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Briefly

Year in review
CHESTERVILLE – Our annual Year in Review begins on page 6. Browse through all of the events and news from 2021.

Christmas tree drop-off
NORTH DUNDAS – The township of North Dundas is setting up depots to drop off your Christmas trees. Residents can bring their trees to the depots anytime between Dec. 25 to Jan. 12. The township asks that residents remove all decorations prior to dropping off their trees. There will be barrels on site marked with 'Tree Depot' signs.

The five depots will be set up in the following locations:

- Winchester Arena
- Chesterville Arena
- Morewood RA Centre
- South Mountain Fire Hall
- Hallville Community Park

Getting your vaccine appointment

SDG – Getting your vaccine shot is a must these days and following that shot up with a booster is equally important. You can go to <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations> to find a drug store or pharmacy near where you live where you can get your vaccine shots and later your booster shot. If you are looking for a pharmacy location online, simply look for the closest town or village near you, click on the name and that will take you to a list of pharmacies and their phone numbers who give out booster shots and vaccines. You can also book a shot through <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/getting-covid-19-vaccine>.



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Supporting our community

When Paul Oosterhof, owner of Finch Feed and Seed, learned the Holiday Train would be a virtual event this year, he and his team decided that “we would start something” to support Community Food Share. Between Dec. 10 and 23 people were able to drop off food or monetary donations for CFS. Ernie Coumont, CFS volunteer and board member, received the donations on Dec. 23 and noted there was around 200 pounds of food and Oosterhof providing him with \$120 cash. Coumont’s next stop was at the Finch Branch of the SDG County Library where he picked up more food donations for CFS. From the left: Paul Oosterhof, Ernie Coumont, Dean Jackson, Connor Boer and Andrew Machan. *Thompson Goddard Photo*

South Dundas looks at water/sewer budget

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas got a head start on the 2022 budget last month with a summary of the Water and Wastewater Budget.

In a special meeting held Dec. 15, updates were provided on the four components of the Water and Wastewater Budget, including the South Dundas Water System, and the Morrisburg, Iroquois, and Williamsburg Wastewater Systems. Politicians were also given a few other previews of what’s to come with the new year’s budget deliberations.

Mayor Steven Byvels was unable to attend the session, leaving Deputy Mayor Kirsten Gardner to lead the meeting. Armed with informational binders, members of council were able to ask questions throughout the presentation, which began with a presentation from deputy treasurer Shawn Mason and followed by manager of Water and Wastewater Operations Denis Villeneuve’s more in-depth presentation.

Continued on page 2

Province imposes short-term pandemic restrictions

Joseph Morin
Record Staff

CHESTERVILLE – Ontario is taking a step back from reaching the pandemic finish line.

With the numbers of Omicron cases soaring in the province, Ontario’s Premier Ford has re-imposed strict regulations in an attempt to slow down the Omicron virus which is the new variant of Covid and at the same time try and preserve what spaces Ontario hospitals have to deal with virus.

A press release from Ford’s office last week stated: In response to recent trends that show an alarming increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, is temporarily moving the province into Step Two of its Roadmap to Reopen with modifications that take into account the province’s successful vaccination efforts. These time-limited measures will help blunt transmission and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed as the province continues to accelerate its booster dose rollout. As part of the province’s response to the Omicron variant, starting Jan. 5, students will pivot to remote learning with free emergency child care planned for school-aged children of health care and other eligible frontline workers.”

Continued on page 3

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Water/sewer budget

Continued from the front

“Staff is recommending a 5.08 per cent (\$26.13) increase to the residential water flat rate from \$513.87 per year to \$540 per year. No change is proposed to the consumption rate of \$0.70 per cubed metre or the water plant capital rate of \$1.03 per cubed metre,” Mason said in his report. “The Morrisburg and Iroquois surcharges, currently at 75 per cent and 100 per cent respectively, are not proposed to change, nor is the Williamsburg annual rate currently at a base amount of \$180 per year. However, the increase to the water flat increase will result in an increase to the wastewater customer billings.”

Villeneuve began by walking South Dundas politicians through his PowerPoint presentation slide by slide. The presentation focused on a review of the department’s accomplishments in 2021. This included a discussion on why a new vehicle is needed.

“We have to do our checks every 72 hours,” Villeneuve said. “So, we’re actually travelling quite a way to do sampling and stuff like that.”

This discussion then led to questions about COVID-19 funding, as well as the different water and wastewater department reserves. Chief administrative officer Shannon Geraghty said he’d rather not take money from the reserves, as they’ll be needed down the road due to South Dundas’ aging infrastructure.

For a full play-by-play of the meeting, visit the municipality’s YouTube page and watch the Dec. 15 special meeting. The reports and presentations can be found in that day’s agenda package.

As for the rest of the 2022 budget, South Dundas politicians will be addressing this year’s finances later this month with meetings on Jan. 18 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Jan. 20 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Further information on these meetings can be found on the municipal website (southdundas.com).

Extending a helping hand

Carolyn Thompson Goddard
Record Staff

IROQUOIS – Lions from the Iroquois-Matilda Lions Club assisted Gilmer Pharmacy “with their backlog of Covid-19 bookings.” Lion Evonne Delegarde explained the pharmacy had requested assistance for December 17, 18, 20, 21 and 23.

Duties include “manning registration check-in desk for scheduled appointments, completion of forms and obtaining signatures authorizing shots” and monitoring the waiting area as well as “keeping lists and obtaining information from those who wish to book flu shots or COVID-19 shots in the future” according to Delegarde.



From the left: Lions Evonne Delegarde and Shirley Pettinger are shown at the COVID-19 vaccination check in desk at Gilmer’s Pharmacy in Iroquois.

Courtesy Photo

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North Stormont learns more about GFL expansion initiative

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BERWICK – “No decisions are being made tonight or recommended to be made tonight for council,” township of North Stormont community planner Jesse McPhail said. “This public meeting is essentially just an opportunity for the public and council to learn more about the proposed development and amendments, as well as voice any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the proposal.”

On Dec. 21, the township of North Stormont held a public meeting to learn more about the proposed zoning amendment for the GFL Environmental expansion initiative proposed for Moose Creek. It was noted several times throughout the meeting that no decision would be made that evening, as the meeting’s purpose was to share information with both council and the public. Other than Coun. Roxane Villeneuve, all municipal politicians were in attendance.

“I’m just going to quickly review some housekeeping items with respect to the proposals and then I’m going to hand it off to the applicants, which is GFL, and they’re

accompanied by Jesse Ajayi from Northern Futures,” McPhail said at the beginning of the meeting. “GFL Environmental is seeking to expand their waste handling facility just south of the 417. So, this expansion requires amendments to the [United Counties of Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry (SDG)] Official Plan and zoning bylaw, and township zoning bylaw, to change the subject lands to an appropriate designation and zoning that permits the proposed use. The current designations do not, and this is just to say that this is a typical situation for a new waste management facility, having to go through this process.”

In addition to Northern Futures Planning’s partner and community planner Ajayi, the following attendees were on hand to speak to any concerns: HDR Corporation solid waste program lead (Canada) Larry Fedec, CIMA lead professional – hydrogeologist Karen Greer, GFL environmental compliance officer Greg van Loenen, and SDG director of planning services Peter Young. The night’s agenda included a report from North Stormont asset management junior planner Moe Hammond, as well as reports from Greer, Ajayi, and van Loenen.

“The current landfill is expected to be full by 2025 and we have begun the EA (environmental assessment) process to gain approval for additional landfill disposal capacity,” van Loenen said. He noted that the total area is 189 hectares (467 acres) and consists of the landfill, gas-to-electricity facility, leachate treatment facility, and compost facility. “The location and size of the EOWHF (Eastern Ontario Waste Handling Facility) allow it to serve a broad customer base providing the region of Eastern Ontario with essential waste management services. The significant amount of environmental safeguards in-place at the facility ensure that the environment is well protected.”

He outlined the benefits of the proposal. These included both environmental and economic benefits.

“The landfill is the base from which green initiatives and a circular economy can be built upon because it offers a final disposal option for residual waste materials,” he said. “The generation of renewable natural gas (RNG) can be collected, concentrated, and placed onto the grid for residential, commercial, and agricultural use. RNG is

internationally recognized as a vital energy source that can be used to reduce the impacts of climate change.”

Greer’s eight-page technical report included a list of four recommendations, including a project review and approval by South Nation Conservation Authority (SNC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), and the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP). Ajayi’s report reviewed the planning and zoning requirements, notably the need to rezone part of GFL’s land from Agricultural Resource Lands to something that permits waste management systems, such as Employment District or Rural District designations. He outlined Ontario’s guidelines for exceptions that would allow the removal of prime agricultural land.

The reports can be found in North Stormont’s Dec. 21 agenda package. The recording of the meeting can be viewed in full on the township’s Facebook page. The roughly 1.5-hour meeting included questions and comments from council.

“Staff will be bringing a full report and recommendation to council in the new year,” McPhail said. “As council isn’t making a decision tonight, they will be accepting submissions on this, on these files, up until they do make that decision.”

Pandemic restrictions

Continued from the front

Ford said, “As we continue with our provincial vaccine booster efforts, we must look at every option to slow the spread of the highly contagious Omicron variant.”

The province believes imposing these restrictions in place, in the short-term will give clinics and pharmacies the extra time needed to deliver more vaccines to Ontarians.

There is a concern that the Omicron virus which appears to have a high transmissibility could cause hospitals to become overwhelmed while healthcare workers catch it themselves and spend time off work.

The press release stated: “Real-world experience and evidence in Ontario reveal that approximately one per cent of Omicron cases require hospital care. The rapid rise of Omicron cases, which may soon number in the hundreds of thousands, could result in the province’s hospital capacity becoming overwhelmed if further action isn’t taken to curb transmission. When one in 100 cases goes to the hospital, it means that with this rapid increase in transmission the number of new cases requiring hospitalization will also rapidly increase daily. For example, 50,000 cases per day would mean 500 hospital admissions per day, which is greater than the peak daily hospitalizations of 265 per day from last spring, when hospitals were under significant strain during the third wave of the pandemic.”

The Chief Medical Officer of Health is expected to reinstate

Directive 2 for hospitals and regulated health professionals, instructing hospitals to pause all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures in order to preserve critical care and human resource capacity.

The restrictions include:

- Reducing social gathering limits to five people indoors and 10 people outdoors.
- Limiting capacity at organized public events to five people indoors.
- Requiring businesses and organizations to ensure employees work remotely unless the nature of their work requires them to be on-site.
- Limiting capacity at indoor weddings, funerals, and religious services, rites and ceremonies to 50 per cent capacity of the particular room. Outdoor services are limited to the number of people that can maintain two metres of physical distance. Social gatherings associated with these services must adhere to the social gathering limits.
- Retail settings, including shopping malls,

permitted at 50 per cent capacity. For shopping malls physical distancing will be required in line-ups, loitering will not be permitted and food courts will be required to close.

- Personal care services permitted at 50 per cent capacity and other restrictions. Saunas, steam rooms, and oxygen bars closed.
- Closing indoor meeting and event spaces with limited exceptions but permitting outdoor spaces to remain open with restrictions.
- Public libraries limited to 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor dining at restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments. Outdoor dining with restrictions, takeout, drive thru and delivery is permitted.
- Restricting the sale of alcohol after 10 p.m. and the consumption of alcohol on-premise in businesses or settings after 11 p.m. with delivery and takeout, grocery/convenience stores and other liquor stores exempted.
- Closing indoor concert venues, theatres, cinemas, rehearsals and recorded

performances permitted with restrictions.

- Closing museums, galleries, zoos, science centres, landmarks, historic sites, botanical gardens and similar attractions, amusement parks and waterparks, tour and guide services and fairs, rural exhibitions, and festivals. Outdoor establishments permitted to open with restrictions and with spectator occupancy, where applicable, limited to 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor horse racing tracks, car racing tracks and other similar venues. Outdoor establishments permitted to open with restrictions and with spectator occupancy limited to 50 per cent capacity. Boat tours permitted at 50 per cent capacity.
- Closing indoor sport and recreational fitness facilities including gyms, except for athletes training for the Olympics and Paralympics and select professional and elite amateur sport leagues. Outdoor facilities are permitted to operate but with the number of spectators not to exceed 50

per cent occupancy and other requirements.

- All publicly funded and private schools will move to remote learning starting Jan. 5 until at least Jan. 17, subject to public health trends and operational considerations.
- School buildings would be permitted to open for child care operations, including emergency child care, to provide in-person

instruction for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated remotely and for staff who are unable to deliver quality instruction from home.

- During this period of remote learning, free emergency childcare will be provided for school-aged children of healthcare and other eligible frontline workers.



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EDITORIAL & Opinion

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Let's make peace our focus for 2022

Another year has come and gone. Pre-pandemic it would have been a time for celebrating the end of one year and the welcoming of a new one. But we're still in the middle of a pandemic, one that looks like it could get worse. We have people telling us to be afraid and people telling us to have faith. There's controversy and conflict everywhere. We don't know what's going to happen next, it could be something good or it could be something bad.

So, where does that leave us? It leaves us with the free will to choose our attitude, and our perspective.

To be honest, I've been struggling with increased anxiety for a couple of months now. Recently, I've been overcome by this overwhelming feeling that 2022 may be my last. I've been choosing to live in despair, and I've been choosing to see the world as a scary place. It's not the first time I've done this, as I've lived my whole life with depression, and I've tackled post-traumatic stress disorder more than once. But it doesn't have to be that way. While I may not be able to control the chemical component of my disorder, I can choose how I face it, and I can choose how I face life.

I can choose to face the world with love and gratitude for the opportunity to be here on earth with all its wonder and beauty. I can choose to view the world through the lens of love, seeing past the foibles of those I don't understand to see the goodness that's absolutely residing somewhere beneath the surface.

I don't know what tomorrow will bring. I don't know what this year will bring, or next year, or the year after that. Are we headed for one of the dystopian futures we've read about in books or seen in films? Maybe, but probably not. I don't know the future. None of us do. And that's okay because if you think about it, we never have known the future, and yet we continue to wake up each morning confident that the sun will rise.

We greet each day with the hope and faith that we'll see it through to the next one, and the one after that, and the one after that. Somewhere in the recesses of our minds we know that today could be our last, but we choose not to dwell on it. We choose to believe that all will be well and that we and our loved ones will live to see another day. We've been doing this for centuries. Why else would humanity still exist? Hope and faith have kept us alive; they've kept us going.

So, with 2022 on our doorstep, and with the pandemic taking yet another unwanted twist, let's keep doing what we've been doing, let's remember to wake up each morning and to go to sleep each night with the faith and hope that's kept us here for generations. Let's not succumb to the hysteria and the fear. Let's do what we must to stay healthy and to keep going. Let's stand up against this common foe we call COVID-19 and let's kick its bottom all the way back to oblivion. But most of all, let's remember to face this next year with open minds, faithful hearts, and the unconditional love we need, to accept our family, friends, and neighbours for who they are, whether they're like us or not. And in addition to staying healthy, let's make peace our focus for 2022.

Sandy Casselman

One in seven Canadians live in poverty

"Four million people in Canada experience food insecurity. One in eight Canadian households struggles to put food on the table. In 2014, the majority of food – insecure households – 62 per cent – were reliant on wages or salary from employment. Eight out of 10 provinces saw an increase in food bank usage in 2016." – from Canada Without Poverty (cwp-csp.ca).

January is poverty awareness month. Well, it is in the United States. I believe it should be here in Canada as well. Currently we observe the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Oct. 17; one day, versus one month.

"Poverty exists in Canada and much of it is hidden. Almost five million, or one in seven Canadians live in poverty based on the after-tax low-income measure. Poverty is often hidden, and the size of the problem can vary depending on the cost of living and the concentration of poverty in particular neighbourhoods." – Tackling Poverty Together, a report from Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada.ca).

Did you know that Canada produced its first

Poverty Reduction Plan only four years ago, in 2018? For those not in the know, we've had significant poverty issues here in Canada for decades.

"Many Canadians cannot pay for basic necessities and face significant barriers to work, which take an emotional and psychological toll," Tackling Poverty Together states. "Canadians living in poverty are survivors, but they need more support to make a bigger change in their lives. Many people cannot access the support they need because of how some programs are designed and delivered."

Honestly, there is not enough space in an editorial to cover all the ins and outs of poverty in Canada. The definition of poverty alone requires a lengthy conversation. Then there's the levels of poverty – yes, there are levels. If you read through the materials provided by the federal government that outline poverty and its existence in Canada, you might believe it's simply a matter of income, or a lack of income to be more precise. But it's a bit more complicated.

The Canadian Poverty Institute (povertyinstitute.ca),

for example, includes three measures for poverty: material, social, and spiritual. It's like the idea behind the American-created Bridges Out of Poverty (ahaprocess.com) that defines poverty as "the extent to which one does without resources." The book and the program of the same name list more than a dozen resources, not just income, that if there's a lack, there's poverty. Some of these are obvious, such as access to housing or transportation. Others may seem less obvious, such as social isolation.

"Considering Canada's wealth and resources, a disproportionate number of Canadians are living in poverty. Poverty affects millions of Canadians. Income inequality is growing, and recent estimates indicate over 14 per cent of Canadians suffer from low income. Many more live precariously from paycheque to paycheque and are at risk of falling into poverty. Child poverty rates are not declining, and food security is an issue for far too many. It is estimated that over 150,000 Canadians are homeless on any given day." – from the Canadian Poverty Institute. There are many groups

working to end poverty in Canada from small grassroots' initiatives like Linking Hands (House of Lazarus) in Dundas County to larger national organizations, such as Canada Without Poverty. This group has noted that, "Poverty costs Canada billions of dollars annually."

To my fellow Canadians who believe that if they aren't facing poverty themselves then poverty is not their problem, I have this to say: one, with one surprise catastrophe, it could be you, and two, poverty is expensive for our country. Helping people climb out of poverty and stay out of poverty could save our country money in the long-term. Again, there are too many examples of how this is true to list here but take for example our healthcare system. If Canadians had the money to take care of their health, they wouldn't need to be visiting doctors or emergency rooms quite so often.

In this editorial, I've stayed on the periphery of the topic. If you've never lived in poverty, I invite you to do a bit of reading – there are numerous resources available online, including data from Statistics Canada (statcan.gc.ca/en/topics-start/poverty).

Sandy Casselman

The Road Home

by Carolyn Thompson Goddard

"See you next year" called out my brother Dave as he opened the front door and waved goodbye to Mom and I. Being a somewhat emotional youngster, tears began running down my face as I turned to Mom and begged her to stop him. As the door closed behind him Mom stood there quietly trying to explain how he would be back inside before long and sure enough before you knew it the door opened and in walked Dave. "Happy New Year" he shouted as I began to understand what had happened during the last few minutes. He had left in the last few moments of the old year, returned in the first few moments of the new and was indeed seeing us in the "next year".

Now I don't recall if one of my dark-haired brothers had joined David on the porch and came in ahead of him to ensure a lot of luck the following year. This would have followed the Scottish tradition of "first footing" on New Years. She loved to tell stories about

cultural traditions and the first footing tradition of the first person over the threshold having dark hair was one of her favourites. I remember her telling me how one of my teachers with beautiful auburn hair had to wait outside the home of her Scottish grandmother early one New Year's Day. It seems she had to wait until her dark-haired brother arrived home and crossed the threshold before she could enter.

As a young mother, our home on New Year's Eve was often filled with a few couples and we would visit, have a drink or two before enjoying a midnight meal as the new year began. Not to break with tradition and more than a bit superstitious I would often ask one of our dark-haired male guests to be the first footer as the new year began. No explanation of this somewhat odd request was needed as he knew the story of the first footer and thanked me for the honour of bringing luck to my home.

For a few years prior to the

emergence of the Covid pandemic I was able to attend a Hogmanay in Williamstown at that communities NorWester's and Loyalist Museum. It was a grand time, with sleigh rides around the village, an outside bonfire, hot dogs, and hot chocolate outside and the opportunity to visit while enjoying live music and delicious snacks inside. While I never stayed more than an hour at the event, it was a most enjoyable time and provided me with the opportunity to learn a bit about my Scottish heritage.

As I rested at home this past New Year's Eve, I thought back over the decades of different ways I had heralded the coming of a new year. While I don't wait up for the new year or drink a glass of ginger ale from Mom's special winglasses like when I was little, the one thing which hasn't changed is the anticipation of new and exciting things ahead.

Happy New Year and may 2022 be full of good things for everyone.



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North Stormont to bring waste collection in-house in 2022

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

BERWICK – Beginning in July 2022, the township of North Stormont will once again be responsible for its own waste collection.

The decision was made during the Dec. 7 council meeting when Public Works' superintendent Blake Henderson presented council with the five tenders received from private contractors ranging in price from roughly \$250,000 to \$514,000 compared to an in-house bid of roughly \$185,306. Noting the significant savings, council approved the request to return to in-house waste collection in July 2022. Following this, another recommendation was made to purchase a new waste collection truck, which council also approved.

"When we're technically competing with our private sector colleagues, we have to show that we've gone above and beyond with the numbers, that we're absolutely accurate and there's been explained to be a real deal through and through with no surprises. I think that's one thing that we're looking for – just to make sure that these numbers are rock solid," Coun. Randy Douglas said.

Henderson assured him that he's reviewed the numbers with the finance department and the chief

administrative officer. The roughly \$185,306 includes the truck amortization amount of roughly \$80,000. The remainder is to cover the cost of hiring an additional employee, including items such as benefits, holiday pay, and sick days. It was noted that the cost of a new truck is roughly \$320,000. Currently, Hume Disposal has a two-year trial contract to provide waste collection services to the township until June 30, 2022. At the time the trial period started, Henderson reminded council that the cost to do the waste collection in-house was the same as the bid tendered by Hume, so council agreed to give Hume the two-year trial period. Henderson also noted that he was working for the township in 2004 when the municipality first went through the process of bringing waste collection in-house at a significant savings to taxpayers.

"We're stating that we should go back to collecting in-house again," Henderson said. "It's going to be a savings of quite a bit of money." Henderson said North Stormont started out fresh with a new system in 2004. He noted that commercial industrial locations paid for their own garbage collection at that time, which added to the township's savings. He then outlined additional benefits of

having an in-house collection system, including in-house clean-up options for other projects that would normally require hiring private contractors.

"If we look at the tenders that come in, obviously, the \$185,000 looks really good and I've been confirmed of that," Deputy Mayor François Landry said. "As far as doing the work, as mentioned, we've been doing it, we did it for 15 years, so I think we know what we're doing." Landry said it appears the only issue is ensuring the township has the new truck before it's needed in July. Henderson said if the truck is ordered now, it should be in North Stormont by the end of May 2022.

"The reason we're dealing with this tonight is the availability of these trucks has become an issue," Mayor Jim Wert said.

Henderson said he's done a lot of research and he found a company that has the truck North Stormont needs and it can be delivered on time if it's ordered right away. He said the current market for vehicles is running at roughly a year behind schedule. If Henderson was unable to make the purchase now, he said council would be looking at waiting for a cab and chassis until September or October 2022, and then it would take roughly three to four more months to get the box and controls

needed for waste collection. He said it's no longer possible to safety the 2004 vehicle currently in the municipality's possession, which means it must be taken off the road and replaced.

"So, we do need a reliable vehicle to collect the garbage," Henderson said.

Councillor Roxane Villeneuve said if the truck is being purchased with money in the 2022 budget, then it should be decided with the 2022 budget. She questioned where the money would come from to put a down payment on the vehicle now in 2021.

"Given the fact that we just made a decision on the previous motion to bring it in-house, I think we at the same time are obligating ourselves to acquire a new truck," Coun. Steve Densham said. "We have some flexibility to decide how this will play out in the budget."

Henderson assured council that while the company he's dealing with needs the answer now, they are not expecting any money up front. He said payment will be made upon the truck's delivery. He noted that the company has the exact truck they need and with the current shortage it doesn't make sense to wait if council wants to bring waste collection in-house by July 2022.

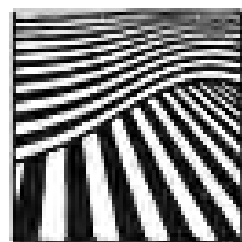
"This is the best bang for our constituents buck," Landry said.

South Dundas hires Cornwall company for arena entrance design services

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

MORRISBURG – The Municipality of South Dundas has awarded the contract for the Morrisburg Arena's conceptual and schematic design services for the arena's entrance renovation to Architecture 49 Inc. at a cost of roughly \$40,000.

"Architecture 49 was the unanimous choice for award," manager of facilities David Jansen said in his report. "Their local experience working on upgrades to local arenas in Finch and Long Sault stood out amongst the bidders. Their firm prior to acquisitions has completed upgrades and work at the Morrisburg Arena. They are also the design team of the new Arena/Community Centre in Prescott. Additionally, they provided the best schedule, looking to complete their review and report for early March 2022."



THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH DUNDAS

Jansen made the recommendation during the Dec. 13 council meeting, noting the work constitutes phase one of the already-approved arena upgrades. He noted that the RFP (request for proposal) had closed on Dec. 3 with just four tenders received. Scored on price, as well as qualifications and experience, Architecture 49 Inc., a Cornwall company, was the natural choice. The company had the second lowest bid.

"I worked with the company quite a few times. They're good," Coun. Lloyd Wells said, adding his approval.

The discussion between a Class D versus a Class A estimate was raised. Coun. Archie Mellan, who has voiced his distrust of Class D estimates in the past, did so again.

"The reason we go with Class D during schematic design is because in order to do a Class A estimate, you have to do the entire design and right now we're just doing the schematic design," Jansen said. "This is just the first phase. Once we get to the detailed design part, we will end with a Class A estimate before we go to construction tender."

It was noted that \$100,000 had been allotted in the 2021 budget in capital funding for the arena entrance upgrades design. With council's approval of the recommendation during the Dec. 13 meeting, Jansen said the plan was to bring the contract back to the Dec. 15 special council meeting, ensuring the project would stay on track.

Church DIRECTORY

Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

ALL SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO RECENT RESTRICTIONS PUT IN PLACE.

The United Church of Canada CHRIST CHURCH UNITED

5 Casselman St., Chesterville
Pastor: Debbie Poirier 613-850-2725

PLEASE NOTE: Currently closed. Services will resume Sunday, January 23rd, 2022 (COVID restrictions permitting). Office is closed to in-person walk-ins; contact via telephone, email or Canada Post.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AVONMORE-FINCH-MARTINTOWN ST. JAMES - CHALMERS - ST. ANDREW'S

PASTORAL CHARGE Minister: Rev. Lois Gaudet BBA, BTh, MDIV
Contact: Tel: 613-346-1648 Email: revlgaudet@gmail.com

Due to the Omicron variant, all in person worship in our three churches is on hold until further notice.

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MINISTER: Rev. Dr. Cheryl Gaver 613-918-0506 Church: 613-984-2201
cgaver@cocego.ca www.finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca

January 9th, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Masks and social distancing in place.

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Interim Moderator Rev. Samer Kandalaf 613-258-4136

St. Andrew's, Chesterville and Morewood Presbyterian Churches have reopened for in-person services.

NATIONSIDE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Pastor Scott Sayers
E-mail: Pastor.Scott@mail.com Office: 613-448-2272

Please note: No Sunday and Wednesday meetings during the pandemic.

Please join us for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. online on Facebook under "The Nation" Natioside Pentecostal Church.

Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

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Evangelical Missionary Church

12010 Ormond Rd. & Hwy. 31 (North of Winchester)
Office phone: 613-774-5170 www.harmony-church.org

We are an air conditioned and handicap accessible building
Senior Pastor: Rev. Daniel Wallace

Weekly Services - Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We are currently open for services at a 25% capacity. If you'd like to reserve your spot, please contact the church office. We are continuing to live stream our services on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoPy_DABz4REc-A7b-EvrA
Sunday School Classes & Nursery have resumed.

Please contact the church office for information on mid-week meetings or any other questions.

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

139 Castor St., Russell, ON Parish Office: 613-445-3226
Presiding: Rev. Anne Quick
infostmarysrussell@rogers.com Website: www.stmarysrussell.ca

We're offering a 10:30 a.m. Zoom service for Morning Prayer. People are asked to phone the church or email infostmarysrussell@rogers.com, to receive the link for the service.
St. Mary's Church is engaged in actively sharing God's unconditional grace and love.

WINCHESTER BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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Church has reopened for in person services. Traditional Music - Centred Services.

CHESTERVILLE

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Pastor Brian Barr 613-448-1758

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ST. MARY OF THE PRESENTATION CATHOLIC CHURCH

Administration Priest: Fr. Cyril Duru
Parish Secretary: Nancy Richer - 613-448-3262

ST. CLARE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH OF NORTH DUNDAS

613-774-2236 www.stclaresanglican.ca 2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester

Sunday Service of Eucharist, 10 A.M.
Covid-19 Protocol in place.

Visit us online for Sunday Service at our links below.
On Facebook at The Anglican Parish of North Dundas at St. Clare's.
On YouTube at St. Clare Anglican.

ST. ANDREW'S AND ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

38 Mill Street, Russell, ON 613-445-3111 www.russellunited.org
Minister: Rev. Peter Dahlin, B.A, M.Div
613-443-7603 (peterdahlin52@gmail.com)

11 a.m. Sunday Worship

Nursery (parental supervision) is available. Covid-19 protocols are in place.

2021 Year in Review

January

Million dollar pumping station construction on the horizon

MORRISBURG – The pumping station for the new Dutch Meadows subdivision is moving forward with the tender going out in February. Municipality of South Dundas politicians gave staff the go ahead for the project during a special council meeting on Jan. 25. “Council decided to go ahead with the tender using the revised estimate from EVB Engineering,” Mayor Steven Byvelts said. “They brought the cost estimate from \$1.4-million to \$1.1-million, and we have added a few provisional items like the generator and metering chamber. They will draft up the documents and get the tender out in February.”

Winchester Public School to acquire childcare facility

WINCHESTER – Plans for a new daycare centre attached to the Winchester Public School have been approved. The North Dundas council entered into a site plan agreement with the Upper Canada School Board at the Jan. 19 council meeting, ending a years-long negotiation between the municipality and school board. The site plans for the day care in the Winchester Public School were reviewed and approved by the Site Plan Control Group on Nov. 27, 2020. Once the new addition to the school has been completed, the staff of Happy Face Nursery School Child Care Centre will move in.



Even the foals have figured out social distancing

Embracing the cold weather and beautiful sunshine, there are things we can do to help escape the winter blues. “Look outside the box” and find those little things that can bring joy and peace during this cold. Kick up your heels and enjoy the simple beauty we have around us. Vogel Photo

COVID-19 vaccines arrive at Dundas Manor

WINCHESTER – A special delivery at Dundas Manor has everyone smiling. Residents, staff, physicians, and essential caregivers received the COVID-19 vaccine yesterday. In total, 312 doses were given. The Resident Council Leadership Team dubbed the day ‘Operation Protect’, celebrating the completion of the mission to get everyone vaccinated. Resident Bill Wagoner was the first resident to get the shot: “It just felt like a little mosquito bite. No problem! One quick needle means a life of protection.”

Chesterville manufacturer takes on Canadian mask making challenge

CHESTERVILLE – Canada has a dismal record as a country that can hold its own when it comes to being a manufacturing powerhouse. Over time, Canadians have gotten used to the idea that their country is a country of raw materials often exported to other countries and returned as a finished product. A Canadian company called InCyt Resilience in Chesterville is determined to change that as it takes on the challenge of making top of the line surgical masks, something the country is desperate for during the pandemic.

Township of Russell residential areas to see drop in speed limits

EMBRUN – Residential areas in the township of Russell will have speed limits reduced to 40 km/hr over a six-month period.

Russell’s politicians agreed to the recommendation during the Jan. 18 council meeting. In addition to the 40 km/hr residential zones, school zones will drop to 30 km/hr. The new speed limits will be in effect once the signs have been installed.

Cornwall Hospital sounds the alarm over Covid cases

WINCHESTER –As the number of COVID-19 cases in Eastern Ontario slowly moves upward, regional hospitals are sounding the alarm on their ability to continue to offer the kind of patient care they are used to. The Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH) is in a slightly different position compared to other regional hospitals. They do not have an intensive care unit, so any seriously ill Covid

patients would have to be transferred to another hospital.

Singing until the cows come home

APPLE HILL – Music from the heart is the best sounding music, and singer songwriter Yvon Leroux sings his heart out in his latest record called “Hard to Love”. The song is a blend of country and rock and roll with a beat you can dance to and lyrics you can appreciate. Leroux is a former dairy farmer now turned cash cropper who has always allowed music to play throughout his life, but it has had to take second place to the work he puts in, seven days a week as a farmer.

February

Water and sewer rate increases all part of a growing community

NORTH DUNDAS – The future is always about to become the present and the North Dundas council has decided to meet the future head on when it comes to the township’s water and wastewater needs.

Continued on page 8

Babies of 2021



Jackson Lorne Waddell



November 17, 2021

Son of Craig and Mackenzie Waddell. Thrilled grandparents are Barry and Shelley Waddell.

Layla Jean Hayward



July 8, 2021

Daughter of Chelsea Thoms and Mitchell Hayward.

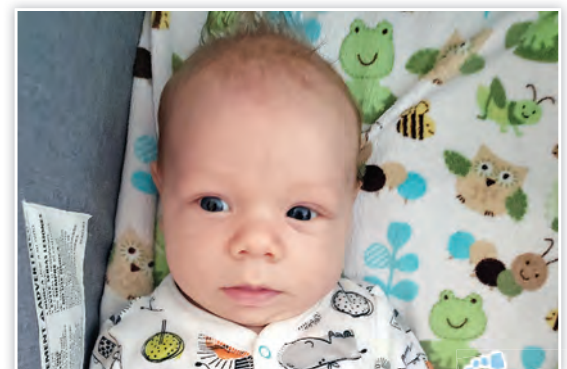
Luke Howard Marsolais



September 1, 2021

Son of Chris and Paige Marsolais.

Leonardo Aaron Di Ilio



July 25, 2021

Son of Connie and Aaron Di Ilio.

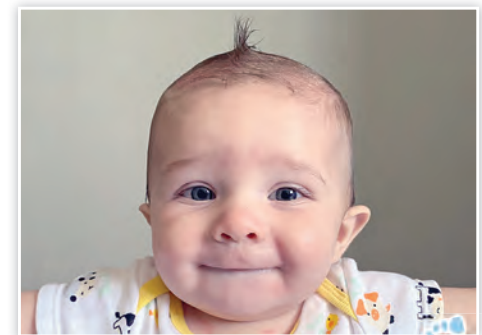
Maeve Grace Pekary



July 16, 2021

Daughter of James and Claudia Pekary. Thrilled grandparents are Barry and Shelley Waddell.

Logan Nelson Knapp



April 4, 2021

Son of Erika Johnson and Tyler Knapp. “Love grandpa and grandma”.

WDMH first baby of 2022 keeps the celebration going

Jane Adams
Special to the Record

WINCHESTER – Asher Jeremiah Chapman’s parents stayed up until midnight on Dec. 31 to ring in 2022 with their family – not knowing that the celebrations would continue well into the next day! Asher was born at 3:43 p.m. on Jan. 2 at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital (WDMH), weighing 9 pounds, 11 ounces. His parents, Kayla and Paul Chapman, say he was well worth the wait.



Courtesy Photo

“I felt something at the party and things got worse during the night,” says Kayla. “We called the birthing unit and decided to head to the hospital around 4:00 in the morning. It was snowing so hard, and roads weren’t

plowed so we had to take our time.” The Chapmans live in Kemptville.

Kayla says the experience at WDMH has been great. “I’ve only heard great things about Winchester Hospital, and I

didn’t want to go into Ottawa to have our baby. I have family and friends who have had their babies here too. Everyone has been great.”

Congratulations from everyone at WDMH!

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Continued from page 6

According to a study conducted by Sharratt Water Management Ltd. much needs to be planned for.

Their study suggested the population of North Dundas, who are hooked up to the drinking water and wastewater treatment system, will increase from a 2019 number of 4,355 to 8,399 in about 20 years.

Budget 2021 talks underway in North Stormont

BERWICK – Township of North Stormont’s first draft of the 2021 budget was reviewed last week with the second draft expected by the end of February.

Budget deliberations began at 9 a.m. on Jan. 27 with the link to the virtual meeting available on the municipality’s website.



March

Everyone wants to come to North Dundas

WINCHESTER – Be careful what you wish for could be something North Dundas councillors are saying to themselves as an unprecedented number of requests for water and sewer applications have arrived at their council table. The result of all that growth threatens the township’s 20-year plan to upgrade their water and sewer capacities and shrinks that timeline from 20 to a mere three years.

Naomi’s takes annual celebration online

WINCHESTER – Naomi’s Family Resource Centre (NFRC) found a new way to celebrate International Women’s Day this year. With COVID-19 restrictions making large in-person events impossible, NFRC staff chose to focus on eight days of raising awareness through social media platforms Facebook and Twitter. Each day, from March 1 until International Women’s Day on March 8, the local women’s shelter shared posts acknowledging the accomplishments of several Canadian women.

Russell heritage district plan passes first reading

EMBRUN – The township of Russell is moving progressively closer to establishing a Heritage Conservation District (HCD) for part of the Village of Russell.

During a “first reading” of the proposed HCD plans and guidelines at the March 1 council meeting, director of planning, building and economic development Dominique Tremblay, along with planner Alix Jolicoeur, provided background information and updates. The duo also answered questions from both council and the public during the meeting’s question period.

North Dundas closes in on a reduction in tax rate

WINCHESTER – It’s all over except for the shouting as North Dundas inches its way to the end of their 2021 annual budget calculations. For the first time in over 20 years the North Dundas commercial and residential tax rate is going unbelievably backwards. The budget has not been formally accepted yet by councillors, but their Wed., March 10 budget meeting was the one whereby they verbally finalized many budget considerations resulting in a decrease in last year’s residential tax rate of 2.1 per cent.

RRHC decision goes to CRB

LONG SAULT – A Key Information Report (KIR) on the planned demolition of the Raisin River Heritage Centre (RRHC) was presented to the South Stormont council during the March 10 council meeting by the director of corporate services/clerk Loriann Harbers. The RRHC is located in St. Andrews West and has served the community in various ways since its construction in 1909.

Stay tuned to next week’s Record for more 2021 Year in Review!



Winter anglers on the creek

Hoople’s Creek, located between Ingleside and Long Sault in South Stormont, is a favourite place for winter anglers to go ice fishing. The cold weather seems to have led to an increase of ice fishing huts on this body of water over the past week or so. More information on ice fishing regulations in Ontario can be found at www.ontario.ca/page/ice-fishing, with information on winter angling during the COVID-19 pandemic available on the website of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters located at www.ofah.org/covid19/faq or by contacting your local health unit or the local O.P.P. detachment for more information. Thompson Goddard Photo

their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on Sat., Feb. 6.

“It was another successful day, and we are so happy that our residents are now protected,” noted administrator Susan Poirier. “We will continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe.”

Perhaps the best comments came from Facebook when the announcement went out. “You are working so hard on the well-being of residents, staff and community – inspiring!” noted Manjit Banga Aitken. “Fantastic folk – glad you have been looked after in this worrisome time. Thanks to everyone,” added Jean Porteous. And there was even an animated Tony the Tiger yelling GRRRRRRREAT!

Landfill bombshell forces expansion application

MORRISBURG – With only a year of capacity left at the Matilda Landfill, Municipality of South

Dundas’ politicians are pursuing a 40,000 cubic metre expansion.

During the Feb. 1 council meeting, environmental services director Danielle Watson told council that although they started 2020 thinking they had 2.6 years of capacity left at the local landfill, the updated calculation revealed that capacity has been reduced to a single year.

Moving forward in South Stormont

LONG SAULT – Several Key Information Reports were provided to South Stormont council members during the Feb. 17 meeting; these included a notice of 2021 budget meeting by the director of corporate services/clerk Loriann Harbers, an update by Kevin Amelotte, director of parks and recreation and notice of the dissolution of the Waterfront Development Committee.

Environmental assessment at North Dundas landfill

WINCHESTER – The North Dundas landfill site is currently in the process of undertaking an environmental assessment. The need to expand the existing landfill site sooner than later triggered the assessment, which is being carried out by Golder Associates, partnered with the North Dundas waste management staff.

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

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

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

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

Local author continues successful literary journey

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

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

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

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

What a wonderful carnival weekend

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

Second dose of Covid-19 vaccine - done

WINCHESTER – Residents at Dundas Manor received



It’s maple syrup season again

The sap is running, so spring can’t be far behind. From February to April, when the nighttime temperature is -5 and the daytime temperature is +8 the sap runs. The maple sugar bush at Stanley’s Olde Maple Lane Farm near Metcalfe is up and running. Because of Covid, everything but their restaurant is open. At Grampie’s Sugar Shack just outside of Chesterville, the work of collecting the sap to turn it into sweet maple syrup has begun. Pictured above is Warren MacIntosh, of MacIntosh Ole Sugar Barn on Hwy 43 near Maxville, stokes the fire as they prepare the sap. Everyone is welcome but please bring your mask. Courtesy Photo

JANUARY

Alzheimer's Awareness Month

Memories should last a lifetime




What you should know about Alzheimer's disease and other neurocognitive disorders

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. Every year, the Alzheimer Society takes the opportunity to raise awareness about neurocognitive disorders and the importance of early diagnoses. Here's an overview of what you should know.

What are neurocognitive disorders?
Although neurocognitive disorders are often associated with memory loss, they can also affect a person's mood, behaviour, thinking, language skills and problem-solving abilities. However, it's important to note that neurocognitive disorders are different from age-related memory loss (ARML), which isn't caused by an underlying medical condition.

Who do they affect?
Alzheimer's disease most commonly affects people over the age of 65. However, some individuals may start to show signs of cognitive impairment in their 50s or 40s. Additionally, certain medical factors such as experiencing head trauma or having cerebrovascular disease can increase the risk of developing a neurocognitive disorder. Early diagnosis is important because neurocognitive disorders are progressive and worsen over time.

What can you do?
Although neurocognitive disorders often affect a person's ability to communicate and express themselves, it's important to continue to converse with them to help them feel safe and at ease. If you have Alzheimer's disease or think you may have a neurocognitive disorder, talk to your doctor and contact the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

To learn more about neurocognitive disorders, visit alzheimer.ca.



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VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER NOW!
Organizations or individuals who have tasks which could be done by students looking for their volunteer hours, are welcome to advertise in this space free of charge for TWO (2) weeks. Call The Record at 613-448-2321 with your requests.

NOTICE

NOTICE - The Ye Olde Bargain Shoppe will be closed for the month of January due to the latest Covid restrictions.

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE
Maple, ash, elm, cut, split, delivered local. \$85 per cord for 6 cord loads. Call 613-535-2382, between 8 - 9 p.m.

COMING EVENT

STORMONT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING
January 15, 1 p.m. Check www.stormontfair.ca for details.



Advertising Pays

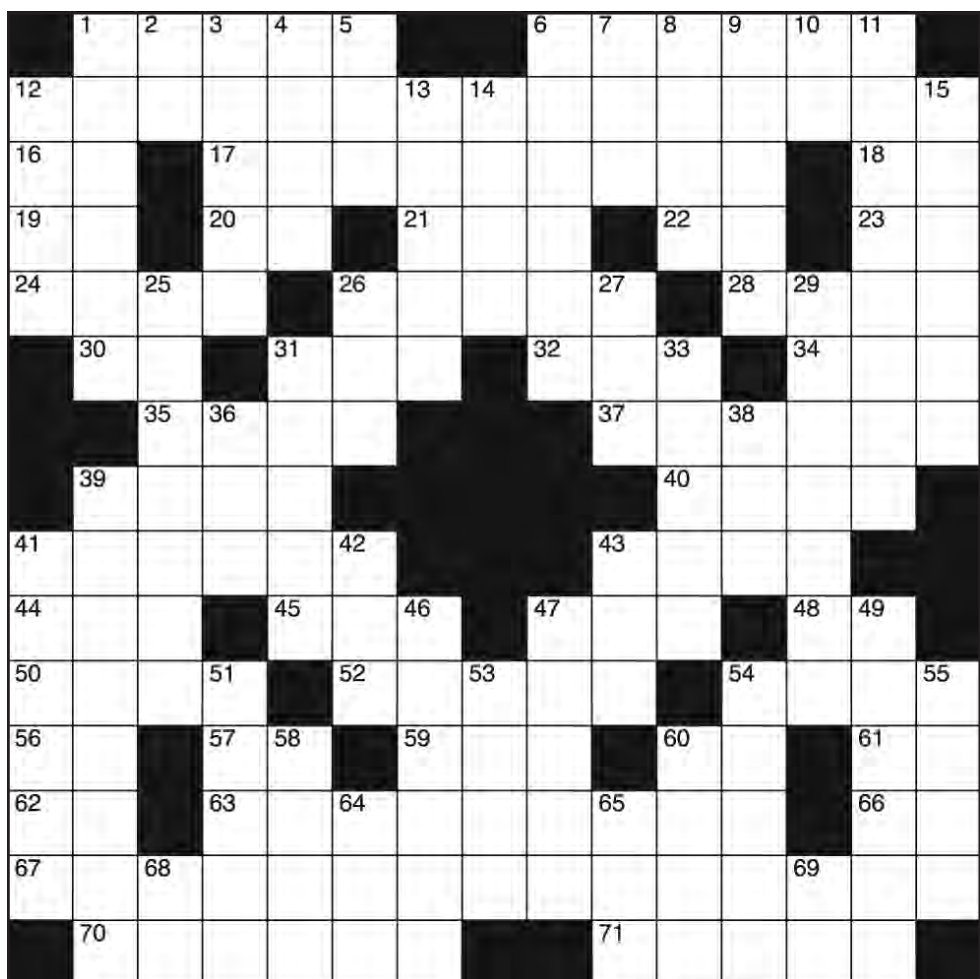
Law firm advertisement for Grenkie, Remillard & Reynolds LLP, CHESTERVILLE. Includes contact info and logos for other branches.

Mountain Township Agricultural Society advertisement for exterior and interior renovations to the Lila Fawcett Building.

bakertilly advertisement for Accounting, Assurance, Taxation, and Business Consulting Services.

Advertisement for Birthday • Anniversary Engagement with pricing: \$25 + HST (1 column ad) or \$45 + HST (2 column ad).

RIDEAU AUCTIONS INC. FULL-TIME YARD POSTING advertisement with job requirements and salary info.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 6, 2022

CLUES ACROSS

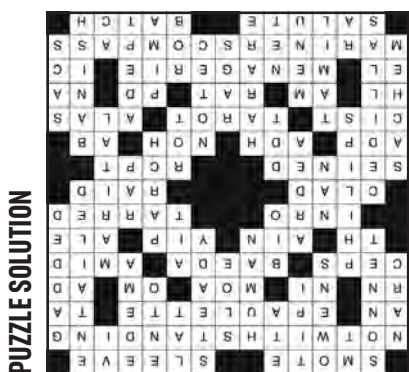
- 1. Struck firmly
6. Shirt part
12. Nevertheless
16. Article
17. Adornment
18. Educator's helper
19. Healthcare pro
20. Atomic number 28
21. Extinct flightless bird
22. Mystic syllable
23. College sports decision maker (abbr.)
24. Edible mushrooms
26. Venerable English monk
28. Surrounded by
30. Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
31. Eastern France river
32. Short cry or yelp
34. Brew
35. Ornamental box
37. In a way, surfaced
39. Attired

- 40. Peculation
41. Netted
43. It shows you paid (abbr.)
44. Payroll firm
45. Antidiuretic hormone
47. Japanese classical theater
48. The first two
50. Ancient burial chamber
52. Type of card
54. Expression of sorrow or pity
56. Hectoliter
57. Morning
59. NYC subway dweller
60. Law enforcement
61. Sodium
62. Elevated subway
63. Facility where wild animals are kept
66. Integrated circuit
67. Seaman's tool
70. Drink to
71. Small group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Poem
2. Everest is one (abbr.)
3. Olympic legend Jesse
4. Portable tent
5. When you hope to get there
6. Unwavering
7. Back muscle
8. Within
9. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
10. Six
11. Involved as a necessary part
12. 2002 Liotta, Patric film
13. Living thing
14. Type of gin
15. Moved around in pursuit of fun
25. Makes light bulbs
26. Story of one's life
27. Small island in a river
29. A type of bliss
31. Genus of large herons

- 33. A way to make dry
36. One's grandmother
38. Vocal style
39. Pronunciation mark
41. American Indian chief or leader
42. Insecticide
43. Go bad
46. Capital of Zimbabwe
47. Polish river
49. Cast out
51. People of India and Sri Lanka
53. Cleaning fabrics
54. Very skilled
55. Pouches
58. Restaurant must-have
60. Native Americans from Arizona
64. Remaining after all deductions
65. Fleece
68. Dorm official
69. It cools your home



THE BENEFITS OF CROSSWORD PUZZLES

Even though crossword puzzles have been entertaining and helping people pass the time for more than 100 years, the benefits of crosswords go beyond boredom-busting. Various studies have shown the positive effects crossword puzzles can have on a person's brain and capacity to learn.

- Improve vocabulary
- Strengthens memory
- Improve socialization
- Help relieve stress
- May help prevent brain diseases

Crossword puzzles can fill empty hours with an entertaining and educational activity. However, there are many other benefits to doing crossword puzzles that may surprise even the most ardent puzzle enthusiasts.

Clients call The Esthetics Room Crysler's 'hidden gem'

CRYSLER – “Our service here at The Esthetics Room: is we see every single client that walks in our door as family,” The Esthetics Room, Skin Care, Brow Bar and Lash Lounge owner Lisa Gratton said. “They’re treated like family; we greet them by name and make them feel so comfortable. Clients call my place ‘a hidden gem.’”

Located at 15 Second Street in Crysler, Ontario, The Esthetics Room, which opened seven years ago, is a full-service day spa offering a variety of services, such as waxing, facials, gel nails, manicures, pedicures, microblading, microneedling, dermaplaning, paraffin treatments, lash extensions, henna brows, and more. The salon also sells skin care products, locally made candles, bath bombs, and wood crafts.

“The service that clients rave about here are my facials,” Gratton said. “They absolutely love them. The second are my lash extensions. The third is microblading and how I make them feel at ease about the procedure.”

Gratton, who’s been a certified and fully licensed esthetician for roughly 23 years, she is also a fully certified microblading artist, lash artist, and facial specialist. Gratton has worked as a college-level esthetics’ instructor. She currently offers training sessions at her salon. She offers training in waxing, manicures, pedicures,

SMALL BUSINESS Spotlight



Enjoy your personal time at The Esthetics Room in Crysler, a hidden gem, with a certified and fully licensed esthetician. Courtesy photo

lash extensions, and more.

“Liette Gagne is a hard-working nail tech specializing in gel nail extensions, lash lifts, lash extensions, manicures, and pedicures,” Gratton said. “She is fully trained by me here at The Esthetics Room.”

Gratton hired Gagne, a certified nail technician and lash artist, roughly a year ago. Gagne works extended hours Monday through Thursday until 8 p.m. She is currently accepting new clients.

“The best way to contact me during the day is through text,” Gratton said. “I don’t answer calls during the day for the simple reason of I’m usually doing microblading, lashes, or facials, and it’s a service where I am 100 per cent committed to that client. Another good way to reach me is through The Esthetics Room Facebook page messenger.”

The Esthetics Room is open six days per week. The salon’s hours are Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday from 9 a.m.

to 8 p.m., Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The salon is closed on Sundays. While appointments can be made online, Gratton and Gagne also accept walk-ins.

Like many other businesses, The Esthetics Room has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and in 2021 it was closed more than it was open. Gratton said the salon products she carries in her shop have a shelf life of three to six months but having been closed for seven months in total, the cost to reopen has been high. In addition, there’s been the added cost of the additional cleaning products.

COVID-19 really impacted all estheticians,” Gratton said. “It has been extremely stressful to run a successful business, stay safe, and keep our clients safe, as that is my number one concern during these times; keeping the most germ-free environment as I can. There are no more than two clients in at a time. Plexiglass is installed at each manicure table and pedicure station for added protection. The salon is fully sprayed down in between each client, right down to the door handles inside and out. Cleanliness is my biggest priority, as well as the best service that we can provide.”

To learn more or to make an appointment, visit The Esthetics Room website (the-esthetics-room.business.site/) or Facebook page (facebook.com/LisaGratton78). The Esthetics Room’s phone number is 343-999-2466 and clients are encouraged to text.

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.

South Stormont set to see first official conservation area in 2022

Sandy Casselman
Record Staff

LONG SAULT – “It’s exciting that this is our first conservation area in this municipality,” Township of South Stormont chief administrative officer (CAO) Debi LucasSwitzer said. “So, we have a lot to look forward to.”

With director of Planning and Building Karl Doyle unable to attend the Dec. 15 council meeting, it was LucasSwitzer who presented the key information report updating municipal politicians on the status of the Long Sault East Industrial Park and the donated lands that are going to the Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA). With the land surveys complete, it was noted that all necessary bylaws to complete the transactions will come to council early in 2022.

“The parcels have been set out on the basis of the survey that was completed,” LucasSwitzer said. “And the donation lands, we’re working on a location for parking, as well as setting out with the Raisin Region a variety of good locations for viewing our natural wildlife in that new conservation land.”

In 2018, the decision to develop an expansion plan

for the Long Sault East Industrial Park was made due to a lack of available lots with road frontage. The resulting development concept showed the potential for roughly 30 to 40 lots at a cost of roughly \$11.8 million. Then, in January 2021, the township budgeted for the first phase of the expansion plan, and the project proceeded.

“W.H. MacSweyn Inc. was awarded the contract to construct the new East Industrial Park Road extension in July of 2021. The road was completed September 28, 2021,” Doyle said in his written report. “Ensuing the completion of the road, IBW Surveyors proceeded with surveying the lands and have recently prepared a reference plan for the first phase. The plan was deposited and approved by Land Registry Office on Nov. 24, 2021.”

With accurate legal descriptors now available for these parcels of land, South Stormont can move forward with passing the necessary bylaws to complete the land transactions. The bylaws are expected to come to council in January 2022. It’s expected that a Road Dedication and Naming



Bylaw will also be presented at that time for the new industrial road.

“We currently have a purchase and sale agreement with the Conservation Authority that includes a land swap for lands fronting the township office and a donation of 100 acres of land for a future conservation area,” Doyle said in his report. “Once the land transaction has concluded, the township and the RRCA will engage

with neighbouring landowners and the general public to consider any potential future plans for the property, including giving the site an official name.”

In July 2021, the municipality announced that more than 100 acres of wetland and forest were to be donated to the RRCA. The land in question,

known as Lakeview Marsh, is north of Guindon Park. The land includes an abandoned railway. Doyle’s report also noted that the area is a popular birding spot, and it’s home to a variety of plants and animals.

“It will be preserved and protected,” Mayor Bryan McGillis said.

Robert Excavating

We’re looking to fill the following positions:


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- Any other ad hoc duties/project as required

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Excellent command of English with strong written and verbal communications skills
- High attention to detail and extremely accurate
- Takes initiative and able to work with limited guidance
- Hardworking team player

PAY RATE: To be discussed

Send resumé to rideauauctions@rideauauctions.com or can be dropped off at Rideau Auctions, 2250 CR 31, Winchester, ON.



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The Villager News

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Ontario Ombudsman clears council of wrongdoing

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – The township of Russell council

was recently cleared of any wrongdoing following a complaint made mid-2021 accusing the municipality of

breaching the open session requirements.

It was during council's Dec. 20 meeting that politicians received documents from Ontario Ombudsman J. Paul Dubé, dated Dec. 10, 2021, handing down judgement on two separate complaints. These are included in that evening's agenda package.

A complaint was made alleging that council's in-camera discussion on June 21, 2021, should have occurred in open session. Council members discussed the issue briefly, highlighting the reason the decision to go in-camera was legally permitted under the *Municipal Act*.

"Under the *Municipal Act*, all meetings of council, local boards, and committees of council

must be open to the public, unless they fall within prescribed exceptions. The act gives anyone the right to request an investigation into whether a municipality has complied with the act in closing a meeting to the public," Dubé said. "Municipalities may appoint their own investigator. The act designates the Ombudsman as the default investigator for municipalities that have not appointed their own. My office is the closed meeting investigator for the township of Russell."

It was after reviewing the documents and speaking with all relevant persons involved that Dubé cleared Russell of all wrongdoing, noting that the document in question included information

provided in confidence from another level of government. The discussion and decision was made in closed session, but then council returned to open session where they formally accepted and voted to accept the report's recommendation.

"I am writing to advise that my review has determined that council for the township of Russell did not contravene the act's open meeting requirements on June 21, 2021," Dubé said. "Section 239(2)(h) of the act allows a municipal council to meet in closed session to discuss 'information explicitly supplied to it in confidence to the municipality or local board of Canada, a province or territory or a Crown

agency of any of them.'" The second judgement concerned a similar issue from the year prior. A complaint had been made alleging that politicians had proceeded in-camera during the Nov. 16, 2020 council meeting, to discuss a proposed land transaction between the township and the United Counties of Prescott and Russell (UCPR).

"Council for the township of Russell did not contravene the *Municipal Act*, 2001 on Nov. 16, 2020 when it went in-camera to discuss the pending acquisition of land in Embrun," Dubé stated in a detailed six-page report. "The discussion fell within the open meeting exception at section 239(2)(c) and (k) of the act, namely the acquisition or disposition of land, and plans and instructions for negotiations."

Council votes in favour of department head pay adjustments

Sandy Casselman
Villager Staff

EMBRUN – Despite one councillor's recorded vote against the recommendation, the township of Russell council approved a proposed bylaw amending the Department Heads Human Resources Working Conditions Program.

During the Dec. 20 council meeting, it was Coun. Mike Tarnowski who requested this item (k) from section 11 of the evening's agenda be voted on separately, and that it be a recorded vote. With Coun. Cindy Saucier absent, it was councillors Jaimie Laurin and André Brisson as well as Mayor Pierre Leroux who voted in favour of the recommendation.

"I'm going to be voting against this and I just wanted to put a couple of comments around it," Tarnowski said. "I don't want too much to be read into my vote against this other than the fact that I was uncomfortable around the process and timing of this and that's why I feel that for me, it's important to vote against it. So, I'm going to be asking for a recorded vote and I'm going to be voting against."

This wasn't the first-time council had seen the report, as former chief administrative officer Jean Leduc had presented it to council during a Dec. 6 closed session. Following notes and recommendations received during that meeting, the report was adjusted and brought back again during the closed session of a special council meeting on Dec. 14. The report notes that council opted to apply a market study pay premium to the director position within Grade B, retroactive to the first pay period of 2021. The report was then brought back on Dec. 20 in open council for a final discussion and vote.

"These market premium adjustments are estimated at a little over \$20,000 for the 2021 budget and close to \$27,000 for the 2022 budget," the report states. "Annual salary savings in 2021 and anticipated in 2022 will finance the costs of these adjustments. The HR (human resources) reserve could also be used to finance the 2022 expense if needed."

Register to vote in the 2022 Ontario Municipal and School Board Elections

The Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) is responsible for collecting the information of residents in Ontario (name, date of birth, citizenship, and school support) in order to create a Preliminary List of Electors for municipal and school board elections. Municipalities will use the Preliminary List of Electors to prepare their Voters Lists for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

One of the ways MPAC collects this

information is through voterlookup.ca. Here, Ontarians can add their name and the names of other members of their household to a secure database and confirm or update their information.

This helps ensure that each municipality has the most accurate information possible for the 2022 Municipal and School Board Elections.

Take a few minutes to verify your information at voterlookup.ca and encourage your friends and family to do the same.



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