morin Photo

Level 1 low water conditions maintained for South Nation River

FINCH – Despite the rain received in the month of June, South Nation Conservation's (SNC) Water Response Team upheld a Level 1 Low Water Condition for its entire watershed in Eastern Ontario on June 30, 2021.

Due to a drier than usual spring and the lack of precipitation, conditions in the South Nation River Watershed meet the threshold for a Level 1 Low Water status under the Ontario Low Water Response Program. Low Water Conditions are determined based on precipitation and stream flow indicators.

Stream flows within SNC's watershed are below average for this time of year. However, the lack of

precipitation is the leading factor in the current low water status.

Records indicate that precipitation over the past three months was at least below 80 per cent normal. While in Level 1 status, SNC asks residents and businesses to reduce their water consumption by 10 per cent to help mitigate the impacts of low water conditions.

Water consumption can be reduced by limiting non-essential uses and with the following water conservation practices:

1. Repair all leaks around the home.
2. If you must water your lawn, early morning or late evening watering reduces evaporation.
3. Use a pail of soapy water to wash your car and

rinse it off quickly with a hose.

4. Water plants with water collected in a rain barrel.

5. If you must run the tap, save the excess water for watering plants.

Of the three levels of Low Water Conditions, a Level 1 indicates that there is the potential of a water supply problem should current precipitation and stream flow trends persist. A Level 2 condition indicates minor supply issues may be apparent and conservation and non-essential restriction is adopted, and a Level 3 condition indicates the failure of water supply to meet demand. Under the Ontario Low Water Response Program, each Conservation Authority

forms a Water Response Team to ensure that the public is provided with advance warning of reduced water availability, and that related decisions are made by local stakeholders, including representatives from provincial and municipal governments, agriculture, and special interest groups. SNC will continue to monitor watershed conditions and will provide updates as required. To better understand local conditions; landowners, businesses, and industries are encouraged to contact SNC if they are experiencing any unusual water-related problems.

For more information, please contact Katherine Watson or Sandra Mancini at 1-877-984-2948 or info@nation.on.ca.

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SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight

Capturing those special moments one shot at a time

SOUTH MOUNTAIN – Bretny Holmes, mother of two young children, entrepreneur and businesswoman loves taking photographs.

She has taken her passion, capturing special moments with her camera and turned it into a healthy photographic business.

She moved from Winchester about seven years ago to South Mountain and began a journey that led her to where she is today, the owner of Bretny Holmes Photography; a successful photography studio.

“I have been in this location for two years.”

She purchased her home in South Mountain and renovated part of it as her studio.

“It just kind of happened,” is how she describes her introduction to professional photography.

“A friend got me into it. We were doing it together and it just kind of branched off and now I am here,” she said.

She liked the feeling of helping people capture the special moments in their lives.

“You get to capture all of the happy moments in people lives,” she said.

A quote from Eudora Alice Welty sums up Bretny’s philosophy. Welty was an American short story writer, novelist and photographer. Her novel *The Optimist’s Daughter* won the Pulitzer Prize in 1973. Welty received numerous awards, including the presidential Medal of Freedom and the Order of the South.



Bretny Holmes has found her passion capturing your special moments.

Morin Photo

The quote is, “A good snapshot keeps a moment from running away.”

Bretny said that concept is one she keeps in mind for every picture she takes.

These days Bretny is very busy.

Her range of clients includes: weddings, families, children and babies, engagements and special occasions, school pictures and even animals like horses and dogs.

“My biggest clientele are families, and my favourite sessions are with newborns. They are the most challenging, but are worth it in the end,” she said.

Her photographic skill set and her intuitive knowledge of how to work with different kinds of light under different conditions has been an asset to her business. She is able to use her environment to capture that special moment for a newlywed couple or a week’s old baby.

She remembers that her very first professional photographic shoot was a wedding. Afterwards she said, “If I could survive that I can do anything.”

One of the special features about her

business is how she has managed to remain competitive by running her business in an efficient and effective way.

She has taken advantage of as much of the new photographic technology as she can. She processes each of her photographs through Photoshop and Lightbox software programs before her clients get to see them.

She is committed to present her clients with the very best image possible.

Once a job is completed and the photographs are given to the client, they become their responsibility. There is no need to return to her to get reprints in the future because the client will have all of the original stored digitally in their computer or flash drive or some other device.

She said she keeps her original files for a year in case a client loses the originals.

This process keeps her behind the camera and focused on her craft and not filling out an order from behind a desk.

“I could not imagine doing anything different,” said Bretny. “It can be hard physically but still it’s rewarding.”

The key to her success is that she works well under pressure and pressure goes along with every wedding, along with expectations of clients who want that perfect photograph of their newborn baby or that moment a family laughs together.

For more information about Bretny Holmes Photography, you can call her at 613- 880-8636. Her studio is located at 10594 Main St. in South Mountain or email her at: bretnyholmesphotography@gmail.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.

Russell investigates options for Nokomis Park

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – The township of Russell’s politicians were recently asked, once again, to take a look at addressing spring flooding issues in Nokomis Park.

The request was made during the June 21 council meeting where both Coun. Mike Tarnowski and Coun. André Brisson, who both sit on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), insisted the flooding was a serious issue affecting a significant number of residents who use the park’s trail loop system regularly. After a lengthy

discussion, council unanimously agreed to defer so more information could be gathered.

“This item has been brought to council on several occasions,” Mayor Pierre Leroux said. “We’ve approached both the South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC) and the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR) and they’re both not interested in doing work on this. So, I guess the question is, we’ve dealt with this two-to-three times already, brought up at budget time already, do we want to change the decision and move forward?”

It was noted that UCPR owns Nokomis Park, while Russell pays SNC to maintain it. Leroux said municipal staff, along with representatives from SNC, have looked at the area in question following one of the previous requests at which point it was determined that the cost was too high. It was noted that the portion of land in question would need to be elevated and then proper drainage installed, which would include a substantial amount of work, as well as funds.

“Wouldn’t this be the UCPR’s issue, since they own the park,” Coun. Jamie Laurin said. Leroux

said UCPR has made it clear they are not interested in investing in the park.

Brisson said an easier solution would be to simply put additional gravel in that area to raise it enough for people to walk through during the flooding season. The solution, he was told, was not that simple, as there are environmental impact factors to be considered. Leroux also noted, again, that both township staff and SNC have been on site and agreed it’s not an easy fix.

While Coun. Cindy Saucier said she hadn’t noticed an issue with flooding at Nokomis, she said the trail should be maintained. She said she, along with many

other Russell residents, use the park with its 30-45-weekly loop walk, if not daily for some.

“I would absolutely love something to get done, but who’s going to pay for it,” Laurin said. “It’s not a township-owned property and we pay SNC to maintain it when UCPR actually own it. The mayor has already said it’s a futile effort at UCPR. Are we willing to spend money into fixing that park that we don’t own?”

Brisson and Tarnowski suggested the township put more pressure on the county to fix the trail. Brisson said again that SNC should be asked if it was possible to simply put gravel down. He

said the idea isn’t to fix the drainage, but rather to ensure residents can access the entire trail year-round. Tarnowski also noted that most residents don’t know that it’s UCPR who own the land, so when they complain, they are pointing at the township.

Leroux said he’s unwilling to use “political capital” to fix a trail, but he would use it to purchase the land. Tarnowski then moved to have staff investigate potentially taking ownership of Nokomis Park. The issue has been deferred until more information can be gathered. Tarnowski and Brisson will be taking the matter back to PRAC for further discussion.



Great day for a yard sale!

There were lots of people out looking for a deal during the Long Sault Community Yard Sale on Sun., June 27. Rain had washed out the event the day before, but the sunshine on Sunday brought out throngs of bargain seekers on the streets of this small South Stormont community. An entrepreneurial young man, Jaxon Pidgeon, set up a lemonade stand at his family’s yard sale to sell bottled water and lemonade to thirsty customers. Jaxon is shown at the stand with his father Zacc during a lull in customers to their yard sale. Thompson Goddard Photo

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McKercher

Donald and Linda McKercher of Finch celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 3rd, 2021. They were married on July 3rd, 1971 in the United Church in Avonmore, ON.

Donald and Linda are two beautiful parents to Cheryl, Jamie (Claudia) and Erin (Doug), two wonderful grandparents to Isabella, Lianna and Haylie, and one amazing couple to all who know them.

Congratulations Mom and Dad as you celebrate your golden wedding anniversary.

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Council denies regular water restrictions request

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – Politicians in the township of Russell recently voted against a bylaw amendment that would restrict resident use of exterior water in summer months.

At the June 21 council meeting, executive director of infrastructure services Jonathan Bourgon suggested the exterior water restriction be put into effect from June 1 to August 31 each year. Had it been approved, the bylaw amendment would have outlined when, and for what purposes, residents could use their exterior water during this period. Russell’s politicians unanimously voted in favour of deferring the issue, effectively putting an end to any talk of a bylaw change. Instead, staff was directed to work with the Environmental Advisory Committee on creating a township-wide education campaign around water conservation.

“Why, if we’re paying for water, do we have to have restrictions when we get the water from Ottawa and they don’t have restrictions,” Coun. Jamie Laurin said.

Both Laurin and Coun. Mike Tarnowski expressed concern for the scope of the restrictions, as well as the power allotted to staff to enforce those restrictions. While they both said they understood the idea of water conservation, they each took issue with the idea of putting restrictions on a resident-purchased commodity.

“I could totally understand before when we were on ground source water,” Laurin said. “We’re billing them for fixed costs and usage. I understand preservation, but at the end of the day, you’re paying for a service. Why am I being restricted? Is there an issue with our

infrastructure where we need time to replenish?”

In response to several questions coming from both Laurin and Tarnowski, Bourgon confirmed there is no shortage of water at this point. He said staff is looking at extending the reservoir for potential future emergencies. He also noted that with the bylaw in place, it would be easier for staff to implement water restrictions in the event of an actual drought situation.

“It is an educational factor. Water is not an endless commodity,” Coun. Cindy Saucier said. “This isn’t just a thing that’s recommended for people on wells, this is something that is recommended for all people who use water.”

Tarnowski said he agrees with using water

responsibly but drew the line at regular usage restrictions, when there is no clear or current need to do so, for residents who are paying for that service. Laurin agreed, noting that most residents are paying for and using the same water source as the City of Ottawa, and the city’s residents are not being restricted. Mayor Pierre Leroux agreed that for those Russell residents using the city water system, conserving water would not impact homes with well systems, positively or negatively.

“We recently had a water ban on. Many residents were just ignoring it and frivolously washing their driveways,” Saucier said. “If we go into a high-level drought, these are things we have to

consider. We did put the restriction in place last year and people did follow it. We need to set an example as a township.”

Leroux reminded council that there is an emergency policy in place whereby the township can implement water restrictions or bans in emergency situations. Denying the bylaw amendment doesn’t change that, he said. Rather than mandating restrictions for outdoor water usage every summer regardless of need, Leroux recommended instituting an education campaign.

With all members of council in agreement, the bylaw amendment was scrapped and the instruction to create a water preservation education campaign was given. Saucier said she will relay the task to the EAC at their August meeting, as they are already working on water saving tips.

Russell supports request from Marionville’s Villa

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – The township of Russell will be assisting Marionville’s Villa d’Accueil Sainte-Thérèse with the non-profit’s septic replacement project.

During the June 21 meeting, council was presented with a letter from Villa d’Accueil Sainte-Thérèse manager Jean-René Jr. Bergevin asking the township for assistance, as an Environmental Compliance Approval is required from the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) due to the size of the system. In addition, the MECP will not grant approval without an agreement in place between the municipality and the Villa.

Noting that the Villa d’Accueil Sainte-Thérèse is the only non-profit social housing service in the municipality; Russell’s politicians unanimously agreed to the request. They advised staff to assist with the agreement, using funds from the operating budget. It was estimated that roughly \$5,000 would be needed for legal assistance in drafting the agreement, along with roughly \$2,500 for a consultation fee.

“I don’t think I’ve ever seen this many requests coming out of the Villa for a donation,” Mayor Pierre Leroux said. “Realistically, this is more of an environmental safeguard to make sure everything is done properly. I’m okay with helping them out.”

In his report to council, executive director of infrastructure services Jonathan Bourgon said the agreement is to ensure the necessary funds are set aside for the project. He also noted that the MECP could order the municipality to do the repairs in the future if it became a problem.

Both Coun. André Brisson and Coun. Jamie Laurin said they saw no issue with the request. Brisson noted the township’s donation contributions were lower than usual for the past two years due to COVID-19. Laurin agreed, saying that Russell could easily accommodate the financial request at this time.

A reserve is to be created for the Villa d’Accueil Sainte-Thérèse septic project. Bourgon’s report indicated that the non-profit, and possibly the United Counties of Prescott-Russell, would be contributing funds to the reserve.



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