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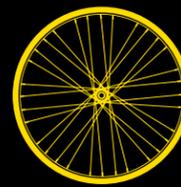
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Hueston trial adjourned until Aug. 15

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
gating OPP officer.

Why it took a year for those notes to be released as disclosure by the Crown attorney's office was not explained.

"They seem significant," Justice Donald said.

Those documents were copied and given to the Huestons' defence lawyer Gordon Cudmore of London.

Justice Donald ordered a recess so Mr. Cudmore could quickly review the new disclosure.

About an hour later, the court proceeding resumed and Justice Donald said two further items of disclosure were to be delivered by the Crown later

that day: information from a fire chief and the "media officer of the OPP."

The new date for the trial of Wednesday, Aug. 15 was then agreed to by both assistant Crown attorney Celia Jutras and Mr. Cudmore.

The trial is to begin at 10 a.m. in courtroom 103, the same time and location as the court proceeding on June 27.

There were four OPP officers who were expected to testify on June 27 and only three would be available on Aug. 15.

Those officers include Commander Brad Fishleigh and Investigator Angela Snedden.

The name of the third officer was not heard clearly by the re-

porter.

All three of the officers were asked by Justice Donald if they would be available on Aug. 15 to which they indicated they would.

"I am not a happy camper this morning," Mr. Cudmore said when given an opportunity to address Justice Donald.

"I can't resist the irony we're not getting proper disclosure in a case which involves disclosure."

"It's not just a couple of pages," he said of the new disclosure he had just received.

"Freedom of the press is a very live issue," Mr. Cudmore said.

The defence he planned to

present included a Charter of Rights and Freedoms application.

Justice Donald addressed the Huestons in granting the adjournment to Aug. 15.

"I realize you wanted this to proceed today," he said. "It will be the priority that day with no other matters on the docket that day."

The Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ) and the Canadian Committee for World Press Freedom (CCWPF) have condemned the charges laid against the Huestons by Elgin OPP, calling it "an assault on press freedom."



Construction crews have begun preparing the north and south approaches for the installation of a modular bridge that will temporarily replace the collapsed Imperial Road

Bridge to Port Bruce, Elgin County, which is responsible for both the collapsed and temporary bridges, expects the new crossing over Catfish Creek to be ready for traffic in August. (AE/Rob Perry)

"Baywatch" look to new Port Stanley guard tower

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express

Some Central Elgin councillors are unhappy with the California-style lifeguard tower to be installed at Port Stanley's Main Beach later this summer, but Cr. Fiona Roberts said she actually loved the "Baywatch" look at a meeting Monday, June 25.

Baywatch was a popular television show that aired from 1989 to 2001, focusing on the fictional adventure of Los Angeles County lifeguards.

Physical Services Director Lloyd Perrin, in a report, sought permission to purchase a prefabricated fibreglass tower from Industrial Design Research of Santa Ana, California, at a price of \$44,700 in US dollars.

The main lifeguard tower at Main Beach needed to be replaced, he said, with a budget set for that of \$75,000.

However, when a tower designed by the municipality was tendered, the lowest bid was for \$154,810, and the highest \$370,000.

He didn't believe that represented "value for money," so instead a request for proposals was issued without a specific design attached to it, only some

general specifications such as what it would be used for and how high off the beach a viewing deck should be.

No companies bid on that. Then, he said, Fire Chief Chris McDonough began researching possible alternatives and found the California company which made such towers for use in that state and around the world.

The cost in Canadian dollars for the tower itself would be \$59,560, he said. Shipping would cost an additional \$10,000, a concrete mounting pad \$7,500 and "scour protection" for the foundation another \$4,000, for a total of \$81,060.

That cost, he said, would be just over the original budget estimate.

Deputy Mayor Sally Martyn said the tower in a picture provided to councillors looked much shorter than the current one on the beach.

Chief McDonough said the company would revise its standard design so that the viewing deck would be at nine feet instead of six.

That was a foot lower than the current tower, but would be high enough that lifeguards could see the entire beach from the deck, he said.

Councillor Harold Winkworth said, "It looks like a condominium to me. It's nicer than my house."

He asked if Yarmouth Metal Fabricators of Central Elgin had been consulted.

It might be able to make a similar tower, he said, that didn't look "rather extravagant."

Cr. Dan McNeil, who represents Port Stanley, said, "I don't like the way it looks in the photograph."

He didn't believe it would fit the character of Port Stanley, he said. He'd be happier to spend more money to get something more appropriate, but didn't think other councillors would back that.

Deputy Mayor Martyn asked if Yarmouth Metal could build a tower to the same approximate design.

Mr. Perrin said the existing tower was metal, but didn't meet all health and safety standards.

Central Elgin could go back to the drawing board, he said, but he didn't think a new tender would result in any lower bids.

He pointed out the lowest bid was \$157,000 for what was essentially "a two-storey garden shed" versus a recent cost

of just over \$100,000 to build a municipal boathouse for Port Stanley harbour with a large roll-up door and rubber roof shingles.

The municipality could try to issue a tender when contractors were less busy, but "I don't know if that will ever come."

As it was, even if the Santa Ana company's price were accepted, the tower wouldn't be in place until at least mid-August.

Cr. Winkworth asked if Yarmouth Metal could be directly approached, given Central Elgin's procurement policies.

Finance Director Karen Harris said the only reason council could authorize a purchase from a "sole source" provider without seeking competing prices was that the proposed fibreglass tower was a proprietary design of Industrial Design.

Giving the company's design to another manufacturer would be wrong, she said.

The only way to call tenders again, she said, would be to redesign the structure.

Central Elgin couldn't shop around for a better price after a tender had closed, she added.

Cr. Winkworth said, "I'm

not big on this design."

Mayor David Marr said Central Elgin had tried to find a company willing to bid on a tender, but those prices came in too high, or to submit a proposal, but none did.

The existing tower was "past its lifespan by a long-shot," he said. "It needs to be replaced."

Chief McDonough said the

Industrial Design tower was designed specifically for use by lifeguards, with its products used around the world.

At night, the shutters over windows could be locked down and stairs raised so nobody could get in, he said.

The colour could be changed, he said, but white was used for a reason, to reflect heat. Ceiling insulation

reduced the interior temperature by 10 degrees to help keep lifeguards cool.

Cr. Roberts said, "I'm obviously very alone on this, but I like it. Very Baywatch."

Cr. McNeil said he wouldn't oppose the recommended purchase, trusting in municipal managers to make the tower look "more Port Stanley."

Chief McDonough said a

"wrap" could be put on the exterior with a different colour or graphics to reflect Port Stanley's nautical character.

Councillors then voted unanimously to approve the purchase, except for Cr. Dennis Crevits, who declared a conflict of interest and did not participate in discussion or voting.

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Express-O-Gram Lots of races in fall municipal elections

HOME OF JOIE DE VIVRE

We're going through Tour de France withdrawal after three weeks of television transmission of that epic event through the world's most beautiful country.

July was a good month for France, starting out with winning the World Cup soccer match final over Croatia in a most unusual contest. It included the Croats playing with passion and inspiration, defeated by the methodical and disciplined French, but included highly disputable officiating, an own-goal and an incredible flub by the French goaltender that cost a goal on him.

It was an exciting initiation to the world of soccer for neophytes and great entertainment all around.

Back on two wheels at the Tour de France, which unfolded unexpectedly with several favourites put at deficit early due to crashes, injuries and other misfortunes. It was ultimately dominated by Team Sky and eventual winner Geraint Thomas, a Brit from Wales. The travelogue through the gorgeous French countryside was stunning as always. And the racers put it all on the line as evidenced in the mountains with one rider catapulted over a walled embankment (he recovered) on a steep descent. Others left Lycra, flesh and blood streaks on the tarmac in failed Helio-glory efforts in the monumental Pyrenées.

It's a wonderful international event and such a magnificently French mixture of beauty, obstinacy, quirky mystery and elegant style.

By good fortune, we were in France just a couple of days before the Tour and took the opportunity to do some riding which included the classic Pyrenées climb, the Port De Pailheres, a 16-kilometre 7-percent average climb. We were near exhausted just by the long run-in, so when the actual climb began, we were quickly left behind by the others, each climbing at his/her own speed. Our challenge was to keep the eyes from crossing and the speed high enough that we wouldn't topple over like Arte Johnson on Laugh-In. Making a point of not noticing the kilometre markers, we accidentally saw Kilometre 6 at 7.5 percent. Great, we thought, just six to go. Wrong. The next was Kilometre 7 at 7 percent. It was counting up, not down. The scenery passed slowly, very slowly and the percentages sometimes into the double digits. At

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Nominations for the Oct. 22 municipal elections in Ontario closed on Friday, July 27.

Candidates are:

Aylmer
Mayor: Current Deputy Mayor Mary French; current Councillor Barbara Ann Laur.

Deputy Mayor: Councillor Sheri Andrews; former Mayor Jack Couckuyt.

Councillor: Ten candidates are running for five council seats, including incumbents Ted McDonald, Arthur Oslach and Peter Barbour; as well as David Dykeman, former Councillor John Vandermeersch, Jacob Janzen, former Councillor Judi Wright, Jamie Chapman, Tom Charlton and Mary Hamm.

For the first time, Aylmer will hold an election by Internet and telephone voting rather than a traditional in-person paper ballot vote.

Electronic or phone ballots can be cast over a one-week period from Monday, Oct. 15

to Monday, Oct. 22 (election day).

Malahide

Mayor: Incumbent Mayor David Mennill will be acclaimed.

Deputy mayor: Incumbent Jim Jenkins; former Deputy Mayor Paul Faulds; Dominique Giguere.

Ward 1: Incumbent Mark Widner; George Steenberg.

Ward 2: Current councillor Max Moore will be acclaimed.

Ward 3: Incumbent Rick Cerna; Emily Phillimore.

Ward 4: Incumbent Mark Wales; Scott Lewis.

Ward 5: Incumbent Chester Glinski; Kevin Ferguson. Malahide will again use mail-in ballots.

Central Elgin

Mayor: Incumbent Dave Marr; current Deputy Mayor Sally Martyn; Casey Siebenmorgen.

Deputy Mayor: Current councillors Harold Winkworth and Stephen Carr; for-

mer Mayor Tom Marks.

Ward 1: Incumbent Dan McNeil; Kent Keenan; Colleen Row.

Ward 2: Incumbent Dennis Crevits; Allison Joseph.

Ward 3: Candidate Karen Cook will be acclaimed.

Ward 4: Bill Fehr; Blake Weber.

Ward 5: Incumbent Fiona

Roberts; Dani Bartlett.

Central Elgin is holding a traditional paper ballot election.

Bayham

Mayor: Current Councillor Ed Ketchabaw will be acclaimed as the new mayor. Dan Froese as Ward 2 councillor and Susan Chilcott as Ward 3 councillor.

Deputy Mayor: Cindy Stewart; Rainey Weisler; Roger James.

Ward 1: Valerie Donnell; Norm Hughes.

Ward 2: Dan Froese will be acclaimed.

Ward 3: Susan Chilcott will be acclaimed.

Bayham is holding a traditional paper ballot election.

School boards

Incumbents James Todd and Chris Goodall are being challenged by Peter Rochus, Megan Ruddock and Bruce Smith for two spots on Thames Valley District School Board.

For London District Catholic School Board, longtime Elgin Trustee William Hall is running, as is Joseph O'Connor.

3 Port Tour coming Aug. 18

The eighth annual 3 Port Tour, which each year attracts 500 or so bicyclists to the East Elgin and Central Elgin areas, will pedal its way along what are likely to be somewhat different routes than in the past on Saturday, Aug. 18.

The event is sponsored by Aylmer Express Graphics Group and organized by the Aylmer Bicycle Club.

Club President Brett Hueston said he was hoping for a good turnout this year, despite major road construction and a collapsed bridge meaning the routes would divert from the past.

This summer had been great so far for training and casual riding, with hot weather and

not much rain.

This year's edition would continue to offer 50-, 100- and 160-kilometre routes, depending on the ability and ambition of each rider.

He said organizers had hoped the fallen Imperial Road Bridge leading into Port Bruce would be replaced by a temporary structure by the initial target date of August 15, but that's now been put off. However, a lunch stop would still be offered somewhere in that area.

Organizers, he allowed, had in contingency planning earlier this year considered using pontoon boats or barges for crossing Catfish Creek so the usual lunch stop could continue in

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Ontario Premier Doug Ford, accompanied by Ontario Police College Acting Director Paul Hebert, joined an inspection of 305 Basic Constable training program graduates conducted by guest speaker Chief Paul Martin of Durham Regional Police

Services at Ontario Police College on Thursday afternoon, July 26. Premier Ford's excursion to the college was seemingly a last-minute surprise.

(AE/Rob Perry)

Premier Doug Ford: "I love our police!"

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express

Ontario Premier Doug Ford made a surprise visit to a March Past and Review Ceremony for 305 Basic Constable students at Ontario Police College on Thursday afternoon, July 26.

He was accompanied by Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Jeff Yurek.

During a brief address to

the recruits, Premier Ford said, "I'm biased. I love our police."

"I will never waiver in supporting our police," he said to enthusiastic applause from a large crowd of spectators at the event.

"What an honour and a privilege it is to be here," he said after being introduced to the audience.

Two professions started with the letter "P," he observed, policing and politicians.

Both, when they left the house every day, were held to the highest standard in the public eye, he said. He encouraged officers to wear their badges "with great honour."

"God bless each and every one of you."

Durham Police Chief Paul Martin, the speaker for the ceremony, told recruits, "We need fresh new faces. We need your energy and ideas."

"We need that energy right

now. We need your leadership right now."

He urged graduates to start using their leadership skills immediately as they returned to their jobs. "Don't be shy."

He continued, "This is a very difficult job, and it's under a great deal of scrutiny."

"Lead a life of integrity," he said, adding, "Whatever your passions are, look for the opportunities to get there."

New boat ramp going in at Port Bruce

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express

Elgin County councillors, after a secret session Tuesday, July 24, publicly approved spending up to \$75,000 to install a boat ramp on an unused road allowance on the north side of Catfish Creek, near North Erie Marina, for exclusive use by that business.

Engineering Services Director Michael Plant said the ramp

was for temporary use only by the marina, while access to its own ramp to the east was obstructed by a new modular bridge being installed to re-open access to Port Bruce from the north after the February collapse of the Imperial Road Bridge.

He said Lewis Street was originally planned to be a north-south road between what was then the location of Rush

Creek Line and the north bank of Catfish Creek.

A portion of that road allowance was later incorporated into Rush Creek Line, leaving just a stub between that road and the creek.

The road allowance, which had belonged to Malahide, had now been assumed by the county, he said.

He explained the new boat ramp was a "mitigation meas-

ure" to compensate for North Erie Marina's loss of ready access to its own ramp.

Construction started on Monday, July 23, he said, and should be completed by the end of this week, Friday, Aug. 3.

Mr. Plant noted that when the permanent replacement for the Imperial Road Bridge was completed, the temporary launch would be removed, as would the modular bridge.



Workers are in the process of installing a temporary boat ramp just south of Rush Creek Line, between Bank Street and the collapsed Imperial Road Bridge, for use by North Erie Marina. Elgin Engineering Services Director Michael Plant said the "mitigation measure" was needed because a temporary

modular bridge now being installed across the creek as a stopgap measure, between Bank Street on the north shore and Dexter Line on the south shore, would obstruct access to the marina's own ramp.

(AE/contributed)

Never give up on childhood dreams, pro wrestler Cody Deaner preaches

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express

Professional wrestler Cody Deaner (a.k.a. Port Bruce native Chris Gray) told youngsters at Port Stanley library on Friday afternoon, July 20, that he'd achieved his childhood dreams by never giving up on them, or listening to doubters along the way.

He said he'd come from the tiny lakeside community of Port Bruce, but "Just because you come from a small place doesn't mean you have to have small dreams."

He watched professional wrestling as a child, and always liked Hulk Hogan, one of his idols, because of his unceasingly positive attitude.

He talked about how Hogan would draw in a crowd, pointing to his opponent and shouting "You!", flexing his muscles dramatically in a series of poses and then cupping his ear to get the audience to cheer even more loudly.

Jake "The Snake" Roberts and Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat were also childhood

favourites, he said, though Jake "scared me a little" because he'd come into the ring with a snake around his neck.

Deaner said when he came home from school every day, his mother would ask him what he wanted to do, and he always wanted to watch Hulk Hogan.

So she'd put a videotape in the video-cassette recorder (he had to explain to the young children what that was) and watch wrestling for a couple of hours. And then his mother would ask him what he wanted to do next, and it was always watch Hulk Hogan again.

Finally, after two or three showings, when his mother asked him what he wanted to do, he replied, "I want to be Hulk Hogan!"

He added to the grown-ups in the audience, "Parents, you can tell it was pretty easy to be my parent," drawing laughs.

His mother gave him a big blue teddy bear, he said, so he could practise wrestling moves on it (not something, he hastily added, a youngster should try with a friend or sibling).

She would also take a plastic grocery bag, and make it child-safe by cutting holes in the bottom and sides, so he could wear it like a T-shirt.

Then, he said, at the right moment, he would dramatically tear it off, like his hero Hulk Hogan did. "That teddy bear was shaking" after that.

He got older, but "I never lost that dream."

Sometimes, "People tell you, you can't do it," as a guidance counsellor did in high school.

She told him he was physically too small to be a wrestler, he recalled.

Instead of focusing on those "mean, negative words," he thought, "I'll show her."

He started working out to build his body up, and found a wrestling school to join.

A year later, he entered the ring for his first professional match.

"It was very, very hard," he admitted to the children. He lost not just his first match, but the one after that, the one after that and the one after that.

"It was a lot harder than I

thought it was going to be."

But rather than give up, he kept trying, and would occasionally send audition videos to World Wrestling Entertainment, the pinnacle of pro wrestling.

"Never did they call me" until four years later, when he got an invitation to try out.

The first time he wrestled for WWE, it was in front of 20,000 spectators. And like his hero Hulk Hogan, he pointed to the crowd and listened to their roars, just like he had as a child taking on his teddy bear in his family's living room.

"I wrestled Kurt Angle on television," an Olympic gold-medal wrestling winner turned professional, and one of the WWE's top stars.

He lost that match, but when he went backstage afterward, he heard someone growl "Cody!"

When he turned around, WWE owner Vince McMahon, "Who was Hulk Hogan's boss," stood up from behind a desk and shook his hand, telling him, "Thank you. You did an amaz-

ing job."

"Thank you. You did an amaz-

ing job."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Express-O-Gram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

one point, passing through a village, a woman in a car was waving frantically out her car window. The hearing not what it used to be, we struggled over to her lane to find out her distress.

There was none. She was yelling "Allez! Allez!" and motioning us on as though the single most important thing in her life at that moment was our enjoyment (such as it was) and endeavour.

We belatedly joined the others at the top. Our heart was pounding, almost hard enough to break a rib in desperate effort to drive oxygen through aged arteries.

A pause for lunch as groups of Brits then Germans reached the summit. Our lunch was enjoyed on a grassy meadow in glorious high-elevation sunlight, surrounded by a spectacular vista.

We remounted and headed down. Our youngest had headed down the long way home with a member of Canada's women's cycling team. I descended with his brother, The Big Guy, who I could pretty much keep up with. This is probably the most beautiful pass in the Pyrenées but attention was required elsewhere as we screamed from hairpin in terrifying bursts of speed and panic breaking. There was one precipitous kilometre-long ramp, but we had no speedometer to observe a new record.

Nearer the bottom, corners were more gradual and it was a perfect lyrical path of high velocity straights flowing right through the apexes on the absolute limit of adhesion, just off Brett's wheel. It all went well - great even. It had to, there was no alternative.

Back at Limoux, supper was a delicious recovery of bread, salad, wine, duck, wine, a selection of desserts and wine.

Out for an after-supper walk, we came on a fundraiser for local fire department. The three-piece French rock-and-roll band was brutal. We beat a hasty retreat back to our accommodation in a 400-year-old abbey.

In the sixteen- or twenty-foot-high ceiling are a couple metal loops where, we are told, the monks hung their swing.

God bless the French.

Letter to the Editor

Don't ban handguns

In response to your article, 'Guns, Guns, Guns and Murder', I agree it is sickening that innocent people died in the most recent shooting in Toronto at the hands of a madman. I disagree with the rest of your article: banning handguns.

This man did not acquire his handgun legally. Banning handguns will not eliminate gang violence, or violence at the hands of a madman.

Did you know, that to be able to acquire a handgun in Canada, you must take your Canadian Firearms Safety course and your Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety course? Owning a handgun requires a Restricted Possession and Acquisition Licence (RPAL). You must pass both the written and the practical test. You must undergo a background check before you even obtain your licence, you must wait 28 days before your application is even processed. You must be a member of a recognized range. This range must be compliant with rules and regulations set out by the Chief

Firearms Officer. Upon receiving your RPAL, your name will be run through CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre) every day. A background check every day. This alone should show that RPAL owners are indeed law abiding firearms owners.

Also, you state the government should "prohibit assault rifles." An assault rifle is defined as the following: "a selection-fire rifle that uses an intermediate cartridge and a detachable magazine". Selection-fire fully automatic assault rifles are already prohibited in Canada. We are not the United States. Please check your facts.

Linda Arends
Aylmer

Editor's note: the Express uses the Canadian Oxford English Dictionary, which defines "assault rifle" as "a lightweight, automatic or semi-automatic military rifle using high-performance ammunition." Semi-automatic firearms are not prohibited.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color." - Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*



Shelby Laidlaw, 12, brings home bronze medal for inline hockey

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express

Shelby Laidlaw, 12, daughter of Jody and Travis Laidlaw of the Luton area of Malahide, won a bronze medal during an international Amateur Athletics Union "Junior Olympics" inline hockey tournament in Corona, California, just southeast of Los Angeles.

Though a member of a Canadian team that competed in the Under 12 girls division, her medal came from the Junior Women's category.

She explained that while the Under 12 girls division had nine teams entered, the Junior Women's had only three until her squad also stepped up to fill out the roster, playing against competitors who were in some cases much older.

Shelby is going into Grade 8 at Summers Corners Public School in September. She plays volleyball and basketball and participates at track and field at school, and in her spare time has played for the last two years for the London Devilettes, last year as a left wing on the Bantam A girls hockey team.

Before that, she got her start in hockey locally playing for the BAD (Belmont Aylmer Dorchester) Girls league.

"It's fun," she said. She liked being part of a team, and the good feeling she got whenever she was on the ice.

The Devilettes teams were more aggressive and competitive than what she had experienced before. Her father told her she was "a smart hockey player," and she liked passing more than taking the puck to the net.

This summer, her father convinced her to sign up for inline hockey. She was a little concerned going in. "It's really hard to stop when you're on a rollerblade."

She tried sliding to stop once, and took a tumble as a result.

She played once a week, with no practices in between, and had only gotten one game in before she and her parents received an email inviting her to try out for a Canadian team going to the Corona tournament. "I didn't know how good the others would be," she said about tryouts in Oakville, but she made the Under 12 squad.

Her whole family went to Corona for the tournament, where her team would play together for the first time. Another Canadian team was also in her Under 12 division, along with squads from the U.S.A., including a surprisingly strong complement from Hawaii, Australia and Mexico.

Her team had one practice before nine round-robin games in the two divisions, starting on July 9.

"It was super hot there," she said. While arenas were air-conditioned, the temperature inside was still a lot

higher than she found comfortable.

Some days, the outside temperature rose to almost 40 degrees.

Her team played well together from the start, she said, and got better after each game.

In Under 12 round-robin, her team won three games and took only one loss, to Hawaii.

Shelby's team lost again to Hawaii in a semi-final game, and then played another Canadian team for the bronze, but lost that as well, perhaps because of the additional games played in the Junior Women's division.

In the Junior category, her team lost a close semi-final to Mexico, with a much older roster, 4-3 in overtime.

Her team came back in the bronze-medal round to defeat Austria 3-0.

She'd be happy to take part in such a tournament again, she said.

"I had a good experience. It was really fun."

"I met a lot of new girls there. And it's just a change from ice hockey."

She also had some fun with her family on the trip, seeing the Santa Monica Pier and the Hollywood Walk of Fame, going to Universal Studios and surfing.

Surfing was "really hard," she said, admitting she only managed to get up on her surfboard a couple of times.

Inline hockey is now done for the summer, and she's looking forward to returning to ice hockey in autumn.



Shelby Laidlaw, 12, of the Luton area in Malahide Township recently won a Junior Women's bronze medal at an inline hockey tournament in Corona, California, even though she was part of an Under-12 Girls team. With a shortage in the Junior Women's division, her team volunteered to step in to provide a fourth squad, and ended up defeating Australia in the Bronze medal game.

(AE/Rob Perry)

East Elgin Youth Soccer scores

Under-5 Division

Tim Horton's Timbits California Blue - 4 Jade - 3
Goalscorers for California Blue were Patrick Holt and Sayid Penner. Goalscorer for Jade was Oliver Pede.

Red - 3 Silver - 0
Goalscorers for Red were Austin Bubb-Clarke, Lyla Fitzgerald, Neela Holmes and Talon Wilson.

Orange - 0 Maroon - 2
Goalscorer for Maroon was Kylan Mohammed.

Forest Green - 0 Kiwi - 3
Goalscorer for Kiwi were Gage Fretwell and Wyatt Laur.

Black - 5 Royal Blue - 3
Goalscorers for Black were Eli Froese and Ashley Sleepers.

Goalscorers for Royal Blue were Russel Calvert and Luca Kapogiannis.

Navy Blue - 7 Gold - 3
Goalscorers for Navy Blue were Corbin Chappell, Seth Peters, Jarod Renaud and Amelia Siemens.

Goalscorers for Gold were Caleb Friesen and Aiden Wiebe.

Under-7 Division

Godfather's Pizza - 8 Clement's Catering - 0

Goalscorers for Godfather's Pizza were Wesley Barker, Luciano Bisante, Kai Kapogines, Cohen Wall and Jamieson Weber.

Clovermead - 8 Studer's Variety - 0

Goalscorers for Clovermead were Connor McDermott, Avery Millyard, Alexander Reisdorf and Andrea Sleepers.

The Family Central Restaurant - 3 Double J Fabrication - 0

Goalscorers for The Family Central Restaurant were Xavier Barbosa and Lucas McCallum.

Edward Jones - 2 Graham, Scott, Enns - 1

Goalscorers for Edward Jones were Cole Laur and Elley Matos.

Goalscorer for Graham, Scott, Enns was Dennis Roos.

Martin's Lift Truck - 14 Goodwill's Used Cars - 0

Goalscorers for Martin's Lift Truck were Beckham Milmine, Quinlan Van Velzer, Travis Van Wychen and Adam Van Wychen.

Graceview Enterprises Inc. - 2 Holly Marr RMT - 2

Goalscorers for Graceview Enterprises were Mason Tufts and Karter VanDyk. Goalscorers for Holly Marr RMT were Ethan Geerts and Jack Lynch.

Under-9 Division

Vandenbrink Farm Equipment - 2 Van Gorp Drainage - 2

Goalscorers for Vandenbrink Farm Equipment were Wyatt Bakker and Matthew Kisuule.

Goalscorers for Van Gorp Drainage were Jack Hopwood-White and Vincenzo Ierullo.

Knights of Columbus - 0 Silverthorn Landscape - 0

No goals were scored during this game.

Canadian Tire - 5 Kinsmen Club of Aylmer - 3

Goalscorers for Canadian Tire were Kiersten Kent, Bryce Levasseur and Julian Penner.

Goalscorers for Kinsmen Club of Aylmer were Liam Peters and Cameron Scott.

Optimist Club - 1 Grovesend Farms Inc. - 5

Goalscorer for Optimist Club was Bentley Milmine.

Goalscorers for Grovesend Farms Inc were Jonathan Redecop and Dominick Thiessen.

McTaggart, Armstrong, Dewar - 2 Royal LePage Realty - 3

Goalscorers for McTaggart, Armstrong, Dewar were Erick Centeno and Alexandra Centeno.

Goalscorer for Royal LePage Realty was Jarvis Loewen.

Under-11 Division

Aylmer Sales Arena - 1 Durkees - 8

Goalscorer for Aylmer Sales Arena was Laura Wiebe.

Goalscorers for Durkees were Merrick Rollins, Cary Arthur and Justyn Thiessen.

Fitness to the Max - 2 Eastlink - 2

Goalscorers for Fitness to the Max were Morgan Siemens and Antolie Zeuff.

Goalscorer for Eastlink was Reece Laidlaw.

Roszell's Furnishings - 2 Cam's Heating and Air - 2

Goalscorers for Roszell's Furnishings were Gavin Russel and Devin Van Dyken.

Goalscorers for Cam's Heating and Air were Thyde Rutledge and Danny Vandenbroek.

Columbus Club - 4 Aylmer Shrine Club - 3

Goalscorers for Columbus Club were Joey Kasza-Smith, Cole Laemers and Kevin Roos.

Goalscorer for Aylmer Shrine Club was Noah Bakker.

Under-13 Division

Ryan's No Frills - 5 Aylmer Submarine - 1

Goalscorers for Ryan's No Frills were Giuliana Ierullo, Joey Knelsen, Evan Neusteter and Jonathan Wiebe.

Goalscorer for Aylmer Submarine was Damian Loewen.

WJ Roofing - 7 Miller's Valu Mart - 3

Goalscorers for WJ Roofing were Brayden Tribe, Thomas Van Gorp and Alan Wall.

Goalscorer for Miller's Valu Mart was Owen Holden.

Aylmer IDA - 6 Skipwell Farms - 2

Goalscorers for Aylmer IDA were Travis Zacharias, Joel Zacharias, Madison Wimbus and James Porter.

Goalscorers for Skipwell Farms were Donovan Appleford and Annelise Borm.

Under-15 Division

Hill's Pharmacy - 1 Excel Fabrications - 3

Goalscorer for Hill's Pharmacy was Alex Tichelar.

Goalscorers for Excel Fabrications were Ethan Cartwright, Bowen Thiessen and Kade VanDyk.

Scott Lewis Auto - 4 ETBO - 4

Goalscorers for Scott Lewis Auto were Thomas Enns and Clarke Shackleton.

Goalscorers for ETBO were Jesse Hiebert, Tyler Smith and Travis Telfer.

Under-18 Division

Wortelboer Farms - 4 Talbot Trail Physiotherapy - 5

Goalscorers for Wortelboer Farms were Christopher Abell, Kyle Dunn and Sam Enns.

Goalscorer for Talbot Trail Physiotherapy were Zach Friesen and Dylan Wubbis.

Pioneer Rica Under Sales - 12 Carrel Farms - 1

Goalscorers for Aiden Haldenby, Ethan Haldenby, Cameron Lawton, Corbyn Pippomurphy, Luke VanGorp, Kevin VanDyk and Meika Vanwynsberge.

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Express-O-Gram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

went so wrong.

In recent years it has been suggested that those 6,000 troops were launched at France as a cover-up for some high intelligence effort to sneak a Nazi code book or code machine. That is a highly unlikely fantasy given the same job could have been done with a stealth party of ten or twelve and more likely to succeed. Surely there would be troops on the lookout for any possible intelligence to be gained from the raid but let's remember that the plans were so carelessly made that they even failed to account for the rocky beach that was a natural tank trap (bursting tracks) and neutralized most of that essential armour just metres off the landing craft.

Such information would have been available from any one of thousands of British tourists who had visited that beach before the war.

Too there is talk that in crossing the English Channel, a short, intense skirmish with Nazi patrol boats would have raised the German alarm. Not so, a British sailor calmed his passengers. He said such firefights were a nightly occurrence in the highly-contested English Channel.

The idea of catching the best-trained army in the world sleeping at the most likely hour of attack – predawn – was just one more conceit that led to such disaster. And the only lesson for D-Day was to get their homework done, first.

Dad's opinion was that it was a decision and thereby their duty to take some heat off the Russians who were suffering terribly (tens of millions killed) on the Eastern Front. Military action is paid with human lives, in this case in record numbers.

And now it is our task to memorize the Charge of The Light Brigade by Alfred, Lord Tennyson as Dad was in his final days at 92.

WELCOME TO OUR RIDE

For us this is the week from Heaven and Hell, every minute threatening to burst its seams. Friend and family visits, unexpected reunions (Heaven), lawyer appointments, court appointments (Hell) will be capped by the Three Port Tour on Saturday, August 18. We expect no records on that last endeavour, a 50-, 100- and 160-kilometre tour through Elgin County designed eight years ago to draw cycling tourists to our beautiful territory.

This year, time and energy have been sapped by distractions so we'll be happy with 300-400 riders and \$10,000 to \$15,000 for charity.

So this is our annual request for local drivers to approach these many visiting cyclists with caution and to give them wide berth. They will be caught up with the joy of the ride and its physical challenges as well as our attractive roadsides.

We will be reminding them that they have no special privileges and as always are governed by the strict rules of the road. That won't stop some careless behaviour any more than it does with car drivers.

We try to stay off more heavily trafficked roads, but with no last minute reprieve in Port Bruce and current tar and chip surfacing, some back roads are now excluded. This is by far our most challenging year and the next several days will be intense with preparations for lunch at Rush Creek Wines on Jamestown Line and signs and road painting. We had hoped upon hope to lunch at the Port Bruce pavilion where ratepayers have been so kind. That apparently is not to be.

Having ridden in many environments, we are continuously astounded by the charitable drivers who predominate on local roads and make riding here a real and apparently shared pleasure.

We ask everyone to do what they can to make these visitors welcome and their experience the best.

With some extra time and effort there should be some way of combining the Fred Eaglesmith Weekend at Springwater with Aylmer's CornFest and the Three Port Tour to make some sort of combined extravaganza.

And we'll start planning now for a record-setting event next year.

Malahide fire calls

Malahide Fire Services reported the following calls:

July 23, Hacienda Road, Springfield station, alarm malfunction.

July 26, Lyons Line, Lyons station, automobile fire.

July 27, John Wise Line, Mount Salem station, unauthorized burn.

July 28, Springfield Road, Springfield station, medical assist.

July 28, Levi Street, Mount Salem station, medical assist.

July 28, Hacienda Road, Mount Salem station, gas leak.

July 30, Imperial Road, Mount Salem station, medical assist.

July 31, Catt Line, Summers Corners station, medical assist.

Aug. 1, Springfield Road,

Springfield station assisted by Summers Corners station, medical assist.

Aug. 1, Levi Street, Mount Salem station, medical assist.

Aug. 2, Imperial Road, Mount Salem station, unauthorized burn.

Aug. 4, Jones Road, Mount Salem station assisted by Springfield station, water rescue.

Aug. 8, Colin Street, Mount Salem station, medical assist.

Aug. 10, John Wise Line, Mount Salem station assisted by Summers Corners station, medical assist.

Aug. 13, Talbot Line, Summers Corners station assisted by Mount Salem station, medical assist.

Aylmer Police blotter

Aylmer Police Chief Zvonko Horvat reported the following on Monday morning, Aug. 13:

Assault with weapon

An Aylmer man, 69, was charged with assault with a weapon after he went to a Myrtle Street home of an Aylmer woman, 53, and, following an argument, allegedly struck her with a flashlight on Tuesday, Aug. 7, at 5:15 p.m.

The man was also charged with possession of narcotics after police found Percocet, an opioid, on him.

Following too closely

A St. Thomas man, 40, was charged with following too closely after a two-vehicle crash on South Street East at John Street South on Wednesday, Aug. 8, at 3 p.m.

A Tillsonburg woman, 59, was driving a 2017 Ford Explorer east on South, and stopped for the sign at the intersection.

The St. Thomas man was also headed east in a 2003 Honda van, and failed to stop in time, running into the rear end of the Ford.

The crash caused minor damage to both vehicles.

String of thefts

Police are investigating a string of thefts, including wallets and cash, from five unlocked vehicles, from the area of Caverly Road, Rutherford Avenue and Tarry Parkway in southwest Aylmer in the early-morning hours of Monday, Aug. 13.

The wallets, minus money, were found in a dumpster. Anyone with information in the case is asked to contact Aylmer Police.

Chief Horvat urged motorists take the following precaution after parking vehicles:

Ensure doors are always locked, and the key is in your pocket;

Park in well-lit areas; Never leave money in plain sight;

Always roll up your car windows;

Put shopping bags and other parcels in the trunk;

Ensure valuables are put in a safe, out-of-sight location;

Keep vehicle registration certificate and proof of insurance on you;

Take electronics, including your cellphone, with you;

If parking in the same lot often, park in different spots each day.

Malahide balks at drug needle-exchange bus parking in Springfield

by Rob Perry of The Aylmer Express

Malahide councillors want more information before consenting to provide parking at the Malahide Community Services building in Springfield for a planned Southwestern Public Health bus that will be exchanging hypodermic needles and providing safe-sex supplies in the village every month.

Councillors were concerned about the proximity of the planned parking to nearby Springfield Public School.

In a letter, Health Promoter Nancy Lawrence of Southwestern Public Health said that organization was committed to taking steps to reduce the potential harm from illicit drug use, such as providing free needles so addicts didn't share or re-use them.

The health unit, she noted, understood that those participating in high-risk drug abuse were likely to do the same when it came to sexual activities.

In addition to needles, she said, "sharps" containers were also provided to allow for safe storage of used hypodermics.

Other supplies for safer drug use, as well as "safer sex" products such as condoms and dental dams would also be given out, she said.

The bus was being funded through a grant from Green Lane Community Trust, and she hoped it could be in operation by October.

The bus would operate each Thursday, including, on the

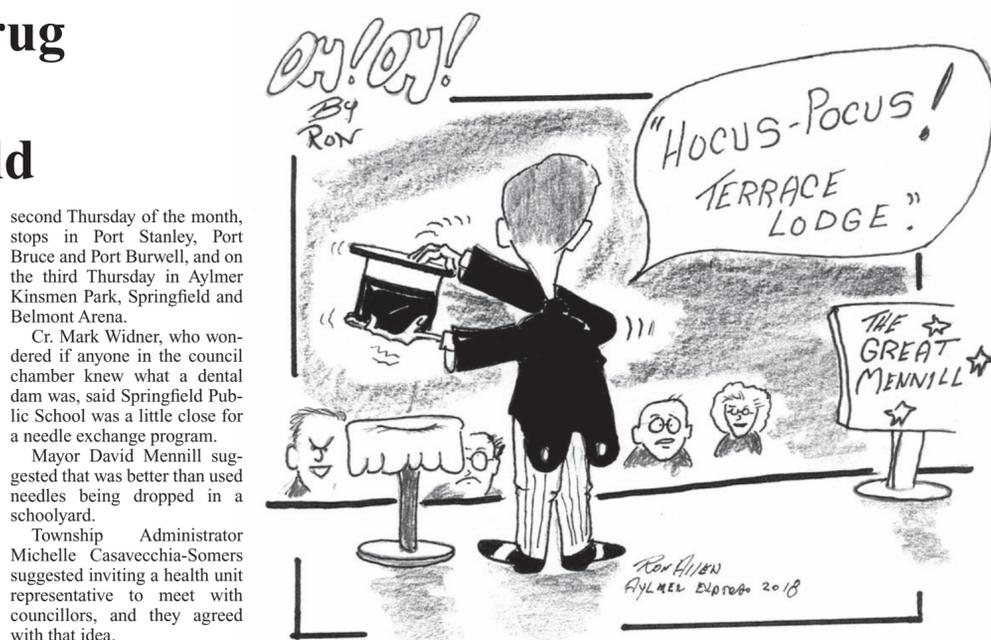
second Thursday of the month, stops in Port Stanley, Port Bruce and Port Burwell, and on the third Thursday in Aylmer Kinsmen Park, Springfield and Belmont Arena.

Cr. Mark Widner, who wondered if anyone in the council chamber knew what a dental dam was, said Springfield Public School was a little close for a needle exchange program.

Mayor David Mennill suggested that was better than used needles being dropped in a schoolyard.

Township Administrator Michelle Casavecchia-Somers suggested inviting a health unit representative to meet with councillors, and they agreed with that idea.

The bus would operate each Thursday, including, on the



NOTABLE QUOTABLES

"Me and my friends, when we got on our bikes, we would just ride," he recalled. "Sometimes we would even get lost, because we'd be gone for so long. But there was a sense of joy and comfort. There was nothing that really could stop us. We felt like we were on top of the world."

"It was a way of life. If you had a bike, it was a way to kind of let go and be free."

— LeBron James, who's family foundation has pledged to provide a free bicycle and helmet to every student at the "I Promise" School — a public elementary school in Akron, Ohio, opened in 2018, supported by the foundation, specifically aimed at at-risk children

From an article by Jason Gay appearing in the August 6, 2018 edition of The Wall Street Journal

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SPECTACULAR, NEW ROUTE FOR ANNUAL 3 PORT TOUR

The eighth annual 3 Port Tour bicycle ride through the eastern and central portions of Elgin County was held under mostly sunny skies on Saturday, Aug. 18. Over 400 participated. The weather was warm and humid.

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ABOVE LEFT: Cyclists near the apex of the hill leading out of Port Bruce. (AE/John Hueston)

LEFT: A group set out after lunch from Rush Creek Winery, which agreed to host this year's midday meal. (AE/Rob Perry)

RIGHT: Riders ate submarine sandwiches and macaroni salad and refilled their water bottles at the lunch stop. (AE/Rob Perry)



ABOVE LEFT: Participants pedal by a sign in Copenhagen warning them the Imperial Road Bridge to Port Bruce, which collapsed in February, was closed. A temporary crossing was due to open two days after the ride. (AE/Rob Perry)

ABOVE RIGHT: Some 75 feet separated Port Bruce residents and business owners from welcoming 400 cyclists at the 3 Port Tour on Saturday, Aug. 18. The temporary bridge remained barricaded over the weekend preventing use of a pavilion in Wonnacott Park, the usual lunch stop for the tour. The bridge was opened Monday, Aug. 20, at 10:55 a.m. after some municipal councillors and Port Bruce residents lobbied unsuccessfully to have it opened before the tour came through. (AE/Brett Hueston)

ABOVE: Riders pedalled up a steep climb on Rush Creek Line just west of Port Bruce. (AE/Rob Perry)

RIGHT: A rider celebrated as he crossed the bridge on Pleasant Valley Line, just after enjoying the speed of a steep downhill on the other side. It was unclear whether the celebration was over the velvet smooth new bridge surface or whether he was simply elated to ride down the notorious hill instead of up, with that road being ridden in the opposite direction this year. (AE/Rob Perry)



ABOVE: Cyclist Tom de Gryp, second from right, was presented a watch by members of the St. Thomas REACT first-aid team. Mr. de Gryp was award the Lanterne Rouge Award – he was the last rider to complete the full 160-kilometre route of this year's 3 Port Tour. The watch was donated by Dennis and Llana O'Neil of O'Neil's Fine Jewellery as a memorial tribute to late local hero and cycling enthusiast Andy Christie, who rode the 50-kilometre route well into his 90s. (AE/Brett Hueston)



BELOW: Bicyclists speed down Imperial Road leading down into Port Bruce, where they briefly touched on the north side of the community before travelling west on Rush Creek Line. (AE/Rob Perry)



UPPER RIGHT: Tyler Desrosiers, 26, of Aylmer celebrated the completion of his 200 km ride. With knowledge of local roads, he was able to add an extra 40 km to the 160 km route as a special challenge. (AE/John Hueston)

LOWER RIGHT: Joshua Cooper, 12, left, and his mother Melissa smiled after they finished the full 160 kilometre three port route – well over ten kilometres for each year of his age one observer noted! Melissa remarked that the hill out of Port Stanley "was a real treat!" (AE/Renée Hueston)



LEFT: A few cyclists complained of leg cramps on a steep climb, and some had to walk their bicycles up to the top. (AE/Rob Perry)

RIGHT: East Elgin Secondary School Environmental Leadership Program volunteers MacGregor Row, left, Anita Miller, Alex Friesen and Chelsea Norton rang cow bells and welcomed riders as they stopped for lunch on Jamestown Line. ELP will share proceeds from the ride with Forest City Velodrome, the volunteer-run banked indoor bicycle track in London. (AE/Rob Perry)

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The organizers of the Three Port Tour would like to thank all who helped make our event an outstanding success

Thank you to the Aylmer Bicycle Club: John & Mary Bajc, Bruce & Sharon Farnell, John Wiebe, Brett, Krista, Eric, John & Renée Hueston. Months spent planning and organizing a first-class event paid off once again.

This year was especially challenging for route and lunch planning with bridge access to Port Bruce being an unknown factor until mere days before the event. To everyone at Rush Creek Wines – thank you for providing a beautiful venue to host our lunch at last minute and for being so cheerful, accommodating and welcoming to riders and organizers alike. The understanding and flexibility of those at St. Thomas Canvas and Awning was also much appreciated. We thank the Port Bruce Ratepayers Association and all others who lobbied to have the bridge open before the weekend, not just for our 400 riders to be able to cross into the port which every route visits, but also for all the residents and businesses there to have long-awaited direct access as soon as possible.

We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped to make the event run smoothly: Duncan Sinclair and the Environmental Leadership Program students, REACT, Tom McKenney, Duncan & Barb Watterworth, Joan Hueston, Karen Hueston, Lloyd & Cheryl Johnson, Melissa Tomlin and Ken McEwen. The many positive words we heard about the volunteers reassured us that the best of our community was projected to the cyclists through them.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, donors and supporters: Aylmer Express Graphics Group, Spicers Canada, Aylmer Kinsmen Club, Aylmer Submarine, Clovermead, Cy's Lanes & Lounge, East Elgin Community Complex, Edward Jones (John Wiebe), Paul Fagan, Gatorade, Hills Pharmacy, Howe Family Farm Market, Robert & Margaret Huber, Johnson Excavating, McDonald's, Menomex, Minerva Art & Framing, O'Neil's Fine Jewellery, Paul's Bicycle Repair, Dan & Barb Pede, R-Safety, Simply Pure Water and Miller's Valumart.

Much appreciation to the residents and motorists of Aylmer and Elgin County for welcoming and respecting the cyclists both on and off the roads. It warms us to see the growing number of spectators, cheering sections and generous, fun unofficial roadside stops.

A final thanks to all the riders who came out. It is equally encouraging for us to see new riders out each year as it is to see the familiar faces of the many returning cyclists. We look forward to seeing you and your friends next year!

"Amazing work by all. Beautiful route and friendly, courteous volunteers and organizers. Thanks for a great day on the bike!" - Michael Jaffray (from Facebook)

THANK YOU



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Express-O-Gram

THE GOOD

After an acutely hard week, a super-successful 3 Port Tour was just the rejuvenating balm we needed.

We lost track of the number of accolades we had from the enthusiastic cyclists as they enjoyed lunch at Rush Creek Winery. Actually, there was one beef from a rider from Windsor, "This is really bad what you do," and we were crest-fallen until he continued, "You should do at least two a year." Cool.

There was much trepidation this year, from this party anyway, with our business setting records and other major distractions consuming our time and energy. That was not accounting for the brilliant efforts turned in by John and Mary Bajc, Bruce and Sharon Farnell and John Wiebe, as well as my whole family.

On top of that was our great desire to have lunch at the pavilion in Port Bruce where the Port Bruce Ratepayers have been so nice as well as making some wonderful improvements in the park. An influx of tourists would have been a great energizer there with just three weekends of summer left. But that was not to be, despite efforts on our behalf made by ratepayer liaison Linda Newman, Bayham Mayor and annual supporter Paul Ens, Malahide Mayor David Mennill and Central Elgin Deputy Mayor Sally Martyn. But it was all for nought with county council turning down our plea three days before the ride.

The precious time remaining to mark a new route was sabotaged by rains and we couldn't paint our new alternate route fast enough before tar-and-chip crews in all three municipalities made them unrideable. As a result we were forced onto busier roads. Final route preparations signing and painting were done well into darkness and rain Friday night.

Meanwhile Rush Creek Wines volunteered a perfect alternate site to Port Bruce with a lovely setting on Jamestown Line and gracious accommodation of their last-minute guests not to mention our huge tent and washroom requirements. Their part in all this was remarkable.

Eight years ago we began this event as a tourist attraction to show off the beautiful and, for a cyclist, challenging environment that is our home. It is designed to be a real accomplishment, a true physical test, for all participants from the 50-kilometre to the 160-kilometre routes. Their self-satisfaction is well earned from a course that is skill and fitness challenging. Too we decided to make it a charitable fundraiser and that has paid off in the tens of thousands.

Special note of appreciation to Dennis and Lana O'Neil of O'Neil's Fine Jewellery for donating a watch to commemorate the late Andy Christie and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Mom Vicky Hackett, front, led her children Jayden, 6, left, and Emily, 4, across John Street South at South Street towards McGregor Public School in Aylmer while using the new overhead pedestrian crosswalk during the first day back to school on Tuesday morning, Sept. 4. Dad Phil was bringing up the rear

at right. A town crossing guard still patrols the intersection before and after school. The Hackett family had walked from their home on Melanie Drive to the south. Jayden started his first day of Grade 1 that morning while Emily starts Junior Kindergarten on Thursday, Sept. 6. (AE/Craig Bradford)

Springfield's Max Moore Lauded for 50 years on council

by Rob Perr
of The Aylmer Express
Max Moore of Springfield was saluted by fellow politicians in a celebration Thursday, Aug. 30, of his 50 years as a councillor, first on the village council and on Malahide council, following amalgamation.

His wife Irma Jeanne was also lauded for her contribution to that long service. Malahide Mayor David Mennill, who led the tributes at Springfield Community Services Building, said a council member's spouse and family "play an integral role" in the success of his or her political career, and other speakers echoed those sentiments.

Mayor Mennill said only five municipal council members in all of Ontario had served continuously as Cr. Moore had, including one mayor in Northern Ontario who was just stepping down after 65 years in office.

Elgin County had no one to match Cr. Moore's record, with K.C. Emerson of Vienna and J.B. Wilson of South Dorchester (now part of Malahide) closest with 40 years in office each, Mayor Mennill said.

He had served with Cr. Moore for 12 years, and found he always served "with honesty

and integrity."

Cr. Moore was "a shining example of what a politician should aspire to."

Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Karen Vecchio said she heard from her own husband about the price a political spouse had to pay.

She was born in 1971, she continued, and "wasn't even a thought" when Cr. Moore first took office 50 years ago.

Cr. Moore had witnessed much of the local history as it was made over that time, she added.

Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP and Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry Jeff Yurek said he was glad one of the few days he'd been able to spend in his home riding in a busy summer allowed him to be on hand for the salute to Cr. Moore.

A politician made a choice to sacrifice his time to public service, Minister Yurek said. A spouse and family didn't always get as equal a choice.

He also reminded MP Vecchio he was even younger than she was.

"By like four months," she retorted to the audience.

Minister Yurek said the incredible span of time Cr. Moore

had spent in elected office spoke to his dedication.

He hoped Cr. Moore reached the 65-year record set by that Northern Ontario mayor.

Then, he made a presentation. "This is the fun one," because after seven years in Opposition, he finally was able to make a presentation on behalf of the provincial government.

He presented a certificate of long service and a paperweight from Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark recognizing Cr. Moore's record.

Elgin County Warden David Marr, mayor of Central Elgin, listed some of the events of the last 50 years, including the Woodstock concert, man landing on the moon, the first flight in 1970 of the Boeing 747 passenger aircraft, Apple being found ("To some of our regrets") and a California town being the first to ban smoking in public places in 1998.

Warden Marr said he'd enjoyed serving with Cr. Moore on a variety of local boards.

His father, Warden Marr said, had always told him he'd never learn anything by talking, but he would by listening.

Cr. Moore did that better than anyone else, Warden Marr said,

and as a result, "When Max speaks, everyone listens."

Cr. Moore, when he came to the lectern, was obviously moved by the tributes paid to him.

"I find it very humbling and kind of hard to keep my composure," he said.

He thanked his wife, noting she had been on the receiving end of some unpleasant visits

and telephone calls from blunt citizens when he'd been out of the house.

He praised her and his family for enduring while he put in his years on council.



Top picture, Malahide Mayor David Mennill held a paperweight from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing while Ontario Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry and Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Jeff Yurek presented a certificate of long service from MMAH Minister Steve Clark to Councillor Max Moore, who has represented the people of

Springfield and area on that village's council and on Malahide council for the last 50 years, during a celebration organized by the township on Thursday, Aug. 30. Bottom picture, Mayor Mennill presented a picture of an Amish team of eight horses at work in a field to Cr. Moore and flowers to his wife Irma Jeanne Moore. (AE/Rob Perr)

Neighbours' war continues over Edith Street renaming

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express
Local historians and one household continue to oppose a decision by Central Elgin councillors to rename Edith Street in Port Stanley as Guy Lombardo Lane, a change sought by the four other households on the short street.

And on Monday, Aug. 27, councillors decided to allow an ad hoc municipal committee, including Councillor Stephen Carr and Deputy Mayor Sally Martyn, to review the plan once more.

Most of the residents on Edith Street asked for the name change a year ago.

They contended that a delay in an ambulance and fire response to one of their homes was caused by confusion between Edith Street and two similarly-named streets in the

village, Edith Cavell Boulevard and West Edith Cavell Boulevard.

They believed a name change was essential to ensure correct dispatching of emergency services, as well as to remedy confusion among visitors and delivery drivers seeking a particular address on one of those streets.

Fire Chief Chris McDonough, in a later report, determined no confusion had taken place. A firefighter had been dropped off at the one home on Edith Street while others went to an address on Edith Cavell Boulevard not because of confusion, but because two calls had come in simultaneously.

He found no delay had been caused in the ambulance reaching the Edith Street home.

But most councillors decided to carry on with the name change process, believing it was for the best when it came to public safety.

Local historians Frank and

Nancy Prothero, who also reside near Edith Street, and Pam Hill, representing the holdout household, appeared as delegations at the Aug. 27 meeting to argue their case again.

A bylaw to finalize the name change had been expected to be adopted at that meeting.

Mr. Prothero opposed the change on several fronts, and even raised the spectre that the new name might somehow raise the spectre of an unnamed sexual predator who had been active in the neighbourhood an unspecified number of years ago.

One man who allegedly had been a victim of the predator was willing to testify to council to that effect, Mr. Prothero said.

However, he started by saying he consulted with a firefighter and an OPP officer, both of whom denied that similar names for streets would result in confusion for dispatching emergency services.

"We really wonder what we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Elgin County should act to avoid Toronto-like council change—Marr

by Rob Perry
of The Aylmer Express
Elgin County municipalities should take steps on their own to study possible restructuring of local government here, to forestall the sort of abrupt change Premier Doug Ford intends for Toronto council, Central Elgin Mayor David Marr said on Monday, Aug. 27.

He was speaking to fellow Central Elgin councillors. He is also the warden of Elgin County council.

Premier Ford recently announced the provincial government would cut the number of seats on Toronto city council from 47 to 25 in time for this year's municipal elections.

He wants city wards to be aligned with federal ridings.

Mayor Marr said that was a topic of much discussion at an Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in Ottawa recently.

He said Premier Ford was asked at an AMO meeting if he planned similar changes to other municipal governments, and he replied, "Not in the near future."

Mayor Marr added, "Whatever that means."

He suggested that Elgin County municipalities should study its own two-tier style of government, with local councils and a county council, with an eye to possible change.

That was better than waiting for someone to tell the municipalities they had to change, and how, without any consultation, he asserted.

Woman rescued from car after Glencolin Line crash

by Craig Bradford
of The Aylmer Express
A 20-year-old Aylmer woman had to be extricated from her car by volunteer firefighters after it struck a tree.

Elgin County Ontario Provincial Police Constable Adam Crewdson said officers responded to a single-vehicle collision on Glencolin Line east of Imperial Road at about 3 p.m. on Wednesday,

Aug. 29.

"A lone eastbound four-door grey vehicle on Glencolin Line left the roadway and entered the ditch and struck a tree," Const. Crewdson said.

St. Thomas Elgin paramedics along with Malahide volunteer firefighters also attended the scene.

"Firefighters extracted the lone female from the vehicle and paramedics transported her to hospital with

non-life-threatening injuries," Const. Crewdson said.

Malahide Fire Chief Brent Smith said the extraction took 27 minutes.

The road in the area remained closed for a few hours to allow emergency workers and a tow company safe access to the crash scene," he said.

The Aylmer woman was charged with careless driving. See photo page 2.

Malahide up first

Express will be holding all-candidates forums

The Aylmer Express is planning all-candidates meetings for municipal elections for Aylmer, Malahide, Central Elgin and Bayham councils as well as for Elgin trustees for the Thames Valley District School Board and London District Catholic School Board at the following dates and times:
Malahide on Thursday, Sept.

13, at Aylmer Old Town Hall; Central Elgin on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at Memorial Arena in St. Thomas;

Public and separate school trustees on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Aylmer Old Town Hall;

Aylmer on Thursday, Sept. 27, at Old Town Hall;

And Bayham on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at Vienna Community

Centre.
In all cases, doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting itself will start at 7 p.m.

Candidates will be introduced through a printed program, and meetings, after short opening remarks from the moderator, will move immediately to questions from the public.

Refreshments will be served.

Express-O-Gram

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his passion for cycling.

We thank our many suppliers for their contributions of resources – time and effort, and finance and especially the citizens of Elgin for making them so welcome.

We didn't set any records with just under 400 riders out of a limit of 500 but the team who put it together gets our heartfelt recognition for top performance under maximum duress. Seeing so many happy faces made it all worthwhile.

THE BAD

The 3 Port Tour has been fortunate so far with nearly 2,500 riders travelling about 250,000 kilometres and approaching \$100,000 for charity.

Unfortunately there have been several spills, almost all single-rider, and all those the direct result of poor road conditions. In our first year, a rider (he was the instructor who first taught me at the Velodrome) – when turning from Heritage Line onto Richmond Road in Richmond, encountered a drift of tiny pea gravel when he was most of the way through the corner. Of course, those ball bearing-like stones put him down immediately for a minor concussion and significant road rash. As soon as notified we dispatched a vehicle, shovel and broom to clear a path through the gravel trap. It had been tar-and-chipped the previous day with no warning signs. We now inspect the whole route on Friday to prevent recurrences.

The same year on a valley descent, a rider went down where gravel had washed across the road in a recent storm.

Several years later turning from Imperial Road onto Jamestown Line, a rider broke a collar bone when a two-inch right-angled cut in the pavement, three quarters of the way through the corner, broke his wheel. It had been made a couple of days earlier by construction crews. No warning.

This year was our worst casualty, Sue Gazda, a lovely lady from London with an infectious laugh and bright manner. She is a fast, reliable rider who we have ridden thousands of kilometres with. She was having her strongest year ever, riding with a fast group at the front of the 160-km route. Just below Richmond on the way to Calton, her group crossed the steel-latticed bridge deck at about 50 km/h. It was still wet from the previous night's rain and apparently like a skating rink. She was the only rider to go down, but it was like falling on a cheese grater, breaking her shoulder and hand, cutting chin and elbow. Assistants said blood was pooling on the road. As we write, Sue is in St. Joseph's Hospital in London, recovering from surgery on both breaks and should move to Parkwood Hospital for recovery later this week.

While treating her at the scene, other riders noticed two motorcycles almost go down and reported that a neighbour said there had been others crash at that bridge.

We're hoping in the long run that the 3 Port Tour route be recognized, signed and landscaped as a tourist route and attraction for bicycles, motorcycles and vintage cars. It would cost almost nothing.

But government – municipal, county and whoever permits those hazardous bridges – has to buy into safety as well as espouse it. All of those injuries were preventable and just as likely to happen to motorcyclists who the county spends money to attract.

We know that Richmond bridge was signed "slippery when wet" but a little truth like "slick as goose sh*t!" would get a lot more attention.

In the private workplace, management would be fined or jailed by the government for such oversight. Yet government itself takes a cavalier attitude in its own responsibility to safe practice.

AND THE UGLY

Port Bruce area businesses are already feeling the benefit of the replacement bridge which once again provides access to the hamlet from the north on Imperial Road.

The hamlet was cut off after the primary-access 50-year-old bridge collapsed into the creek unexpectedly last February. The resultant 20-minute detour changed a lot of habits and for many led to recreation and dining elsewhere.

With business so dependent on summer traffic, it is a shame that more couldn't have been done to speed the replacement. In a stunning display of bureaucratic indifference (is that redundant) the county couldn't be bothered to make the effort to open the bridge before the weekend on August 17. That would have increased the number of full-access summer weekends there by a third.

Those businesses operate on the enterprise and hard work of their staff. Their incomes are entirely dependent on their ability to attract customers. They

don't have the reliability of a come-hell-or-high-water county paycheque (not to mention the benefits and pension).

Worse, county staff put some spin on it, talking of the scheduled opening date of August 27. In fact it was to open August 15. We have no criticism of the construction company and our little contact with them suggested they would do what they could.

Did the construction of the \$75,000 boat ramp slow things down and why was North Erie Marina the only business that seemed to get any attention? And how did that ramp get built without an environmental study? And it's going to be destroyed when the permanent bridge is completed?

By the way, shouldn't we know what happened to the old bridge by now? Are all 50-year-old bridges about to fall in? What about all the pre-collapse inspections that took place. Did we pay for them? Why?

Far too many discussions and decisions have been conducted in secret behind the backs of the most affected – the citizens of Port Bruce. They might want to ask some hard questions at all-candidates night this election.

This office had an interest in this whole fiasco, dependent on that bridge to connect our 3 Port Tour bicycle tourist ride. We lobbied hard and mayors Paul Ens and David Mennill and Deputy Mayor Sally Martyn as well as Port Bruce ratepayers all spoke in our favour.

It wasn't enough.

At the last minute and with several thousand dollars' worth of tent (which won't go to charity) and absolutely wonderful, last-minute accommodation at Rush Creek Wines on Jamestown Line, our ride was a great success.

But as we said to Mayor Mennill, once one tries an alternative supplier, sometimes they overshadow the original. And that was our case this year with "wonderful lunch stop" the most common compliment except for "great ride". We aren't forgetting Port Bruce but are planning something to include more area tourist attractions. Stay tuned.

We appreciated the efforts from the politicians. The staff not so much. Maybe they should take some service lessons from Rush Creek Wines or even Service Ontario right here in Aylmer. Aren't there seven staff in the tourism and economic development department? Where were they on all this?

Too often our civil servants' excuse to do nothing that benefits the ratepayers is based on safety or liability concerns, they say. Most often these are excuses to avoid using any (good) judgement. It was ridiculous to hear that Port Bruce bridge was closed for one more weekend because of safety issues. Pedestrians and heavy machinery had already crossed it numerous times. It took just 3 or 4 hours to get it open Monday morning. We hope Port Bruce voters didn't miss that message.

Letter to the Editor

Fire Station: good idea, way too much money

Malahide Township appears to have a state-of-the-art new fire station coming close to being completed. This new fire station, located about 5 kilometers south of Aylmer, when completed, will cost taxpayers around \$3-million to build.

I agree firefighters should have a very respectable building to work from. However, in comparison, Thames Centre, which is on the north side of Malahide Township, has just completed a new fire station in the past few months costing \$1,812,000. The Thames Centre station is 9,000 square feet and is large enough to house

six fire trucks, plenty of training room, and also an office for police.

Malahide fire station appears to be costing almost 60-percent more than the Thames Centre station. This is just one more reason Malahide property taxes are almost 50 percent higher than Thames Centre, our neighbour.

I would encourage voters to get out this fall to the all-candidates meeting and ask some hard questions on what we can do to solve out extreme spending practices.

Jim Crane
Malahide



ACT launches new season of Canadian comedies

by Colleen Sawyer

It seems inconceivable that 17 years have passed since a small but dedicated group of friends decided to bring their brand of community theatre to the Town of Aylmer. A lot of water has passed under the John St. bridge in subsequent years. There has been much to learn. There have been growing pains, but there have also been many successes.

Aylmer Community Theatre is pleased to announce "ACT 18!" The three plays of the upcoming season are all comedies, each written by a Canadian author and each concerning the problems facing an aging population.

The first play of the season will be Michael G. Wilmut's "A Red Plaid Shirt." Marty and Fred are feeling the void left by retirement. Marty wants to purchase a Harley and take to the open road and Fred is succumbing to hypochondria, inventing new illnesses along the

way. Their wives believe that a safer option might be a new hobby...like woodworking. The production, already in rehearsal, is directed by Peter Leack and features the acting talents of Gary Bodkin, Paul Blower, Barbara Warnock and Vickie Kuipers. It runs Oct. 4 to Oct. 13.

The second play will be "Dating By The Book", written by Uwe Meyer. Carolyn, a divorced woman, is a little unsure about re-entering the world of dating. After inviting her new boyfriend over for dinner, she puts her trust into a book about dating etiquette written by her staid cousin. What should have been a quiet dinner is interrupted by Carolyn's male friend, and then her cousin, who is not the prim and proper paragon that Carolyn imagined. Thus what should have been a romantic evening turns into a farcical nightmare. ACT's production will be directed by Barbara Warnock. Show dates

are Feb. 7 to Feb. 16, 2019.

The final production of the season will be "Spreading It Around", written by Londos D'Arrigo and directed by Ron Sawyer. A well-to-do widow living in a retirement community in Florida grows tired of handing out money to her neglectful and unappreciative children. She sets up a foundation to help those who are truly in need, which sets in motion a plot by her greedy son and shopaholic daughter-in-law to have her declared financially incompetent. However, when

she learns of their scheme, she turns the tables on them. It will run May 2 to May 11, 2019.

Full-season subscriptions are now available at Campbell's II, until Oct. 13, and at the door during the run of "A Red Plaid Shirt." At \$50 each, you will save 17 percent over the single-ticket price. For more information, and to see photos from our previous shows, visit us online at www.aylmertheatre.ca.

We invite you all to come out to the Old Town Hall Theatre to enjoy our great new season of Canadian delights.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

"The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead."

– Aristotle

AYLMER EXPRESS

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