

Province announces \$1 million for ag, horticultural societies

SPECIAL TO THE BANNER

TEESWATER — The Ontario government has announced \$1 million in funding to support the province's agricultural and horticultural societies who continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ontario's agricultural and horticultural societies have long-enriched communities throughout the province and we look forward to them continuing to make significant contributions, from main

street beautification projects to hosting the long-standing tradition of agricultural fairs, throughout the province in 2022," said Lisa Thompson, minister of agriculture and MPP for Huron-Bruce.

The funds come from the Agricultural and Horticultural Support and Recovery Funding Initiative, and is in addition to the more than \$7 million previously announced to assist these organizations during the pandemic.

Continued on page 8



Contributed Photo (Left) Elma Township Public School is closing in on its \$140,000 goal for rebuilding two sets of playground equipment at the Newry site, thanks to many local contributions from businesses, organizations and individuals. The Atwood Lions Club was the most recent contributor, allocating \$25,000 towards the cause last week.

OPINION

Exercising my freedom in Toronto, or what I did on my winter vacation

I didn't let the "Freedom Convoy" ruin my vacation. I'm vaxxed and not oppressed. I'm helping my friends, family, neighbours, community and country by being responsible.

Most of all I believe I am doing my part to help a health care system that has helped me numerous times. I wasn't going to let a small portion of our population bully me from a day visiting Toronto. Hell, I've earned my freedom with a few jabs and a mask. I decided to drop by a relatively truck and tractor-free Queen's Park area. There were scattered groups of protesters with their "No Man-Dates" signs. The police presence was strong. This was not going to be a repeat of the occupation of Ottawa.

There were a few hundred protesters on the lawn behind the Legislative Assembly building. Many of their signs worked the word "love" into the plea to end the mandates at this event, but adding the word love and a Mercedes logo to your placard doesn't erase the connections to racism or right-wing extremists.

I'm glad I decided not to head towards Bloor Street. According to the Toronto Police, sh** was flying there. An arrest was made at the corner of Bedford Road and Bloor Street. A 34-year-old man was charged with assault with a weapon when he threw feces at another person.

As I travelled away from the protests a few convoy supporters were driving their pickup trucks with Canadian flags on hockey sticks. Many people walking the streets hearing these honking honkies attempted to ignore them or displayed outright irritation, but there was also shouts of support that would greet them.

For instance, at the intersection where University Avenue meets York Street, a black pickup with Canadian flags proudly flying off their hockey sticks drove down

Colin Burrowes
Column



Front Street past Union Station.

One woman walking on the sidewalk bellowed "Woo hoo! freedom for Canada, yeah!" at a taxi driver waiting for a fare.

He smiled back but the woman greeted his smile with "Go home," and followed that with an F-bomb and a racial slur.

This incident happened far from the heart of the protest but does display attitudes of some convoy supporters' support. I realize while the majority of the convoy supporters are white, there is multi-racial support. Hell, I would even go so far as to say municipal governments would be lucky to have the same multicultural makeup.

The co-opting Canadian flag as a symbol of the kind of "freedom" that the "freedom convoy" represents is ridiculous. Sure, there was plenty of people draping their bodies in the red and white flag at the protests but, take a town like Atwood for example, where Canada Day has been their bread and butter for many years. Not every flag there is in support of this movement.

How about GofundMe's decision to stop the Freedom Convoy 2022 campaign? That put some smiles on some faces? Well, it did until the No. 1 free Christian crowdfunding site, GiveSendGo decided funding violence and harassment is a good way to "connect with the body of Christ around the world."

Golly, I would love to support some violence and harassment. Can I use PayPal to donate?

PayPal cut ties with GiveSendGo after the funds to support the American insurrection were

raised on the platform.

It is also the No. 1 free crowdfunding site for Proud Boys. I know they "dissolved" their Canadian chapter when the federal government deemed them a terrorist organization last January, but did their "western chauvinism" dissolve with the name? I wonder how many convoy supporters are ex-Proud Boys without the uniform.

If, as Elon Musk tweets, the 'fringe minority is actually the government,' there were confused protesters in Toronto embracing the fringe minority label hollering things like "We are the fringe and you have to listen to us."

What does a guy like Musk know about the Canadian culture anyway – the outside view?

During interviews I conducted in Perth County while reporting on the development of an Anti-Racism Charter last year, several of the new Canadians told me Canada has a global reputation for being inclusive and multicultural, but when people arrive here that is not always what they find.

Amina Musa, a Multicultural Association of Perth-Huron volunteer, summed it up from her own experience saying that many "have faced some discrimination in the streets... (and) got told 'go back to your own country.'"

I wonder if Musk were to visit the house in Poole, Ont. where the Confederate flag has flown for many years – would he be greeted by a government employee?

I have watched Greg Fergus, MP for Hull-Aylmer, QC, speaking about the Confederate flags and swastikas flown amongst the Freedom Convoy in Ottawa.

"Every February, I normally rise to encourage parliamentarians and Canadians to celebrate Black History Month," he said. "These are not normal times. This past weekend, a small mi-



Colin Burrowes Photo

Toronto residents give "Freedom Convoy" supporters a chilly reception at Queen's Park.

nority thought it acceptable to bring swastikas and Confederate flags to Parliament Hill. Let us not mince words: The Confederate flag is a symbol of slavery. Whips deformed Black bodies. Forced labour mangled limbs. Torture almost always preceded lynchings.

"Intellectually, I know that very few people today would support what the Confederate flag represented. I will assume that the Confederate flag was tolerated this weekend out of respect for the individuals' freedom of expression. However, in my heart, I was left wondering who else supports this flag. Without real-time denunciations, how am I to know? That is what scares me. Even 188 years after the abolition of slavery in Canada, in some people's eyes I am not equal, nor should I be free. This is why I celebrate Black history, and Black Canadian history, every February and throughout the year."

The emotion Fergus felt was palpable. As the camera goes to a wide shot of the House of Commons, everyone can be seen clapping in support. I wonder if it was sincere applause from all Conservatives or were they just offering "an olive branch."

Bigotry is in Canada's DNA. The fringe embraces it. Within a 90-minute drive of my front yard in the period from Novem-

ber 2020 to July 2021 when I reported on the development of the Perth County Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Charter, there were at least four incidents that could arguably have been considered hate crimes.

In January 2021, an incident at a Stratford carwash included racial slurs and physical assault against an employee. Then in June, a London resident used his pickup truck to run down a Muslim family, killing four of them. Islamophobia was the stated reason for the crime. A few days later, a TikTok video shot in Harriston made "disturbing references" to the targeted hit-and-run in London. Also, during that period, a trans woman was assaulted while making a delivery in Listowel. How many more incidents could have been added if we looked at the entire country during that period.

The "freedom convoy" does not speak for me. The organizers may have taken off their yellow vests but they are the same people underneath.

I believe the true heroes of the pandemic are the health care workers. Thank you to the nurses, doctors and all the other staff who have worked so hard to keep us safe and healthy. I may not always be the best patient, but I'm happy you've kept me alive all these years thanks to advances in medical science.



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North Perth awards tender for Davidson Avenue bridge

\$2.172M replacement project expected to begin in June/July of 2022

MIKE WILSON

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NORTH PERTH – Council has awarded the tender for the replacement of the bridge crossing the Maitland River on Davidson Avenue North in Listowel.

On Feb. 28, council reviewed a staff report outlining the three bids received for the budgeted \$2.2 million project.

Bids were accepted by the municipality until Feb. 15.

MacLean Taylor Construction of St. Marys submitted the lowest bid at \$2,172,123.93, not including HST. This bid was about 12 per cent lower than the bid from Looby Builders Ltd. (\$2.468 million) and about five per cent below the engineer's estimate for the project.

Lyndon Kowch, manager of operations for the municipality, spoke to the report and provided some background on the project.

The current Davidson Avenue North bridge was built in 1950



Dan McNee Photo

The Davidson Avenue North bridge was built in 1950 and was known as the 'Brewery Bridge.' The bridge was scheduled for replacement in 2019 following an inspection, which the consulting engineer said was in poor condition.

and was known as the 'Brewery Bridge.' The bridge was scheduled for replacement in 2019 following an inspection of the bridge, which the consulting engineer said was in poor condition.

"It rated a 44 (out of 100) and it needed full replacement," said

Kowch.

Kowch, in an interview with the *Banner* following the meeting, explained the bridge is structurally sound, however the faces and abutments are deteriorating.

"It's still structurally sound and safe to use," he said, adding that the condition of the bridge is at

the point where it is more cost effective to replace it than repair it.

Kowch, at the Feb. 28 meeting, told council they went through a funding application process at the time of inspection to replace the bridge, which was denied.

"However, what was a benefit of the process that took over a year was to redesign the bridge to try and change the alignment slightly so it fits the road better for traffic and creates better visibility," he said.

The design of the new bridge also includes sidewalks on both sides, as well as fully accessible trail connections on both sides of the river.

"We're actually, from a bridge perspective, excited about the project," said Kowch. "It meets exactly almost to the dollar the estimated budget that came through the capital budget process this year."

According to Kowch, work is expected to begin "in the June to July window, after the in-river

season opens up for construction."

Deputy Mayor Doug Kellum asked if Davidson Avenue North would be closed during construction, as it has become a main trunk "for what we've done for Wallace (Avenue South)."

Kowch confirmed the street will be closed during construction.

"It is a large construction project. With the watering system, the removals that have to happen, the road will be closed," he said. "We're looking at a window of probably July to November, then asphalt going in prior to December."

Added Kowch, "We've considered the detour and the impacts to traffic and feel it will time out well with or without the one-way block for sure, in terms of getting traffic to the north and to the south."

Council unanimously voted in favour of awarding the tender to MacLean Taylor Construction. Coun. Terry Seiler was absent from the meeting and did not vote.

Council extinguishes proposed change to burn bylaw

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NORTH PERTH – Council has decided that additional work needs to be done to the open-air burning bylaw before councillors will put their stamp of approval on it.

The municipality has been working on updating the burn bylaw, which has been in place since Sept. 17, 2001. In July 2021, a revised draft of the bylaw was in front of council to consider, however council expressed concerns over some of the language in the bylaw, including the definition of a multi-unit residential dwelling and adding in some materials to the list of items that cannot be burned.

On Feb. 28, Fire Chief Janny Pape presented the latest draft of the burn bylaw to council. This draft included the requested edits from council last summer, as well as a new clause: "no burn days" for urban areas. The draft proposed no recreational fires within urban areas on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays, with the exception of statutory holidays.

This clause did not sit well with some councillors.

Coun. Matt Richardson stated he believes this will be a "significant issue" if approved.

"I don't think it's especially fair when we do get some nice weather to limit people's ability to have a small, contained urban fire," said Richardson. "I'm not in support, in any way, to having it limited to

the weekends only."

Mayor Todd Kasenberg spoke to the complaints the municipality has received regarding fires in urban areas.

"There are parties in this community that are upset about the everyday, all-day kind of rule of burning fires or the availability of burning fires in the urban areas. They maintain they cannot comfortably enjoy their property or house and have made themselves quite known to me. I'm actually sympathetic to their cause. I think we have a balanced approach (in the proposed bylaw), and there are probably other balanced approaches that can be reached," said Kasenberg. "There are some folks in this community who feel it is their prerogative to burn seven days a week and that's chasing people into closing their windows, having to up-use of air conditioning and poor air quality in their homes, as well as asthma and allergies. That's a concern."

Pape told council the municipality has received 20 complaints per year in each of the past two years regarding recreational fires – double what was received in pre-pandemic years. Pape cited people being home more and enjoying recreational fires as a safe activity during the pandemic, as well as people being generally frustrated, which may be driving more complaints.

She further stated that "while 20 doesn't seem like a significant number" it does take several hours of staff time to investigate, visit and address a complaint.

"We may have multiple staff hours, in-

cluding potential emergency response when a neighbour gets so frustrated that they eventually call 911. Then we are dispatching trucks out at a cost to the taxpayer," she said.

According to Pape, one couple visited her at the Listowel fire station and told her they are considering selling their home because they are unable to enjoy their yard.

"Basically, as soon as the weather warms, folks are out there seven days a week. And it's not just one neighbour, it's three or four neighbours, and they've moved to our community and they do not find it an enjoyable space to live right now because of this," said Pape.

Richardson said he can understand the complaints, but believes this could be handled through enforcement instead of a new bylaw.

"I just don't think it is fair for the entirety of the community to be limited to three days a week and turning into more of an administrative issue after that for the sake of coming down to actual enforcement, whether it be police or fire, or sending them a bill for this repeated contact," he said. "This is totally enforcement and doesn't need to be written into the bylaw."

Kasenberg, who expressed his support of the proposed bylaw presented by Pape, said he believes "creating a blanket policy here eases the problem without singling people out." He noted that many residents have expressed concerns about filing a complaint to police, fire or bylaw out of fear of repercussions that will affect their safety.

Coun. Neil Anstett, who also expressed

his support of the proposed bylaw, said he was more concerned about how the changes to the burn bylaw would be communicated to residents.

"If we were to move forward with this, this is a very big change to our existing bylaw," he said.

Pape said the department would use a combination of social media, local media such as 100.1 FM The Ranch and the *Banner*, and the OPP to communicate these changes.

Deputy Mayor Doug Kellum spoke next, stating he was in agreement with Richardson on the bylaw.

"It's ridiculous to reduce this to four days per week, it's going to confuse people," said Kellum. "At the end of the day, we either have fires and police it, or we don't. If we're moving forward with stipulating a couple days a week, I'm not in favour of this motion."

Coun. Julie Behrns also spoke about the bylaw earlier in the conversation, expressing concerns over the language of the bylaw as it pertains to cooking fires.

At the end of the conversation, Kasenberg called for an informal poll to gauge support of the presented bylaw. Of the nine members of council present (Coun. Terry Seiler was absent), only Coun. Lee Anne Andriessen, Anstett and Kasenberg were in favour.

Council then passed a motion directing staff to remove the "no burn days" clause, give cooking fires a separate section of the bylaw, as well as simplifying some of the language for easier understanding.

The bylaw will return for council's consideration at a future meeting.

Council approves 2022 budget

Adoption supports 2.3 per cent levy increase

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NORTH PERTH – Another budget deliberation process is in the books, with North Perth council approving the 2022 municipal capital and operating budgets during its March 7 meeting.

Allan Rothwell, budget chair and councillor, outlined the 2.3 per cent residential tax levy increase that will be applied to municipal homeowners. For every residential tax dollar received in 2022, ap-

proximately 61 cents will remain in North Perth, 21 cents will be allocated to the County of Perth, and 18 cents will be earmarked for local school boards.

"When all three 2022 levy requisitions are combined, the overall tax increase in North Perth is about 5.8 per cent. However, due to assessment shifts and real growth, the residential levy impact is about 2.3 per cent, or about 20 cents per day," said Rothwell. "The actual per cent change will depend on any individual assessment changes and

specific relative tax class changes. Others factors might include the Listowel area storm water management levy, the Business Improvement Area levy, waste bins charges, and other service charges applied to your tax billing for collection."

Based on a \$450,000 residential assessment, ratepayers will be looking at an increase of 48 cents per day in terms of their 2022 property taxes and user fees. Farm owners will see an increase of 41 cents per

Continued on page 16

RIVERVIEW PARK
RESIDENCE

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Join us on **Monday March 14th.**
Brunch to be served at **11:45 a.m.**

Entertainment by **Johnny Borton**
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595 Havelock Ave S, Listowel, ON

LOCAL NEWS

Cat control concerns covered by council

Registration appears to be shelved by municipality

MIKE WILSON

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NORTH PERTH – It appears the idea of registering cats, similar to the process used to register dogs, will not be undertaken in North Perth any time soon.

On Aug. 22, council received a report from Janny Pape, manager of development and protective services/fire chief, regarding a recent complaint received by the municipality about the number of stray and feral cats.

“Previously, North Perth had included cats in its animal control bylaw, however very few cat owners registered their cats,” said Pape.

“With so few registrations back then, there was very little revenue that was generated.”

Pape told council that, at the time, a number of unregistered cats were surrendered to the municipality. The unclaimed cats were euthanized, “which is an expensive process and difficult, if not impossible, for us to determine if those cats even originated in North Perth,” said Pape.

“As a result, back then, council rescinded that bylaw.”

Pape told council that staff consulted with the Stratford Perth Humane Society about reinstating cat control, and what costs would be associated with it. According to Pape, the Humane Society was

unable to provide costing, as they “don’t currently offer this level of service elsewhere.”

The Humane Society did say they would help in an emergency situation and when resources are available.

“That’s not always the case,” said Pape.

According to Pape’s report, larger jurisdictions that have designated animal control officers “sometimes undertake the process of registering cats and have animal control to include cats.”

“Having that said, based on our previous history, that may not be a successful approach,” said Pape.

Staff recommended council accept the report for information, with no suggested action.

Coun. Lee Anne Andriessen commented that it is “unfortunate” there isn’t much that can be done to help residents in these situations, and that “the resources to support them with abandoned and stray cats seems to be very limited.”

“At this time, I don’t really see any ways of moving forward in terms of registering cats or even funding support through the Stratford Perth Humane Society,” she said.

Coun. Allan Rothwell suggested the municipality encourage cat and dog owners to keep their pets safe and on their own property as a “less expensive alternative.”

Pape said this could be done through the tax bill mailers, social media, and other avenues.

“We can certainly do that,” she said.

Mayor Todd Kasenberg agreed with the idea, calling it a “reasonable suggestion.”

Continued on page 11



Mike Wilson Photo
Diana Sweets was the place to be for dinner on Thursday, Aug. 25, as the restaurant hosted a spaghetti supper to raise funds to help four Listowel School of Dance members pay for their upcoming trip to world championship events. Mila Campbell, Keely Chauvin, Emily Mann and Jill Schalk were accepted to represent Team Canada Dance at upcoming events in Germany (Schalk) and Egypt (Campbell, Chauvin and Mann). The spaghetti dinner fundraiser also featured a silent auction, and another dinner is planned for Oct. 22 at Diana Sweets. Pictured: Stacey Schumacher (left) is served her spaghetti dinner by Jill Schalk.

Area resident victim of ‘sextortion’ scam

MIDWESTERN NEWSPAPERS STAFF

PERTH COUNTY – Perth County OPP are reminding residents to follow safe internet practices following a report of another “sextortion” scam in the county. Police say the latest report of sextortion received was on Aug. 22.

Sextortion is a form of extortion where a blackmailer uses the threat of publishing or sending intimate images or videos to contacts unless the victim meets their demands.

In this incident, police say the adult victim was communicating with an unknown person on a social media platform.

“The suspect sent the victim an intimate image and asked for one in return. The victim complied. The suspect then threatened to distribute the intimate images of the victim publicly if the victim did not send \$500. The victim contacted police immediately, and no money was lost,” states an Aug. 25 release from Perth County OPP.

Police are reminding residents

to not engage in conversations with strangers online, and to never share intimate images online.

What to do

In you find yourself in a similar situation, police offer the following tips:

- immediately stop all communication with the person and do not comply with the threats;
- contact police, who can provide advice on the next steps to take; and

Continued on page 11

2022 LISTOWEL FAIR RESULTS

166th Listowel Agricultural Fair Results – Homecraft Division

Cardmaking

Thank You Card

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Best of Show

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Birthday Card

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Christmas Card/Envelope

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Congratulations Card

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Outside the Box

- 1. Shirley Lawson

3-D/Pop-up Card

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Humorous Card

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Any Occasion/Featuring Wheels

- 1. Wanda Thompson

Any Occasion/Featuring Eyes

- 1. Shirley Lawson

Birthday Card

- 1. Abby Thompson
- 2. Dawn Thompson

Crafting

Christmas centrepiece

- 1. Donna Mitchell

- 2. Joanne Holt
- 3. Beth Annett

String art

- 1. Dawn Thompson
- 2. Beth Annett
- 3. Donna Mitchell

Quilted wall hanging

- 1. Angie McGuire
- 2. Donna Mitchell
- 3. Beth Annett

Handmade table runner

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Beth Annett
- 3. Joanne Holt

Decorated placemats (set of 2)

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Joanne Holt

Painted pillow

- 1. Marie McKertcher

Painted welcome stone, front entrance

- 1. TeAnna Heimpel

Photo, old wheeled vehicle

- 1. Beth Annett
- 2. Marjorie Elg

Salt and pepper shakers

- 1. Beth Annett
- 2. Marlene Tait
- 3. Marybelle Dittmer

Antique tin can

- 1. Beth Annett
- 2. Donna Mitchell
- 3. Marlene Tait

Door knob

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Marlene Tait

Collection of three photos, depicting wheels over the years

- 1. Beth Annett
- 2. Marjorie Elg

Pair of knit socks

- 1. Gayle Rice
- 2. Peggy Nagle

Something useful made from something useless

- 1. Angie McGuire
- 2. Peggy Nagle
- 3. Donna Mitchell
- 3. Gayle Rice

Handmade Christmas card

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Joanne Holt

Handmade gift, any occasion

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Peggy Nagle
- 3. Joanne Holt

Craft article not mentioned

- 1. Joanne Holt

- 2. Angie McGuire
- 2. Donna Mitchell
- 3. Gayle Rice

Quilting

Quilt – machine appliqued/embroidered

- 1. Linda Neeb

Quilt

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Rosemary Terpstra
- 3. Linda Neeb

Lap Quilt

- 1. Rosemary Terpstra
- 2. Judy Howse
- 3. Peggy Nagle

Baby/child quilt

- 1. Judy Howse
- 2. Rosemary Terpstra
- 3. Peggy Nagle

Best in Class – organization/group

- 1. Linda Neeb

Abstract quilt

- 1. Linda Neeb

Best of Show

- 1. Eleanor Petrie

Table runner

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Linda Robertson
- 3. Linda Neeb

Wall hanging

- 1. Judy Howse
- 2. Peggy Nagle
- 3. Linda Robertson

Quilt

- 1. Marjorie Martin
- 2. Donna Mitchell
- 3. Lorein Van Zant

Lap Quilt

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Judy Howse
- 3. Marjorie Martin

Baby/child quilt

- 1. Angie McGuire
- 2. Marjorie Martin

Abstract quilt

- 1. Rosemary Terpstra

Best in Class – Quilt pieced by exhibitor/long arm by another

- 1. Marjorie Martin

Quilt showcasing linear edge to edge

- 1. Marjorie Martin
- 2. Donna Mitchell

Table runner

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Susan Knabenschuh

Wall hanging

- 1. Eleanor Petrie
- 2. Susan Knabenschuh

Quilt

- 1. Marion Knoblauch

Best in Class – Quilt pieced domestic machine

- 1. Linda Neeb

Lap quilt

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Judy Howse

Baby/child quilt

- 1. Rosemary Terpstra
- 2. Gayle Rice
- 3. Marjorie Martin

Quilt showcasing linear edge to edge

- 1. Linda Robertson

Table runner

- 1. Susan Knabenschuh
- 2. Judy Howse
- 3. Beth Annett

Wall hanging

- 1. Marion Knoblauch
- 2. Rosemary Terpstra
- 3. Donna Mitchell

Quilt – hand/embroidered

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Beth Annett

Quilt

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Beth Annett
- 3. Jean Yake

Best in Class – Quilt, hand quilted, minimum 324

- 1. Donna Mitchell

Lap quilt

- 1. Donna Mitchell
- 2. Peggy Nagle

Baby/child quilt

- 1. Peggy Nagle
- 2. Beth Annett
- 3. Susan Martin

Memorial – in memory of Verna Coneybear

- 1. Angie McGuire

LOCAL NEWS



Mike Wilson Photos

Local dignitaries and residents gathered for the grand opening of the PERC Pavilion (pictured at bottom) on Wednesday, Aug. 24. Pictured at the ribbon cutting are, from left: Coun. Jerry Smith (Milverton Ward), Bill Gies, Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz, Perth-Wellington MP John Nater, Deputy Mayor Hugh McDermid, and Coun. Jeremy Matheson (Morningson Ward).

Perth East officially opens PERC Pavilion in Milverton

MIKE WILSON

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MILVERTON – The latest feature to the Perth East Recreation Complex (PERC) is officially open.

Under sunny blue skies on Wednesday, Aug. 24, Perth East held a ribbon cutting and grand opening for the PERC Pavilion. The pavilion, nestled between the pool, ball diamond and soccer pitch, has been open for about a month and has already been a popular spot in the community. “We’ve had something here every weekend,” said Becky Westman, manager of recreation and community services for Perth East.

The pavilion has already hosted family gatherings, picnics, fundraising barbecues, yoga classes, a hobby show, an engagement party, a swim meet and was the event venue for the Dusty Nostril bike road race. “Already it has proven to be a worthy project,” said Westman.

Westman said the pavilion cost approximately \$480,000 to construct, and was funded through an Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program grant. As part of the grant, the cost was split between Perth East, the province and the federal government, with each picking up one-third of the cost. In addition, Perth East received what Westman called a “gracious donation” from resident Bill Gies to assist with

the project.

In addition to the 60-foot by 80-foot shaded seating area with picnic tables, the pavilion also has a small kitchen and barbecue, as well as washrooms.

On Aug. 24, residents and local dignitaries gathered for the ribbon cutting. Perth East Mayor Rhonda Ehgoetz thanked everyone for attending, and commented on the high usage of the pavilion.

“This is a great facility for the families to use,” she said. “It’s gotten a lot of use (already) and hopefully will for many, many years to come.”

Ehgoetz thanked the provincial and federal governments for supporting the project, and addressed Gies, who was in attendance.

“On behalf of Perth East council and staff, we want to thank everyone... for making this happen, but more importantly we want to thank Mr. Gies for his support and his generous donation to our community,” said Ehgoetz.

“We couldn’t have done it without you.” Perth-Wellington MP John Nater was also in attendance, stating he is “very pleased” that the federal government supported the project.

“It’s in a great location, provides shade and shelter, provides an opportunity to gather as a community,” he said. “Hopefully this will be a great gathering place in the community for many years to come.”



Tender comes in under budget

Continued from page 9
Council received the report for information.

Truck tender comes in under budget

In a rare occurrence in the current state of the economy, a tender issued by the municipality has come in under budget.

Earlier this year, the municipality issued a tender for the supply and deliv-

ery of a one-ton heavy duty four-by-four dual rear wheel chassis, regular cab truck with an 11’ 6” dump body.

The tender closed on Aug. 10, with two bids received.

One bid was from Larry Hudson Chevrolet Buick GMC of Listowel for \$99,327, and the second from Blue Mountain Chrysler in Collingwood for \$104,430. Both bids ex-

clude HST.

Public works had allocated \$102,000 in the 2022 budget for this municipal vehicle.

It was recommended council accept the tender from Larry Hudson Chevrolet GMC as it meets the requirements and is the low tender.

Council approved the recommendation with no discussion.

POLICE NEWS

OPP investigate sextortion case

Continued from page 9
Line 81, causing a vehicle take screenshots and keep copies of the messages and information such as the username, social media account, etc.

For more information on frauds, you can visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at <http://www.antifraudcentre.ca>.

For more information about online safety, especially for children and teens, visit <http://protect-children.ca> or <http://dont-getsexorted.ca>.

Impaired driver charged

PERTH EAST – Police have charged another Perth County driver with operation while impaired.

Just after 2 a.m. on Aug. 25, a Perth County OPP officer on general patrol was travelling on Line 56 in Perth East when they conducted a traffic stop.

“During the investigation, the officer determined the driver was impaired. They were arrested and transported to a local operations centre for further testing,” states an Aug. 25 media release.

The driver, 27-year-old Jakob Haid of Perth East, has been charged with: Operation while impaired – blood alcohol concentration (80 plus), operation while impaired – alcohol and drugs, failure to comply with undertaking, and mischief – domestic.

A 90-day administrative driver’s license suspension and 30-day vehicle impoundment was initiated as per statute.

The accused was held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Atwood driver charged after failing to stop at stop sign

NORTH PERTH – Police have charged an Atwood resident after failing to stop at a stop sign last week.

Perth County OPP responded to a collision on Perth Road 164 and Line 81 just before 7 a.m. on Aug. 23.

“The investigation indicated that a vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign on

Line 81, causing a vehicle travelling on Perth Road 164 to collide with it,” states a media release.

Police reported no injuries as a result of the collision.

The driver, an 18-year-old resident of Atwood, has been charged with disobey stop sign – fail to stop, and was issued a Provincial Offence Notice.

North Perth resident charged with domestic assault

NORTH PERTH – Perth County OPP has charged a North Perth resident after responding to a domestic disturbance last week.

According to a media release from the OPP, police began an investigation into a historical domestic incident in North Perth on Aug. 23.

“During the investigation, it was determined that one person involved had assaulted the other earlier in the month,” states the release.

Police say the victim sustained minor injuries.

As a result, a 24-year-old resident of North Perth was arrested and charged with assault – spousal, and fail to comply with probation order.

The accused was released from custody and is scheduled to appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Stratford at a later date to answer to the charges.

Victims of sexual assault/domestic violence are not alone. If you, or someone you know, needs support, there are local resources available to help. One organization you can contact is Victim Services Bruce Grey Perth at 1-866-376-9852.

If you are in an immediate crisis, dial 9-1-1.

One charged following domestic investigation

NORTH PERTH – Perth County OPP says one person has been charged after a domestic investigation.

According to a media release from police, officers

responded to a report of an assault in North Perth on Aug. 22 around 7:24 p.m.

“During the investigation, it was determined that the accused damaged the victim’s door. The victim attended the hospital for serious but non-life-threatening injuries,” states the release.

A 30-year-old resident of Mapleton Township was arrested and charged with: Assault – spousal, two counts of forcible confinement, assault causing bodily harm – spousal, and theft under \$5,000.

The accused was held in custody pending a bail hearing.

Listowel man charged with sexual luring of a minor

PUSLINCH – A Listowel man has been charged with sexual luring of a minor.

Wellington County OPP announced on Aug. 18 the charge relates to an investigation started earlier in the month.

An 18-year-old resident of Listowel was charged with luring a person under 16 years of age by telecommunication and was held in custody.

“The name of the accused has been withheld as this case remains subject of a court ordered publication ban,” police stated.

OPP spokesperson Josh Cunningham told the *Wellington Advertiser* he is not certain who requested the publication ban.

Police have stated this incident is not related to another child luring charge in Puslinch, also announced on Aug. 18.

Anyone with information regarding this incident should contact the Wellington County OPP at 1-888-310-1122.

To remain anonymous, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or submit a tip online at www.csgw.tips. Tip providers may be eligible for a reward from Crime Stoppers of up to \$2,000.



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