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Cory Bilyea photo

MAGICAL MOMENT AT MUSICAL RIDE - The RCMP Musical Ride show in Teeswater concluded with a special meet and greet, a unique opportunity for the spectators to get up close and personal with the majestic horses, creating a lasting memory for many. Six-year-old Emery Leyen, riding on her dad's shoulders, was one of the first children to arrive and was very happy to have been able to pet the beautiful horse.

Huron County supports regional youth hub plan

RACHEL HAMMERMUELLER
rhammer@midwesternnewspapers.com

HURON COUNTY - Council here heard a presentation pertaining to the state of the area's youth – and the reality is sobering. Shannon McGavin, CEO of The Well Community Collective, asked council to consider supporting the establishing of four youth wellness hubs in Huron-

Perth – a place to access support systems and “immediate mental health and substance use support.” This network of hubs would be similar to ones in operation across Ontario, and in nearby Palmertson and Guelph/Wellington. The Well Community Collective collaborates, co-designs, and partners with youth and communities to create equitable, acces-

sible and low-barrier youth wellness services in Huron, Perth, Grey and Bruce Counties, their website states. “The Well is a collective of organizations united in a common goal to build a new standard of care for our youth,” McGavin told council. They are already in collaboration with multiple organizations across Huron-Perth and Grey-Bruce.

This network of hubs would also be a safe space with access to housing and employment supports, a place to grab food and do homework, and get support during a crisis. McGavin told council that many local families and youth are frustrated with the system that has let them down time and time again. The system as it stands, she

Continued on page 10

Emergency funding granted for Wecast Community Complex

CORY BILYEA
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
cbilyea@midwesternnewspapers.com

NORTH HURON – Interim Director of Public Works and Facilities Chip Wilson presented a report to council here on June 17, requesting emergency funding for the Dectron Unit (dehumidifier) at the Wecast Community Complex after a power surge on May 1 damaged the unit. Wilson said in his report, “Other places of business were also affected. Township staff

have been receiving many complaints from pool patrons and have been working closely with contractors to achieve the most cost-effective and time-sensitive solution for the repair. The repair includes the purchase and installation of replacement parts. Due to the nature of the cause, this is an unexpected expense. Staff are seeking council's approval to fund the repair to an upset limit of \$15,000 from the Recreation Equipment Reserve.” Wilson added, “Staff were quoted \$11,447.75 for the repairs and an additional \$1,600.00 for installation.”

Several councillors asked Wilson if the unit had a surge protector and if this was possibly an insurance claim. Wilson said he understood from the staff at the complex that “there were fuses blown along the line and then it still got to the unit and damaged the unit.” Wilson said there would be a discussion about the surge protection they plan to implement. As for putting it through insurance, Wilson said, “I understand that the deductible is quite a bit more than this, so I guess it wouldn't be feasible to go through insurance.”

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LISTOWEL CYCLONES 2023-24 CHERREY CUP CHAMPIONS!

MIDWESTERN NEWSPAPERS STAFF



LISTOWEL – The Listowel Cyclones are Cherrey Cup champions.

The team earned the right to hoist the cup for the fourth time in club history after downing the Stratford Warriors 5-2 on home ice in the sixth game of the championship series on April 12.

The cup is emblematic of the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey (GOJHL) Midwest Conference championship and winning it earned the team the right to face off against the other two GOJHL conference winners in a round robin for the Sutherland Cup, a chalice the Cycles have hoisted only once before, in 2018.

The Cyclones fell behind early in game six, when Stratford's Carson Harmer scored at the 4:34 mark of the first period on a goal assisted by Michael Denney and Haden Frayne.

Listowel tied the game at 11:12 of the opening frame on a goal by Ben MacRobbie, assisted by Jack O'Donnell and Teagan Vader, then took the lead on an unassisted Tanner Dietz tally at the 13:45 mark.

Dietz scored the lone goal of the second period on a penalty shot with just over two minutes left in the frame.

Tate Brenner put the Cycles up 4-1 just 1:14 into the third on a goal set up by Carter Coombs and Chet Hutson.

Stratford drew within two on a power play marker by Brayden Stumpf, assisted by Harmer and Casey Bridgewater, with Listowel's Cam McNevan off for roughing.

Coombs, the Cycles captain and a homegrown Listowel talent, gave Listowel some extra breathing room by scoring an empty netter with 2:51 left to play.

Listowel netminder Dixon Grimes stopped 31 of 33 Stratford shots for the clinching victory, while Listowel fired 47 shots at Carter McDougall in the Warriors net.

Grimes handled the bulk of the playoff net-minding for the Cyclones, came into the final game with a 9-1 record on the strength of a 1.60 goals per game average, shutting out the opposition four times, including twice in the final series.

Riley Arts was also stingy through the playoffs, allowing only three goals in his three starts, all Listowel wins.

Wylie Birkett led the Cyclones in playoff scoring, recording six goals and 19 assists for 25 points in 13 games, to tie Chase MacQueen-Spence for top spot in the GOJHL playoff scoring face.

After taking the first two games of the series by 3-2 and 3-0 counts on April 5 and 7 respectively, Listowel took a 3-0 stranglehold on the series by blanking the Warriors 4-0 in Listowel on April 9.

Brenner, MacRobbie, Jack O'Donnell and Harrison Meulensteen were the Cyclone Marksmen in game three, with Coombs and Aidan Renaud assisting on Brenner's second period tally and Grimes stopping 30 shots for the shutout.

With home ice advantage, Stratford denied Listowel a chance to clinch on April 10, pulling off a 3-1 win with goals Harmer, Camden Daigle and Joey Brehmer doing the scoring. Luke Eurig replied for the Cyclones, with Birkett and Jordan Alexander drawing assists and Grimes stopping 33 shots.

Final Sutherland Cup round robin matchups and schedules were not available as of press time.

Cory Bilyea photos
Cyclones Assistant Captain
Jack O'Donnell hoists the
Cherrey Cup



Members of the Listowel Cyclones celebrate
their conference final series victory.

**Congratulations to the Listowel Junior Cyclones
on capturing the Cherrey Cup!**

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Hodgins Building Centre gives \$50,000 for CT Scanner

WINGHAM - Hodgins Building Centre is donating \$50,000 to the Caring Together campaign at the Wingham & District Hospital Foundation to help fund a brand-new CT Scanner.

Hodgins Building Centre is a family-owned business serving Wingham and Lucknow.

"This generous contribution will help establish the new digital imaging technology and provide better emergency care to patients who live in the same communities served by Hodgins Building Centre," hospital foundation officials stated in an April 18 press release.

Third generation owners Brock and Jordan Hodgins said "Donating to the hospital and other important local organizations is our way of giving back to the community that has supported our family business for many years."

Caring Together campaign Chair Mark Foxton accepted the donation saying: "It's gratifying to see the next generation of businesses owners step up and support the community. The Hodgins donation to the hospital sets a great example. We can't thank them



Contributed photo

BIG DONATION - Hodgins Building Centre donated \$50,000 to the Caring Together campaign at the Wingham & District Hospital Foundation to help fund a brand-new CT Scanner. From left: WDHf Executive Director Nicole Duquette, Hodgins Building Centre owners Brock and Jordan Hodgins, and Caring Together campaign Chair Mark Foxton

enough."

The Caring Together campaign is aiming to raise \$2.5 million for a CT Scanner to strengthen emer-

gency care and help make the hospital more attractive to potential new healthcare professionals, foundation officials note.

To learn more about the importance of the CT Scanner or to make a contribution go to: wdhfoundation.ca.

MC Board reviews changes to Conservation Authority Act

CORY BILYEA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
cbilyea@midwesternnewsletters.com

MAITLAND VALLEY – The Maitland Conservation (MC) board of directors reviewed the results of the new singular Conservation Authority Regulations that now replaces MVCA's previous Regulations (Ontario Regulation 164/06 and R.R.O. Reg 117) and associated changes to the Conservation Authorities Act at the regular MC board meeting on April 17.

Supervisor of Planning and Regulations Patrick Huber-Kidby and Conservation Areas Coordinator Stewart Lockie presented a joint report to members outlining the changes.

"On February 16, 2024, a new Minister's regulation (Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits

and Ontario Regulation 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas) under the Conservation Authorities Act was approved by the province," the report said. "The regulation's effective date was April 1, 2024, as was the proclamation of associated sections within the Conservation Authorities Act. All changes are now in effect.

"This regulation will replace the

bers that at the last meeting, a number of delegations were made so that staff could continue to issue permits for new applications, handle hearings, administer reviews, etc.

"There is a follow-up to that, which was expected," said Huber-Kidby. So it is a class designation from the Ministry of Natural Resources that allows for the enforcement portions of the act."

'It shouldn't impact us much. We don't see too many people wanting to build in a wetland around here' - GM, Phil Beard

existing individual 'Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses' regulation Ontario Regulations 164/06 held by the Maitland Valley Conservation Authority."

Huber-Kidby reminded mem-

On March 20, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry restored a class designation to officers appointed under section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act relating to offences under the Conservation Authorities Act (appointment attached).

Highlights / Updates:

- The Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol (DART Protocol) will effectively continue without the fee charged by the C.A. Conservation authorities will continue to provide documents and mitigation advice to municipalities to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place.

- The definition of watercourse and wetland has been revised to state that only wetlands directly connected to an open watercourse are included in the new regulation. This removes 2574 of 4766 currently identified wetlands located within MVCA's

area of jurisdiction (or 54 per cent) that were regulated in the previous regulation.

- Stop Orders (a.k.a. Stop Work Orders) are now a tool that conservation authorities can use to stop development and/or interference in regulated areas.

- The new regulation prescribes strict considerations for issuing permits within hazardous land, including that the Authority must be satisfied that "the activity is not likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property" this test was not present in Ontario Regulation 164/06 and provides for a stronger limitation on development activities that could possibly increase occupancy or

Continued on page 6



Cory Bilyea photo

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY - The Auxiliary to Wingham & District Hospital held its annual Spring Rummage Sale at the Wingham Legion on April 17 and 18, raising funds to purchase equipment for the hospital and items to assist nursing staff. Pictured here are the many volunteers who make the fundraising efforts so successful each year. More coverage on page 9.



Wingham Advance Times

PM43702524

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SPEAKING OUT - Wescast Industries employees who were laid off in July 2023 held a rally at their former workplace on April 25 to demand that the now China-based company Bohong Industries pay workers their severance and termination pay, which totals approximately \$10 million. Right: Laura Collison worked at Wescast Industries for 45 years, and her children also worked there. She is pictured here with National Staff Representative Tyson Siddall, holding her sign "Shame on Wescast" while she speaks to her fellow employees.

Abandoned Wescast employees hold protest over \$10 million in payments owed to workers

'We will not give up this fight until workers are paid every cent they are owed for their years of blood, sweat and tears.' - Unifor Ontario Regional Director Samia Hashi

CORY BILYEA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
cbilyea@midwesternnewspapers.com

WINGHAM – It's been nine months since Wescast Industries shuttered its doors, laying off 180 workers from its Wingham-based foundry with a promise that the closure would be temporary so that "assessments, planning and requests for new investments can be made," according to an internal memo sent to employees in May of 2023.

Since the closure, many of the workers have relied on Employment Insurance (EI) to survive, and that benefit is now running out, leaving frustrated workers without an income and in a dire financial situation.

On April 1, Wescast's "temporary" layoff became permanent because it lasted at least 35 weeks in a 52-week period, according to Ontario labour laws. Thus, employees are entitled to request severance and termination pay.

When employees attempted to

access these funds, the holder of the group's policy, Manulife Insurance, told them benefits could only be paid out once their employment was legally terminated.

Unifor National Staff Representative Tyson Siddall said several laid-off employees were called back to work in March. Some had already taken other jobs but quit to return to Wescast so they would not lose their seniority and pension benefits, only to have that recall cancelled, leaving them once again without employ-

ment.

On April 25, the union representing Wescast, Unifor Local 4207, held a rally outside of the Water Street factory's machine shop, the only part of the company in Wingham still operating, to demand the overseas company Bohong Industries Group, who purchased the business in 2013, pay these hard-working and loyal employees what they are owed.

"Unifor stands firmly with the workers of Wescast in their fight for accountability from this



overseas company," said Unifor National President Lana Payne. "Our union will not stand idly by as a multinational corporation attempts to run from its contractual and legal obligations and stiff the hard-working people of Wingham."

Unifor Ontario Regional Director Samia Hashi spoke at the rally, expressing her frustration with Bohong's lack of response.

Continued on page 6

Voting day set for DGR referendum in South Bruce

CORY BILYEA

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
cbilyea@midwesternnewspapers.com

SOUTH BRUCE – South Bruce Council approved a bylaw authorizing the "submission of a question" to the municipality's electors through a referendum, subsequently setting dates for advanced voting and voting day.

The long awaited referendum will determine whether or not the people of South Bruce are willing to be the host (if chosen) to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in the region.

A report prepared by Director of Legislative Services Clerk Vivian Kennedy included the following notice, released on

April 24:

"The Municipality of South Bruce Council has passed a Bylaw authorizing the submission of the following question to the electors ("Referendum Bylaw") in a by-election in 2024:

"Are you in favour of the Municipality of South Bruce declaring South Bruce to be a willing host for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR)?"

If 50 per cent of eligible voters participate and at least 50 per cent of those votes are a yes, then South Bruce will continue to be eligible to be chosen by the NWMO for the project.

Alternatively, if 50 per cent of those votes (by 50 per cent of eligible voters) are no, South Bruce will no longer be eli-

gible to be chosen by the NWMO.

But, if less than 50 per cent of eligible voters "cast a vote on the question," the results would not be binding and Municipal Council will decide.

Council approved the bylaw, and the referendum date is set for Oct. 28, 2024.

"In addition to setting the date of the voting day, staff have also considered advance voting," the report said. "The Municipal Elections Act (MEA) states that at least one day of advance voting is required. In keeping with the regular election, staff recommend that the advance voting begin Monday, October 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. and until voting day. Voting on voting day closes at 8:00 p.m. A bylaw has been prepared authorizing the advance voting and confirming the use of

internet and telephone voting."

Special meeting on May 1

A report from CAO Leanne Martin requested that South Bruce Council hold a special meeting on May 1 to consider the Draft Hosting Agreement with the NWMO.

"The Municipality of South Bruce and NWMO are in the final stages of completing a Hosting Agreement relating to the Deep Geological Repository for Used Nuclear Fuel Project. Staff anticipate receiving a final draft of the agreement in the near future," the report said. "With this in mind staff request that Council hold a special meeting to consider the final draft Hosting Agreement on May 1, 2024 at 6 p.m."

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