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Fiddlesticks

Randy Morrison of Brampton was one of the special guests to perform at World Fiddle Day Saturday afternoon on Harbour Street in Kincardine. Morrison, who has family in the Kincardine area, and his fellow fiddlers had perfect weather for their performances. (Josh Howald photo)

Ontario climate change legislation calls for phase-out of residential natural gas use

By Barb McKay

Ontario's Climate Change legislation is raising questions about the future of proposed natural gas projects in the province, including one in southern Bruce County.

The Climate Change Action Plan was reportedly leaked to the *Globe and Mail* newspaper last week and outlines a strategy for reducing green house gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050, and targets natural gas use in homes and businesses.

On Thursday, *The Independent* received a media release from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change announcing that the province had passed the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-Carbon Economy Act, which will support Ontario's cap and trade program.

The program sets out strict timelines for reducing carbon emissions by relying more heavily on green and low-carbon energy sources, such as nuclear, wind, solar and biomass, and moving away from fossil fuels. Under the Act, money raised from the cap and trade program will be deposited into a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Account, all of which will be invested in green projects and initiatives that reduce emissions.

The strategy is in contradiction to a plan announced by the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Infrastructure just one year ago to expand natural gas access to rural and northern communities. To support that plan, the province also announced a \$200 million Natural Gas Access Loan and

\$30 million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant. The ministry pledged to seek input from communities to develop natural gas programs and encouraged municipalities to work with utilities on natural gas expansion projects.

In a media release announcing the access loan and economic development grant in April 2015, the ministry said the funding "will attract new industry, make commercial transportation and agriculture more affordable, help to create jobs, provide more energy choices and will lower electricity prices for businesses and consumers across Ontario."

It also pointed to the fact that natural gas heating is significantly less expensive than electric or oil heating.

Last week's climate change

strategy report, however, indicates that the province will be pushing homeowners and business owners to move away from natural gas as a heating source.

"By 2030, we envision that Ontario's cap and trade program will have helped to adjust the economic signals that favour fossil-fuel based energy," the Environment Ministry states in the report. "We will have a reliable, cost-effective, low-emissions electricity system that can accommodate new demand as the economy shifts from fossil-fuel energy to low-carbon electricity."

One of the action plans to achieve that goal will be to look at eliminating existing initiatives that support fossil fuel use. Instead, greater in-

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Municipality asks residents to conserve water

Residents in Kincardine, Tiverton and the Huronville subdivision are being asked to conserve water while repairs are being completed on the municipal water towers.

The Municipality of Kincardine issued a notice Friday to let residents know that the water towers in Kincardine and Tiverton will be taken out of service May 24 and are expected to remain out of service until Sept. 30 while maintenance is being done. The water services department says conservation measures should be used during this time frame to ensure there will be enough capacity for the drinking water systems. Stage 1 lawn watering restrictions are in effect and residents are being asked to try to refrain from any excess outdoor water usage if possible, such as car washing, driveway cleaning, excess sprinkler usage and general water wastage.

A work area of 100 feet around each standpipe will be fenced in to keep each work area safe, which includes a portion of the walking trail north of the Kincardine standpipe and also Ross Street between Memorial Park Drive and the arena parking lot in Tiverton. These areas will be temporarily closed and impassable until work is complete.

Full page of colour photos from the CWOSSA Track & Field Championships!

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