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## BLITZ-ED



HEATHER WRIGHT PHOTO

The OPP dog Blitz helped track down a London man who is charged with stealing a pickup truck in Dawn-Euphemia. The chase drew lots of attention in Petrolia's downtown Monday morning. For more on the story see page 3.

## Water line break at CEEH underlines needs for infrastructure cash

Heather Wright  
The Independent

Bluewater Health officials say they were prepared to move patients at the continuing care unit at Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital after a water line broke.

The Sunday incident is a sign of some of the major issues with the old infrastructure at the Petrolia hospital according to Julia Oosterman, communications director with Bluewater Health.

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were called to the hospital, twice, after an alarm sounded.

Oosterman says a joint in a water pipe broke.

"In the breaking of the joint, water went everywhere and triggered a sprinklers," she says. That automatically triggered a call to 9-11.

Oosterman says the firefighters and Bluewater Health staff brought everything under control in less than an hour. But they were also prepared for the worst.

With aging, fragile patients in the continuing care wing, hospital officials were concerned.

"There were people on the standby ready to take patients out

of the area if we couldn't get the heating back on," she says.

"We were lucky it wasn't a frigid, frigid night and it didn't take long to get fixed.

"It will happen again," Oosterman says.

"This is a much older building and were not...exaggerating when we talk about the infrastructure needs of this facility."

Two years ago, hospital officials shocked Petrolia councillors when they said the needs were dire and a power failure could shut down the hospital for weeks.

CON'T ON PG 6



BARRY WRIGHT PHOTO

Petrolia/North Enniskillen firefighters were called to CEEH twice Sunday after a water line which is part of the heating system broke.



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